

Minutes of the Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek Building, Armagh Rd, Knockaconny, Monaghan, on Monday 06 January 2025 at 10 a.m.

Chair: Cllr P. Gibbons, Cathaoirleach

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

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

1. Confirmation of Council Meeting Minutes held on 16 December 2024

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 16 December 2024 be confirmed.

2. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Acknowledgement email from the Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach, Mr. Simon Harris, TD, regarding domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister of State, Mr. Ossian Smyth, T.D., regarding the mast at Eir Exchange, Railyway Road, Conabury, Castleblayney.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D., regarding oral healthcare staff in Co. Monaghan.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council regarding grants for rainwater harvesting.

2.1 Additional Correspondence

The following additional correspondence which had been received after the agenda had issued was also circulated:

- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister of Justice, Ms. Helen McEntee, T.D., regarding the Motion adopting a zero-tolerance approach to gender-based violence.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr C. Carthy, seconded by Cllr N. Keelan, it was agreed that this Council supports the Donegal Co Co motion calling on the incoming Housing Minister to consider offering a grant for rainwater harvesting that would lower the demand on current domestic supplies and could be used for flushing toilets, washing cars, power washing and any other use of treated water supplies around dwellings, farms and industrial settings.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Gibbons, seconded by Cllr N. Keelan, it was agreed that this Council writes to ComReg asking them to open a case in relation to the mast at Eir Exchange, Railway Road (off New Street), Conabury, Castleblayney, Co Monaghan highlighting the unanimous support of the members at the October 2024 Council meeting for a motion calling on Eirgrid and Towercom to stop work on this project immediately. This mast is located directly adjacent to several schools and residences, public consultation did not take place and it has been a cause of serious concern among both the school and the wider communities.

3. To consider Taking in Charge a section of Drumbear Wood, Monaghan Town

Mr. A Hughes, Senior Planner outlined the proposed taking in Charge of a section of Drumbear Wood, Monaghan Town. He stated that inspections had been carried out by the relevant sections of the Council and they are satisfied that the development has been completed to the required standards. Uisce Eireann have no objection to the taking in charge. The Planning Authority is satisfied that the development can be considered for taking in charge.

On the proposal Cllr P. Clerkin, seconded by Cllr R. Aughey, it was agreed that the Council approve the application for Drumbear Wood, in accordance with the Taking In Charge of Estates and Declaration of Public Roads Notice, under Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

4. To approve Newspapers for publication of Planning Notices for 2025

On the proposal of Cllr S. Gilliland seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin it was agreed that the Council approve the following newspapers in accordance with Part 4 Article 18 (2) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) for giving notice of the intention to make a planning application to Monaghan County Council –

- Northern Standard
- Anglo Celt
- Dundalk Democrat (Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District only)
- Irish Independent
- Irish Daily Star
- Irish Times

5. To consider Regional Homeless Action Plan

Mr. Nial O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer, Housing outlined the North East Region Homeless Action Plan. He stated that the plan had been prepared by the local authorities of Louth, Cavan and Monaghan in accordance with the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009. The Plan has been approved by the North East Region Homelessness Consultative Forum, the representative body for key stakeholders of homelessness services in the region, including the Health Service Executive (HSE). The purpose of the plan is to identify key areas of challenge, throughout the region, in the area of homelessness and it is based on six primary objectives focusing on the three phases of homelessness; prevention; support; and progression. Furthermore, the Action Plan seeks to solidify and strengthen the enhanced levels of inter-agency and stakeholder cooperation over the next three years.

The members commended the Housing department for the positive work that they do in relation to tackling homelessness and thanked Mr. O'Connor for his presentation.

Mr. O'Connor responded to members queries.

Mr. R. Burns, Chief Executive highlighted that the Council have adequate capacity and resources to effectively deal with homelessness and he stated that anyone who is experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness should be advised to contact the housing department.

On the proposal Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council approve the North East Region Homeless Action Plan as presented.

6. To consider Capital Programme 2025 – 2027

Mr. R. Burns, Chief Executive introduced the presentation by stating that the Capital Programme 2025-2027 is an ambitious programme that includes 127 projects which require funding of €454 million, representing a 22% increase compared to the 2024 programme. The Chief Executive advised that it is planned to spend €241 million over the next 3 years on housing provision which shows serious intent around investment in housing. He concluded by stating that the aim of the Plan is to ensure balanced development across the County and it includes a diverse range of projects across areas such as Housing, Environment, Public Realm, Libraries, Fire and Regeneration.

