

Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

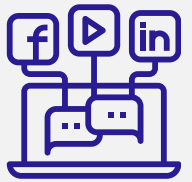
Live, Work, Visit Monaghan



2024
Autumn/Winter
Newsletter



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See below MCC social media handles for tagging/engaging on all digital platforms, don't forget to tag/mention us in any events that are associated with Monaghan County Council.



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Monaghan County Council



Monaghan County Council

Happy Christmas
and Best Wishes for 2025

The Offices of Monaghan County Council including the offices of the Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney, Municipal District of Ballybay – Clones, Municipal District of Monaghan will be closed from Monday 23rd December 2024 at 4.00 pm and will re-open on Thursday 2nd January 2025 at 9.15 am

The Motor Taxation Office at Market Street, Monaghan will close to the public from Monday 23rd December 2024 at 1.00 pm and will re-open to the public on Thursday 2nd January 2025 at 9.30 am

In emergency cases only, the following number may be contacted: 1800 121 121

Robert Burns
Chief Executive
Monaghan County Council



Cllr Paul Gibbons
Cathaoirleach
Monaghan County Council

From Monaghan County Council
Nollaig Shona le, Dea-ghuí i 2025
Ó Comhairle Chontae Mhuineacháin



HOUSING FOR ALL



Contracts signed for construction of 72 houses in Monaghan Town

Monaghan County Council's Housing section is pleased to announce that following a competitive tendering process GEDA Construction have been chosen to construct 72 Houses in Monaghan Town across two sites, namely Slí Lorcan, Latlorcan and Slí na Coille, Mullaghmatt, Monaghan.

The Housing Section is utilising an accelerated design and build contract which encourages contractors to use Modern Methods of Construction (MMC). It is pleasing that GEDA have teamed up with local company IJM Timber Engineering to deliver these houses within 12 months.



Design & Build Social Housing Projects

Project Details

Slí Na Coille, Mullaghmatt, Monaghan

Total of 21 nr Social Housing consisting of ;

- 15nr – 2-Bed Single Storey Houses** (suitable for aging population / people with disabilities)
- 1nr – 3-Bed Single Storey Houses** (suitable for aging population / people with disabilities)
- 5nr – 3-Bed 2-Storey Houses** (suitable for General Housing need)

Status: Stage 1 & 2 Approval Received – March 24
 Planning Approval Sept 24
 Tender Returns Oct 24
 Proposed Commencement on-site Dec 2024





HOUSING FOR ALL



The total all-in-cost approved for the two projects combined plus design fees, land acquisition and supervision is €25.2million

Project Details

Slí Na Coille, Mullaghmatt, Monaghan

Total of 21 nr Social Housing consisting of ;

15nr – 2-Bed Single Storey Houses (suitable for aging population / people with disabilities)

1nr – 3-Bed Single Storey Houses (suitable for aging population / people with disabilities)

5nr – 3-Bed 2-Storey Houses (suitable for General Housing need)

Project Details

Slí Lorcáin, Latlorcan, Monaghan

Total of 51 nr Social Housing consisting of ;

13nr – 2-Bed 2-Storey Houses (suitable for small families / single people)

10nr – 2-Bed Single Storey Houses (suitable for aging population / people with disabilities)

2nr – 3-Bed Single Storey Houses (suitable for aging population / people with disabilities)

22nr – 3-Bed 2 Storey Houses (suitable for General Housing need)

4nr – 5-Bed 2-Storey Houses (Suitable for larger Families with one accessible ground floor bedroom)

Design & Build Social Housing Projects

Project Details

Slí Na Coille, Mullaghmatt, Monaghan

Total of **21 nr** Social Housing consisting of ;

15nr – 2-Bed Single Storey Houses (suitable for aging population / people with disabilities)

1nr – 3-Bed Single Storey Houses (suitable for aging population / people with disabilities)

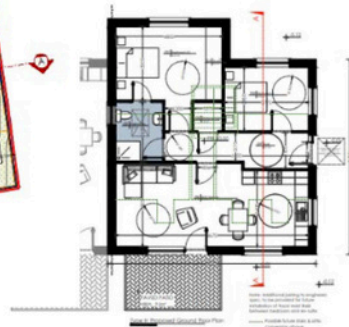
5nr – 3-Bed 2-Storey Houses (suitable for General Housing need)

Status: Stage 1 & 2 Approval Received – March 24

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Proposed Commencement on-site Dec 2024



Official opening of Monaghan's Newest Enterprise Hub, C:TEK II (8th Nov 2024)

The C:TEK II Hub can provide businesses and tenants with high-speed, high-quality fibre connectivity, supported by SIRO's 100% fibre network, which can provide speeds of up to 25 Gigabits, future proofing the service for decades to come. This means that as the bandwidth and speed needs of Monaghan businesses grow in the years to come the C:TEK II Hub can continue to keep pace with their needs.