Mr. Alan Hall, Senior Executive Engineer attended the meeting and advised the members that under Section 135 of the Local Government Act there is a requirement on the Council to have a three-year rolling programme that is updated annually having regard to available resources. He stated that it was important to note that consideration of the Capital Programme by the Members does not confer Council approval on any individual project. This can only be achieved through the normal statutory processes and compliance with the Public Spending Code. Funding arrangements also need to be clearly identified and secured in advance of committing to any project. He gave the members an overview of the Council's capital programme achievements in 2024.

Mr. Cathal Flynn, Director of Services stated that the Capital Programme is continually delivering for the citizens of Monaghan. He gave the members an overview of the status of various capital projects included in the programme for 2025 – 2027. He stated that a significant portion of the programme would be delivered through the county's three Municipal Districts and their project delivery teams. He concluded by stating that given the significant level of investment planned over the next three years it demonstrates Monaghan County Council's robust commitment to growth and development across the County.

A discussion followed to which a number of members contributed, and the Executive responded.

7. To fill positions held by C. Bennett and D. Maxwell on various committees.

Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board

*On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland, **Cllr Alan Johnston** was nominated to the Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board.*

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Alan Johnston** was declared elected to the Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board.

Regional Health Forum – Dublin and North East

*On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland, **Cllr Alan Johnston** was nominated to the Regional Health Forum – Dublin and North East.*

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Alan Johnston** was declared elected to the Regional Health Forum – Dublin and North East.

Northern and Western Regional Assembly

*On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin, **Cllr Richard Truell** was nominated to the Northern and Western Regional Assembly.*

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Richard Truell** was declared elected to the *Northern and Western Regional Assembly*.

Management Board of ICBAN Ltd. (Irish Central Border Areas Network)

On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr R. Truell, Cllr Alan Johnston was nominated to the Management Board of ICBAN Ltd. (Irish Central Border Areas Network).

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Alan Johnston** was declared elected to the Management Board of ICBAN Ltd. (Irish Central Border Areas Network)

Association of Irish Local Government

On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin, Cllr Sean Gilliland was nominated to the Association of Irish Local Government.

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Sean Gilliland** was declared elected to the Association of Irish Local Government.

Peace Partnership Board

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McAree, Cllr Niamh McCooey was nominated to the Peace Partnership Board.

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Niamh McCooey** was declared elected to the Peace Partnership Board.

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McAree, Cllr Niamh McCooey was nominated to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Niamh McCooey** was declared elected to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

Local Steering Group for the Use of Irish in Monaghan County Council (Coiste Gaeilge)

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McAree, Cllr Niamh McCooey was nominated to the Local Steering Group for the Use of Irish in Monaghan County Council (Coiste Gaeilge).

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Niamh McCooey** was declared elected to the Local Steering Group for the Use of Irish in Monaghan County Council (Coiste Gaeilge).

Museum Advisory Committee

On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr R. Truell, Cllr Alan Johnston was nominated to the Museum Advisory Committee.

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Alan Johnston** was declared elected to the Museum Advisory Committee.

Speed Limits Committee

On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin, Cllr Alan Johnston was nominated to the Speed Limits Committee.

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Alan Johnston** was declared elected to the Speed Limits Committee.

Twinning Committee

*On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland, **Cllr Pauric Clerkin** was nominated to the Twinning Committee.*

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Pauric Clerkin** was declared elected to the Twinning Committee.

Standing Orders and Procedures Committee – 2 Vacancies

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McAree, **Cllr Niamh McCooey** was nominated to the Standing Orders and Procedures Committee.*

*On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland, **Cllr Alan Johnston** was nominated to the Standing Orders and Procedures Committee.*

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Alan Johnston and Cllr Niamh McCooey** were declared elected to the Standing Orders and Procedures Committee.

Civic Offices Steering Group – 2 Vacancies

*On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland, **Cllr Alan Johnston** was nominated to the Civic Offices Steering Group.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McAree, **Cllr Niamh McCooey** was nominated to the Civic Offices Steering Group.*

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Alan Johnston and Cllr Niamh McCooey** were declared elected to the Civic Offices Steering Group.

Cavan/Monaghan Drugs & Alcohol Forum

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McAree, **Cllr Niamh McCooey** was nominated to the Cavan/Monaghan Drugs & Alcohol Forum.*

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Niamh McCooey** was declared elected to the Cavan/Monaghan Drugs & Alcohol Forum.

Monaghan Walking and Cycling Forum

*On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr P. Conlon, **Cllr Pauric Clerkin** was nominated to the Monaghan Walking and Cycling Forum.*

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Pauric Clerkin** was declared elected to the Monaghan Walking and Cycling Forum.