C:Tek II is already proving hugely popular with the Carrickmacross and wider Monaghan business community, with 11 tenants already availing of the 16 units onsite. The new hub compliments the existing C:Tek I building located next door, which has been open for several years. The new Hub is already supporting 50 jobs. Businesses using the Hub include a home care provider, an accountancy firm, an executive car rental company and physical therapist, among others. Overall, the 1,450-square-meter facility supports regional talent retention, provides a work base for former commuters, and attracts start-ups from Monaghan and surrounding counties.



Offering a range of office options, from hot desks to private spaces, C:Tek II is designed to meet the needs of various users, from solo entrepreneurs to established enterprises. Its extensive facilities, including ample parking and kitchen spaces, allowing tenants to work in a flexible, professional environment close to home. As C:Tek II continues to grow, it plans to host community events and offer further professional development opportunities, solidifying its role as a cornerstone for local business success and innovation.

Monaghan Takes Pride of Place



For the first weekend in November, Monaghan town was the place to be if you were involved in a community anywhere on the island of Ireland, as the 22nd annual IPB Pride of Place competition in association with Co-Operation Ireland rolled into town. Billed as the 'Oscars of the Community Sector', over five hundred people from communities north and south gathered at a gala awards night in the Hillgrove Hotel to find out the results of the judging, which had taken place over the summer months. Categories range from population to thematic, so there were many awards up for grabs over the course of the night. Monaghan's own Oram village came away with top prize in the smallest population category.

The audience may have travelled from every corner, but the talent on the stage was distinctly local on the night. The awards were opened by a beautiful video put together by Glenn O Mahoney and voiced by the wonderful Brendan McArdle. Entertainment was provided by Glaslough musician Jamie Duffy, a veteran community volunteer himself.

The awards were one event in a weekend of fixtures designed to showcase all that Monaghan has to offer. A workshop on the benefits of participating in the Pride of Place competition took place in the new Peace Campus building on Friday afternoon and was followed by a performance of Pat McCabe's new play, 'Little White Lies'. On Saturday morning, the Monaghan Town Tours team captivated visitors with tall tales around the town before leading them to the Peace Campus for lunch on the rooftop terrace.

It was the first time that Monaghan County Council was honoured with the hosting of these awards in its twenty-two-year history. It took a large team of people to pull off the event, including the technical expertise of the Council's IS team, the tourism and communications teams, Monaghan Municipal District and Town Team, and the Community Team. Feedback from guests has been extremely positive. They have been particularly complementary about the friendliness of the people of Monaghan town. So well done, Monaghan!

Retrofit Roadshow in Monaghan Town

The Climate Action Unit partnered with Monaghan Institute (CMETB) to host the Retrofit Roadshow from the 30th of September - 2nd October. Raising public awareness and engagement on Climate Action is a key component of the Monaghan County Council Climate Action Plan. There was good interest from the public in the no-nonsense practical advice on offer at the Retrofit Roadshow. The roadshow consisted of a fully equipped mobile Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) unit, (an initiative of LOETB & Mount Lucas training facility) which provided advice and training to the public on energy upgrades and retrofitting. The retrofit rig was located in the car park of Monaghan Institute where participants had the opportunity to learn about the principles and practices needed to effectively retrofit homes to reduce energy demand and carbon emissions while improving comfort and saving money. The public drop-in clinics proved very popular while an additional 30 people availed of workshops over the three-day event that included: Introduction to Circular Economy, Retrofit for Homeowners and NZEB Fundamentals.



NZEB RETROFIT RIG PROGRAMME

ESDW
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
2024
18 SEPTEMBER TO 1 OCTOBER

30 SEPT 12-6PM
RETROFIT QUESTIONS? DROP IN CLINIC
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2-6PM
INFORMATION ON GRANTS & ENERGY SAVING
WITH SEAI MENTORS

01 OCT 10-12 NOON
INTRODUCTION TO CIRCULAR ECONOMY WORKSHOP
BOOKING ESSENTIAL (CLIMATEACTION@MONAGHANCOCO.IE)

10-6PM
RETROFIT QUESTIONS? DROP IN CLINIC
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2-4PM
RETROFIT WORKSHOP FOR HOMEOWNERS
BOOKING ESSENTIAL (CLIMATEACTION@MONAGHANCOCO.IE)

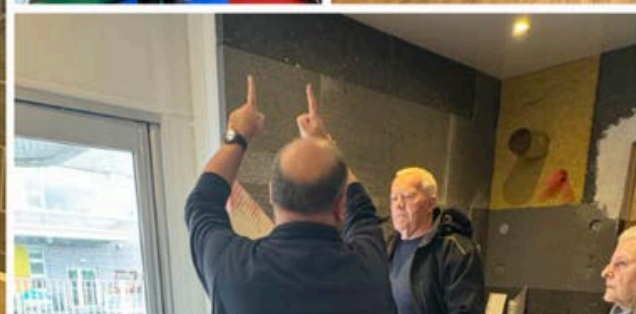
4-6PM
RETROFIT & ONE STOP SHOP INFORMATION
WITH KORE RETROFIT

02 OCT 10-4PM
NZEB COURSE
FULLY BOOKED

10-6PM
RETROFIT QUESTIONS? DROP IN CLINIC
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

4-6PM
GREEN LOAN INFORMATION
WITH MONAGHAN CREDIT UNION





MONAGHAN CLIMATE ACTION WEEK



Monaghan County Council Leading
on Climate Action

Monaghan County Council hosted its first Climate Action Week from 14th – 18th October. The week kicked off with a school poster competition which showcased both the creativity and climate awareness of our young people in the county. Monaghan Climate Action Week was designed to inspire action and drive positive change at local level and to highlight some of the initiatives underway across our County. The week's events aimed to raise awareness on actions and measures we can all take at a personal and local level.



A wide variety of events were organised to take place across the county throughout the week, Events ranged from biodiversity & sustainability workshops, information on green business grants & supports, to climate conversations with all ages. Monaghan Climate Action Week offered a range of ways for people to connect, learn, share, and engage with initiatives and activities which aimed to build a brighter future for everyone.

Climate Action Week 2024

Biodiversity & Climate Action Community Workshop - Castleblayney

This interactive and practical workshop was facilitated by horticulturist and environmentalist Aoife Munn. Attendees learned about a range of topics such as low maintenance planting, creating habitats for wildlife, and growing your own fruit trees & veg.



School Wildflower planting event - Ballybay Community College

MCC's Biodiversity Officer and Horticulturist coordinated the establishment of a native wildflower area and the planting of native apple trees with students. Information signage was also installed to amplify the educational aspect of the initiative.



Findings of Lough Muckno: Road to Recovery - Castleblaney

An information evening was held by our Environment section on the main findings of The Lough Muchno Road to Recovery project, this event in Castleblayney library was very well attended showing the interest there is around the project.



Knocknagrave Environmental Centre-school visits

60 students from Aughnafarcon and St. Daighs National Schools were taken on a biodiversity walk of the site, along with learning about water quality, conversation and biodiversity. Students really enjoyed the visit.



Climate Action Week 2024



Re-love fashion launch

The official launch of the Re-love Fashion Competition in County Monaghan took place during Climate Action Week. This competition is aimed at secondary school students to encourage them to learn about how clothing is mended along with exploring creative reuse options.

SCRAP Sustainable Sewing Workshop - Inver College

Students from Inver College took part in a sewing workshop facilitated by Pauline Clarke of the library staff who demonstrated how to slash, sew, shred, embroider and embellish second hand clothing. This is the 1st of a number of sewing workshops planned over the coming months.



Saving the world from your desk - webinar

As part of Climate Action Week there was also events for staff, one such event was the “Saving the world from your desk” webinar facilitated by Noel Burns. Noel provided information for staff on the areas of energy use in the home, the office and overall energy use in Ireland, along with easy tips to reduce energy use in our everyday lives.

County Monaghan Green Business Hub events

Monaghan LEO office together with the Environment Section held events for local businesses in Castleblayney and Monaghan Town during Climate Action Week to provide up to date information on green business grants and supports. Both events were very well attended by local businesses throughout the county.



Climate Action Week 2024



Climate Conversations - Castleblayney Library

Climate Conversations with former UN diplomat Jacinta Barrins was aimed at the over 60s. Jacinta discussed in a simple manner what the main causes of climate change are, the impacts and trends since the 1950's and what we can do together to reduce our everyday emissions. There was also great discussion after the talk over a cup of tea and a sandwich.

Toy Hospital - Carrickmacross

Carrickmacross Toy Library along with Carrickmacross Men's Shed held a toy Hospital during climate action week where members of the public brought broken toys to be mended in order for them to be used again. During this time children were also able to make use of the toys on offer by the toy library at their premises in Carrickmacross.