A5/N2 Cross Border Committee

*On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland, **Cllr Peter Conlon** was nominated to the A5/N2 Cross Border Committee.*

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Peter Conlon** was declared elected to the A5/N2 Cross Border Committee.

Strategic Policy Committee for Transport

On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr R. Truell, Cllr Alan Johnston was nominated to the Strategic Policy Committee for Transport.

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Alan Johnston** was declared elected to the Strategic Policy Committee for Transport.

Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development and Enterprise

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McAree, Cllr Niamh McCooey was nominated to the Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development and Enterprise.

On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland, Cllr Peter Conlon was nominated to the Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development and Enterprise.

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Niamh McCooey and Cllr Peter Conlon** were declared elected to the Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development and Enterprise.

Strategic Policy Committee for Tourism, Rural and Community Development; An Ghaeilge & Cultural Services

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McAree, Cllr Niamh McCooey was nominated to the Strategic Policy Committee for Tourism, Rural and Community Development; An Ghaeilge & Cultural Services.

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Niamh McCooey** was declared elected to the Strategic Policy Committee for Tourism, Rural and Community Development; An Ghaeilge & Cultural Services.

Strategic Policy Committee for Housing

On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr P. Conlon, Cllr Alan Johnston was nominated to the Strategic Policy Committee for Housing to replace Cllr. Richard Truell.

As there were no further nominations, **Cllr Alan Johnston** was declared elected to the Strategic Policy Committee for Housing.

Inaugural meeting of all SPCs

It was agreed that the inaugural meeting of all SPCs would take place on Wednesday 22 January 2024 at 7pm.

8. To receive a presentation from SNAP (Special Needs Active Parents in Monaghan)

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Patrick McAloon and Ms. Pamela Kenny from SNAP (Special Needs Active Parents in Monaghan) to the meeting.

Mr. McAloon commenced by providing the members with an overview of the work of SNAP which is a parent led support group for families of children with additional needs, based in Monaghan. He stated that approximately 12 months ago SNAP set out to secure respite services, adult day services and a special school. He informed the members that to date, respite services had been secured and provision for a special school confirmed in Castleblayney, however, he highlighted the severe lack of adult day services currently available in Monaghan. With regards to the site of the special school in Castleblayney he

added that members of SNAP had concerns in relation to the imprint of the site, recreational space, site access and traffic management.

The Chief Executive, Cathaoirleach and members thanked Mr. McAloon for his very informative presentation.

9. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group 17 December 2024

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17 December 2024, which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr R. Aughey, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17 December 2024 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

10. To receive Management Report – December 2024

The Chief Executive introduced the Management Report for December 2024 which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Chief Executive and Directors of Services responded to queries from the elected members.

The members noted the Management Report for December 2024 which had been circulated with the agenda.

11. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events

The members noted the report from Cllr P. Gibbons in relation to his attendance at the following Conferences/Training events:

- A Councillors Guide to Home Upgrade, 16 November 2024, Clare Galway Hotel, Co. Galway

12. Business Submitted by the Chief Executive

The Chief Executive advised the members that Avison Young, on behalf of Monaghan County Council are seeking expressions of interest for the 16-acre Annaghagh site and the closing date for receipt of submissions is 5pm on 14 February 2025. The vision for the Annaghagh lands is to develop a high-quality campus-style environment. The intention is to provide fully serviced development sites and the lands are suited for a variety of industrial, enterprise and employment uses subject to planning permission. He stated that the purpose of seeking Expressions of interest is to understand the demand from owner-occupiers seeking sites ranging from 0.80 hectares (2 acres) and upwards which will in turn help inform the design of the site.

St Patrick's Day Delegation

The Chief Executive advised members that he hoped that an official delegation could attend the St Patrick's Day celebrations in either Boston/Nashville/Tennessee. He stated that whilst the location is yet to be confirmed consideration was being given to areas with a similar alignment to Monaghan in terms of the rural economic activity.

On the proposal of Cllr A Campbell seconded by Cllr S. Flynn it was agreed that the following be offered the opportunity to attend either Boston/Nashville/Tennessee to represent

Monaghan County Council as part of St. Patrick's Day celebrations:

- Cathaoirleach, Cllr Paul Gibbons
- Chief Executive, Mr. Robert Burns
- Up to 2 staff members

Monaghan County Council Website

Ms. C. O'Hare, Director of Services, informed the members that an extensive review of the content on the Monaghan County Council website (www.monaghan.ie) had taken place over the past 12 months. She advised the members that as part of the final stages of the review, it would be necessary to take the website offline for a period of three to five working days from Monday 13 January. Ms. O'Hare thanked the communications team for all of their work in successfully liaising with the software development team to make the website more accessible and easier to navigate.