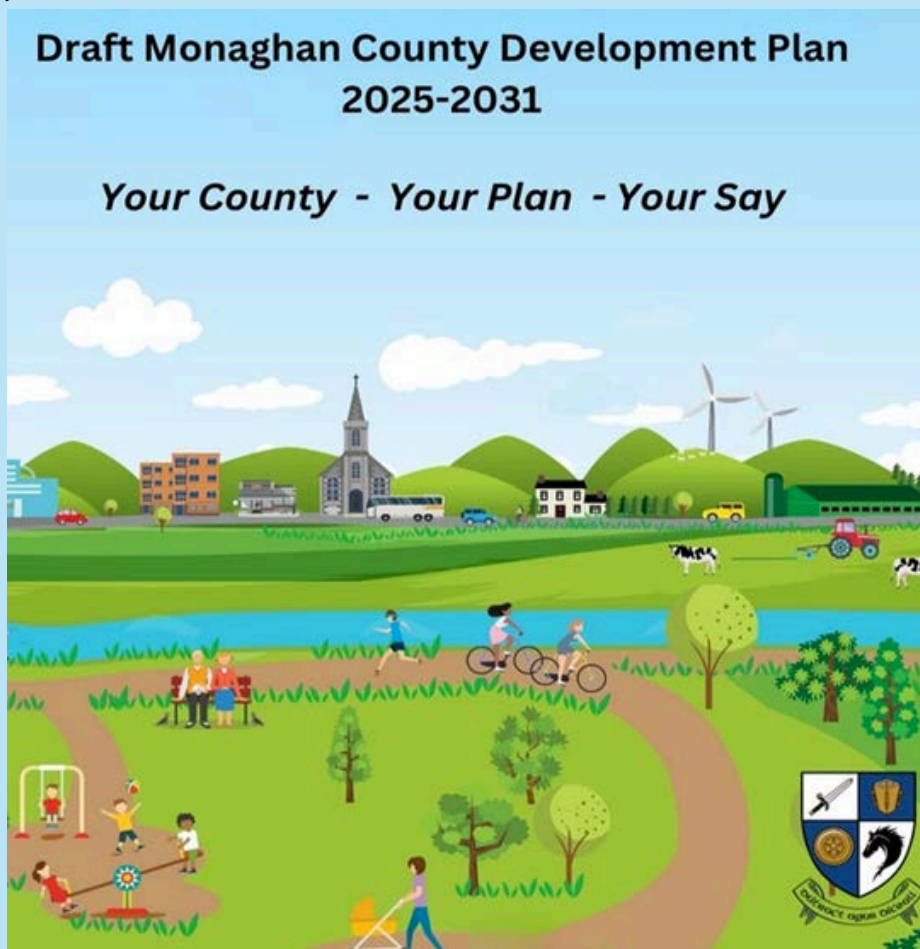
Storytelling time and craft events

Over the week, the libraries in Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and Monaghan Town hosted a number of Climate Action themed storytelling and craft events throughout the county that were very well attended in all venues.

PLANNING



The Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031 was placed on public display on the 5th September 2024 for a period of 10 weeks, ending on the 14th November 2024 at 5pm. The Plan contains an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Monaghan over the lifetime of the plan. Ten public information events in the five towns and an online presentation to planning agents/architects were held in September and October 2024. The draft plan was also presented at a meeting of the Local Community Development Committee. Notices inviting submissions were placed in the three local newspapers and regularly posted on the various Council social media platforms and on local radio. Cllr Cathy Bennett, the Cathaoirleach of the Council, also took part in a short video emphasising the Draft Plan publication and the period for engagement/submissions, which was posted on the Council's social media outlets. Engagement in the process was significant with 149 submissions received which ranged from policy observations to zoning of individual parcels of land.



Agents' Workshop

An Agents' Workshop was held online on the 19th September 2024 to advise agents on the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031 and how to make submissions or observations. The workshop was well attended.

Built Heritage

In 2024 Monaghan County Council once again administered the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) which involves funding from the Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the repair and conservation of protected structures. Nine 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. Six projects were allocated a combined total of €205,000 under the HSF in 2024. One of these projects, St Macartan's Cathedral, was awarded funding of €200,000 over a two year period. The Planning Section will continue to administer both built heritage funding schemes in 2025.



Completed works at the tower, spire & rose window at St. Macartan's Cathedral



Before and after photographs of window refurbishment at Freame Mount Demense

Built Heritage



Thatching work ongoing at Greenan's Cottage



Thatching work reaching completion at Greenan's Cottage

Built Heritage



Hilton Park before stonework restoration.



Hilton Park after stonework restoration.



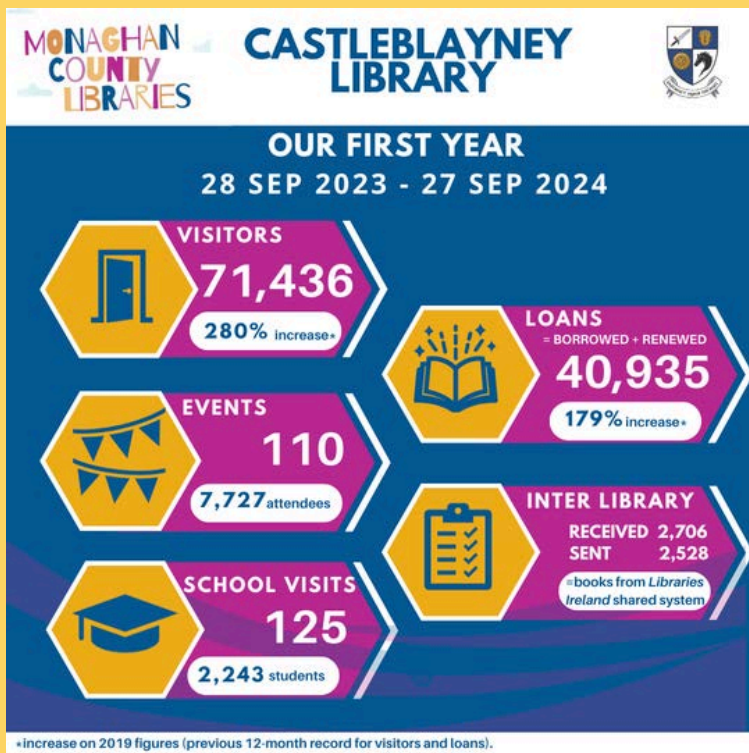
Usage statistics for new branch libraries

Usage statistics for the new library branches in Castleblayney and Monaghan town show a significant increase in the number of visitors to library branches.

71,436 people visited the new Castleblayney branch in its first year. This is a 280% increase on the highest annual figure previously recorded for visitor statistics at the branch (2019).

91,394 people visited the Monaghan town branch in its first five months at the Peace Campus. This is a 195% increase on the same period in 2023.

The increased level of usage highlights the important role libraries play in meeting the needs of our community. “We are delighted to see such a positive response from the community,” said Deirdriú McQuaid, County Librarian. “Our goal has always been to create welcoming spaces that cater to the diverse needs of our communities, and the increased usage is a testament to our success.”





European Project on democracy and civic engagement (FUTU4U)

Monaghan County Libraries is part of a European project (FUTU4U) that aims to help young adults connect with their communities, understand how society works, and develop critical literacy skills to enable better civic participation. Over the next two years, we will work with partners in Finland, Italy and Slovenia to design and deliver a series of workshops for young people on democracy and civic engagement. Our local partners include CMETB Youthreach, Monaghan Institute, Cavan Institute, Monaghan Integrated Development and the National Learning Network.

High-level objective(s)

- To promote societal inclusiveness and a sense of belonging to your community for young adults (aged 18-30), especially those with a migratory background.
- To empower young adults to be open-minded, active citizens.
- To support the development of critical literacy skills for young adults that will help to encourage civic and democratic participation.

Over 14% of European young people aged between 15 and 29 are not in education, employment, or training. The risk of societal exclusion is 70% higher among those with a migratory background. Socioeconomic challenges, discrimination, inadequate understanding how society works, and the inability to see opportunities may lead to alienation or even extremism. FUTU4U aims to empower young adults to build positive futures for themselves as part of their thriving communities and the European Union. Monaghan County Libraries is delighted to be part of this European-wide initiative that will support young people in our area to become active citizens.



The Cavan Monaghan Science Festival ran from 11-17 November, 2024. This the 9th year of the festival, which is funded by Science Foundation Ireland. The theme for 2024 is 'Regeneration'. The programme included more than 50 events for adults and children covering a wide variety of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. This festival was brought to you by Monaghan County Libraries and Cavan Libraries.





Monaghan Comic Con 2024

Monaghan's first-ever Comic Con was held on Saturday, 26 October at the Peace Campus, Monaghan town. There were lots of activities for all ages including guests from movies, cosplay, workshops, talks, comics, artists and collectibles. This event was organised by Monaghan County Libraries, Cavan Monaghan LCYP and Mini-Con Ireland.



Pages of Possibility

Monaghan County Library has recently been awarded funding from the Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) Collaboration & Innovation Fund to develop a series of family literacy events aimed at encouraging and developing reading for pleasure as a habit in the home. The ALL Strategy very clearly states that "Literacy is not just about the ability to read and write". It involves speaking, listening, reading, writing, communicating, comprehending, and making informed choices. A Family Literacy programme can combine all of these elements to make learning a positive and engaging activity. This Family Literacy project will also demonstrate to both generations that literacy is at the heart of everything we do rather than just words on a page.

The Pages of Possibility programme is currently in development and will be piloted in Monaghan Town branch library before being rolled out across our library network.



SCRAP project

The SCRAP Project launched in Carrickmacross Library on Wednesday, 16th October 2024 as part of Monaghan County Council's Climate Action Week activities. SCRAP is a sustainable fashion project aimed at young people and the wider public. The project will promote eco - fashion, sustainable fashion, recycling, upcycling, repurposing as tangible alternatives to 'fast fashion' which causes extensive damage to the planet and exploits workers. SCRAP will engage local creatives to develop and deliver a series of workshops that will encourage secondary school students to slash, sew, shred, embroider, embellish, print and dye second hand clothing to create unique and wearable fashion pieces. Materials used for the workshops will be eco - friendly.

As part of the project Creative Monaghan and Monaghan County Libraries will establish sewing machine hubs in library branches throughout the county to support local schools taking part in the Relove Fashion Competition. This competition was developed in response to the devastating environmental and social impacts of the fashion industry, the need for change, and the recognition of young people's pivotal role in shaping innovative solution.



Fighting words

Fighting Words is a creative writing organisation established in 2009 by Roddy Doyle and Seán Love in Dublin. Its aim is to help students of all ages to develop their writing skills and to explore their love of writing. A pilot was initiated between the Iontas Arts Theatre and Creative Monaghan, and due to this success, we are proceeding to roll out the programme through the library branch network in partnership with Iontas Arts Theatre by inviting primary schools to engage during the next academic year. The key message is that writing is not only fun, but also a positive form of self-expression, which we hope students will take with them and use both inside and outside the classroom!



Europe Direct public speaking competition

The Europe Direct Soapbox competition 2024 was held on 15th November the Peace Campus, Monaghan town. This is an annual event that raises awareness of topical issues in Europe and provides people with the opportunity to have their say. This year the theme for the soapbox is **"A.I. is not a threat to humanity"**. Participants spoke for 3 minutes for or against the motion. In the regional competition, participants from Monaghan, Cavan and Louth competed under two categories, **16 & Under** and **17 & Over**. The winner of the 16 & Under regional competition was Cian Smyth from Bailieboro Community School. The winner of the 17 & Over regional competition was Adam Wilson from Monaghan Collegiate School. Both winners received an iPad, sponsored by the European Commission Representation in Ireland. They then went on to compete in the National Final in the Royal College of Physicians Dublin on Tuesday, 26th November 2024, where Cian Smyth won the national award of €1,000. Congratulations to Cian on this fantastic achievement!



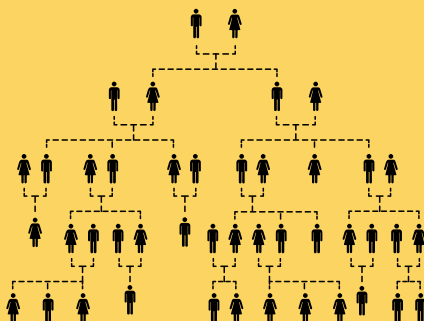
Adam Wilson and Cian Smyth, regional winners, pictured at the national final with Ms Quinn from Bailieboro Community School and Amanda McCarville, Monaghan County Libraries



Cian Smyth, regional winner takes the top prize at the national final of the Europe Direct public speaking competition!

Local history and genealogy

Our extremely useful guide on genealogy services at Monaghan County Libraries has been updated. Check out the new version of 'How to trace your ancestors in county Monaghan' on our website or pop into any branch to pick up a printed copy.



Transition Year Students become Peer Educators



Over forty transition year students from four secondary schools attended a two day residential training course in Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre on the 11th and 12th October to learn how to become Peer Educators and to familiarise themselves with the new anti-racism toolkit, "We Are All Human".

The Toolkit is an initiative of Monaghan Joint Policing Committee and Largy College. TY groups have refined the materials and field tested them, before arriving at twenty activities which are suitable for primary and secondary age students. These have been put into an activities hand book, and are backed up by supporting information on an accompanying website, <http://we-are-all-human.online>

Students from Inver College in Carrickmacross, Largy College in Clones, Coláiste Oiriall and Beech Hill College in Monaghan attended the two day session, which was designed to give them the confidence and knowledge to be able to deliver training to other young people, using the activities laid out in the Toolkit.

Erica Reade from Foroige delivered a masterclass to the students in leading a session and getting the best from participants. Some migrants from the Culture Migrants Centre led a workshop on equality and being a migrant in Ireland. Two brave Syrian students spoke about their experiences in leaving Aleppo and making their way across Europe to find safety. Students were also taught how to teach children how to dance some styles of dance from other parts of the world, such as salsa and bangra by the inimitable Lesley Pennington.

Monaghan County Council Chief Executive Robert Burns paid a visit to the training camp on the Saturday and was keen to impress on them the importance of the project. "I guarantee you there is no meeting more important taking place anywhere in Monaghan than this one," he said, encouraging the students to step up and speak out on the difficult issues which face their communities today, such as racism, displacement, equality and identity. "Monaghan needs leaders, we need active citizens."

Tidy Towns on Tour

The Tidy Towns groups of Co. Monaghan took to the highways in October on their annual study visit. This year they visited Dromiskin, Blackrock and Dundalk, focusing on the sustainable development category of the competition. A fine time was had by all.

The Tidy Towns & Residents Associations Network is managed by the Community Dept. the Network meets 2-3 times a year and goes on an annual field trip. Training is also arranged, as well as talks on topics which the Network requests. Newsletters are also emailed out to all member groups.

If you are not receiving emails from the Network, but would like to, simply contact the Community Dept and ask to be added to the Tidy Towns Network mailing list.



Congratulations to all of our Tidy Towns groups, who all succeeded in increasing their marks in this year's National Tidy Towns competition. Glaslough retained their county title. Carrickmacross took a national award under the 'Town Centre Regeneration' category. Killeevan won the county Endeavour award for the biggest percentage gain from last year. And Monaghan, after many years of hope, finally attained that elusive Gold Medal!

Well done to every single volunteer. You make such a difference to our towns and villages every day.



Over 120 community volunteers from across County Monaghan gathered on Thursday 12th September in Doohamlet Community Centre to find out information about the various funding supports available from Monaghan County Council to communities.

The meeting began with a welcome from Nicola Payne Senior Executive Officer Community Development who assured attendees of her and her team support in helping community groups access funding from the Council and Government Departments.



Carmel Murphy PPN Manager informed groups of the important role the Public Participation Network (PPN) has in informing communities when funding is announced. She encouraged them to check their emails, ensure their contact details are up to date and to engage with the PPN.

Aisling Kierans Administrative Officer provided a detailed overview of the various types of funding available and timelines for these funds. She encouraged groups to be ready for funding calls, have their plans in place, read the funding guidelines, have match funding available and to ask Community Development team for help.

Doohamlet Community Centre representatives who hosted the event, shared their 10-year journey and advised attendees to ensure when applying for funding it is a whole of community approach, by consulting with those living there, have a Community Plan developed and be open to engaging with other groups in the community and collaborating on projects.



Carol Lambe Administrative Officer focused her presentation on the many functions of Community Development in Monaghan County Council. She reiterated the importance of towns and villages having a Community Plan, how to gather data from the Census to back up the need for funding in their area and provided some tips on writing successful funding applications.

To conclude, Leona Keenan Administrative Officer reminded everyone to utilise the team in Community Development Monaghan County Council. The support to community groups is there and significant funding is available, so now is the time for groups to look at their current needs and issues, consult with their communities, have a plan in place and be ready to start their funding journey with support from a dedicated team in Community Development Monaghan County Council.

To contact us with any queries please contact Monaghan LCDC by email at **lcdc.info@monaghancoco.ie**

Staff Awareness Days - 1st Oct 2024 & 15th Oct 2024



On the 1st and 15th October 2024, Monaghan County Council's Human Resource Management department hosted Staff Awareness Days aimed at integrating newly recruited staff who joined the organisation in 2023 and 2024. The Staff Awareness Day is designed to offer an overview of the Council's wide-ranging services and provide an opportunity for staff to connect with each other. The day opened with an address by the Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council followed by presentations from the Directors of Service and various Heads of Departments. In the afternoon attendees embarked on a bus tour showcasing projects delivered by the Council. Feedback from attendees was positive, and there are plans to extend similar familiarization events in 2025 to continue fostering staff engagement and awareness.

move to Monaghan

Destination Towns – Church Square Monaghan

The official launch of the newly revamped Church Square, now a dedicated events space for use by the local community, took place on 20 September. Approximately 30 people attended the event and there was music and street entertainers on site, in addition to the regular food market stalls.

Works included the following:

- Hard and soft landscaping for the area and enlarging the space available for performances by extending the existing square
- Services connections to facilitate events
- Feature lighting which defines and enhances the space
- Lighting up the nearby monuments and historic buildings so that the overall space acts as a focal point for the town centre

The project was funded by Failte Ireland under Destination Towns Programme and by Monaghan Municipal District.



move to Monaghan

Monaghan Dublin Business Network Event (MDBN)



To demonstrate support for its diaspora and to encourage increased participation and new members in the MDBN, the Tourism Unit assisted in organising a MDBN event in the Peace Campus on 20th September which was supported by Monaghan County Council. To coincide with Culture Night, the event had a cultural theme and was very positively received



Festival & Events Funding

Monaghan Tourism advertised Festival Funding Schemes in May, and the following festivals were supported with grant aid:

- Muckno Mania Festival
- Harvest Time Blues Festival
- Dracula Festival
- Monaghan Country Music Festival
- Back to Castleblayney Festival
- Macra na Feirme 80 years celebration
- Muckno Santa Experience
- Big Tom Memorial Weekend



National Women's Enterprise 2024

140 Women in Business from Cavan and Monaghan Celebrate National Women's Enterprise Day 2024 together.

National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED) took place across Ireland on Thursday, October 17th, 2024, with the theme "Making It Happen". Now in its 18th year, NWED is Ireland's largest female enterprise event, empowering women to take the lead in business.

140 female entrepreneurs from Counties Monaghan and Cavan gathered at the Errigal Country House Hotel to celebrate this important day. The event was hosted by Local Enterprise Offices (LEO) Monaghan and Cavan, in collaboration with the Monaghan and Cavan Women in Business Networks.

The evening began with networking, allowing attendees to connect and share ideas. Following this, attendees were welcomed by a video address from Heather Humphreys TD, Deputy Leader of Fine Gael and Minister for Social Protection and Rural and Community Development, who set the tone for an inspiring evening of discussion and celebration.



Award-winning entrepreneur Larissa Feeney of Kinore Finance and Business Services shared her inspiring story of scaling her online accounting service. Since launching in 2016 with a turnover of €300,000, Larissa has grown her business to a staff of 79 with a turnover exceeding €4.2 million. Larissa emphasised the importance of valuing staff and seeking expertise in areas like social media marketing, which helped her business increase website traffic from 600 visits per month in 2016 to nearly 20,500 in 2024.

National Women's Enterprise 2024

Next up were the dynamic sister duo, Ailbhe and Izzy Keane, founders of Izzy Wheels. They captivated the audience with their personal and business journey, highlighting how Ailbhe's creative flair and Izzy's vibrant personality—along with her experience of living with spina bifida—inspired the creation of stylish, removable wheelchair covers. Their business has grown to collaborate with global brands such as Disney, Barbie, Hello Kitty, and Marvel, with their products now sold worldwide. Ailbhe and Izzy left the audience with this empowering message: "Keep your big dream in mind—no matter how far it seems."

A lively panel discussion followed, featuring insights from successful local businesswomen and advisors. Panellists included: Aprilanna Barker (Dinkins Bakery) Emer McVeety (Laochra Academy) Siobhan Sherry and Tara McGovern (Business Advisors from LEOs Monaghan and Cavan)



Monaghan LEO staff also addressed the gathering and outlined the broad range of supports available for local businesses, whether starting out or seeking to grow. Staff were on hand throughout the evening to speak with business owners about the supports available to them.

Monaghan County Museum Celebrate 50 years of serving the community



A huge party was held at the Peace Campus to celebrate Monaghan County Museum's 50th year serving the community on Saturday, September 21st. This party had the theme, which is at the core of the Museum service: community. The date was significant as it also be marked World Peace Day when the Peace Campus announced that it is fully open for business. The Campus is a safe space for everyone to enjoy and along with the Museum service, visitors explored the new Library service and engaged in youth service activities through Foroige.

Some of the highlights on the day included the Big Dig budding archaeologists got their hands dirty digging for archaeological treasures. They also had a chance to dress up as a World War II RAF pilot and sit in an actual Spitfire to commemorate the incredible story of the Monaghan Spitfire. Visitors also tried their hand at printing, clay moulding, glit edging and relaxed in the sensory zone. A birthday party wouldn't be complete without cake and Ireland rugby legend and proud Monaghan man Tommy Bowe was on hand to help the museum team cut the cake. Musicians from across the community also entertained the large crowds throughout the day.



Reclaimed Asphalt Scheme

The Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot Scheme 2024 repaired local roads using an innovative, environmentally friendly, cost-effective restoration method. In 2024, the scheme was rolled out on as a regional trial, which involved counties, Monaghan, Cavan, Louth and Cork with Monaghan County Council being appointed as the project lead for the works. This type of cold-mix asphalt is an environmentally friendly road maintenance technique, as the RAP material is recycled and does not need to be heated during the mixing process. As a result, carbon emissions can be reduced by up to 90 % compared to a conventional hot-mix asphalt binder course.

It is also a cost-effective method of restoring road networks as it is produced using reclaimed materials and has a low-cost application method. It also sources expertise within the council, removing the need for expensive outside consultants. In 2024, under section 86 approval, Monaghan County Council was responsible for using cold-mix RAP technologies for the successful delivery of 2.3km regional road resurfacing in County Cavan, 5km local road resurfacing in County Louth, 5.4km regional and local road resurfacing in County Monaghan and the surfacing of 3km of new greenway in County Cork.

Active Travel Road Signs

Alternative methods of travel and road safety are two priorities of Monaghan County Council. An example of both these priorities in action are the road safety signs for cyclists that have been introduced throughout the County, for example on the R188 and N12. The signs, as illustrated, raise awareness of the proper distance required between motorist and cyclist.



Alternative Fuels and Multipurpose Vehicles

The effects of climate change are now more evident than ever. In a response to this several initiatives have been introduced within the roads department in conjunction with other sections. Along with the RAP scheme, a pilot scheme has introduced HvO fuel as a viable fuel for the Council's fleet of vehicles. HvO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil), is used as a direct replacement for diesel and is a renewable energy source as it has up to 90% reduction in net CO2 greenhouse emissions. It offers a fast and simple step towards Net Zero. Another contributor to this goal has been the introduction of a multiuse vehicle to each of our Municipal Districts. These vehicles as seen below, have many functions including, cutting grass (from large greens to grass verges), spreading salt on footpaths during cold spells and filling sandbags during flooding events. It is both an effective and efficient tool punching above its weight, in response to our changing climate.

There are now a total of 8 vehicles that use alternative fuels sources, with many more planned to be introduced.

To Date 5 Electric vehicles (including new EV Vans for Dog Wardens & Traffic Wardens), 4 HvO vehicles (Surface Dressing Fleet, Winter Maintenance Fleet, Velocity Patcher, & Environmental 4x4 Pickup) and 4 Multiuse Vehicles have been introduced throughout the County.