Staff Contact List

It was agreed that the Staff Contact List would be updated and uploaded to Decision Time accordingly.

13. Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meetings held on 16 December 2024

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 December 2024.

14. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

No further update on the N2 National Primary Road.

15. To receive update on North/South Interconnector project

On the proposal of Cllr. N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland, it was agreed that this Council writes to An Taoiseach Mr. Simon Harris, T.D. and to the Tánaiste, Mr. Micheal Martin, T.D. requesting that the undergrounding of the north south interconnector be an item for discussion during the negotiations to form the next Government and also that consideration would be given to the undergrounding of the NSI in the programme for the new Government.

16. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

No further update on the Ulster Canal project.

17. Questions and Replies

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

1. What is the latest update on the 'Taking in charge' of both Lough na Glack and Alderwood estates in Carrickmacross?

Reply: Alderwood: *In November 2024 Uisce Eireann informed the Planning Authority that they are satisfied with water services in the estate, and are agreeable to progressing the taking in charge of the estate. The Local Authority are now carrying out final inspections with regards to various 'snags' previously identified.*

Lough Na Glack: *The intent to take the estate in charge was advertised in mid-2024. The Planning Authority intend putting this matter to a council meeting in early 2025.*

2. When is it expected, once approval is given by the Department of Housing to our Monaghan County Council Affordable Purchase scheme, that this option will be made available in Carrickmacross & Castleblayney?

Reply: *Housing Section is in negotiations with developers in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD area about providing Affordable Homes for sale. At this time, no application has been submitted for this MD.*

3. Has the Housing Executive initiated any scheme proposals to introduce an affordable rental model in Co. Monaghan?

Reply: *Housing Section are in negotiations with a developer presently to acquire apartments for cost rental. If negotiations are concluded successfully and the project is deemed financially viable, an application will be submitted to the Department for funding. It is envisaged that this application will be made in early 2025.*

4. What plans have the Local Enterprise Office to advertise the Trading Online Voucher, and its newly expanded features, to businesses in Co. Monaghan and will it consider a roadshow for each of our towns to provide training?

Reply: *The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) has a comprehensive plan to promote the Grow Digital Voucher which has replaced the Trading Online Voucher to businesses in County Monaghan. This includes:*

- **Lunch & Learn Sessions** – *The LEO Team will host in person Lunch & Learn sessions across the 5 main towns in the County the first of which is planned to launch Local Enterprise week 2025. These sessions will be an opportunity for new staff to engage face to face with local businesses and develop our network while also providing the businesses with insights into available supports such as the Grow Digital voucher.*
- **In Person Business advice Clinic:** *There is also an opportunity for one-to-one business advice clinics with our Business advisors to enable businesses explore what supports the LEO has on offer to provide their business with solutions to specific challenges. Two clinics are scheduled in January in Castleblayney Gate Lodge and Clones Library with more to be scheduled in February and March in Carrickmacross , Ballybay and Monaghan Town. Booking details are available on the LEO Monaghan website [Online Bookings - Monaghan](#)*
- **Digital Specific Events:** *LEO Monaghan will organise a series of dedicated events focused on digital growth, including Digital Business and Grow Digital information sessions. These events will aim to equip business with the knowledge to leverage the expanded features of the Grow Digital Voucher.*
- **Social Media Campaigns:** *A targeted social media campaign will complement all of the above ensuring there is widespread awareness and engagement with the Grow Digital voucher and other LEO Supports.*
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Cllr P. Gibbons asked:

5. Can the names of estates and the dates submitted be provided in relation to applications received for estates to be taken into charge by Monaghan County Council in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD that are awaiting a decision on the application? What are the estimated timelines on adjudication of these applications?

Reply:

Estate Name	
Conabury Hill, Castleblayney.	It is hoped this matter can be progressed in 2025. UE will not agree to the taking in charge until pumping station lands are in their control. These lands are still under the control of a development company that has been dissolved. The Planning Authority are seeking legal advice on the matter.
Killycard (Radhairc an Bhri), Castleblayney.	It is hoped this matter can be progressed in 2025. The Planning Authority are awaiting the agreement of UE to progress the matter.
Bramley Crescent, Castleblayney.	The Planning Authority are unable to put a time-frame on progressing this. There are issues with land ownership & wayleaves that need to be resolved before any progress can be made with taking in charge.
Killycard Manor, Castleblayney.	The Planning Authority are unable to put a time-frame on progressing this as there are a number of outstanding queries to be addressed by the developer.
Alderwood, Carrickmacross.	It is hoped this matter can be put to a Council meeting in 2025.
Sean Carraig, Carrickmacross.	Further to a taking in charge application received in late 2023, the Local Authority are awaiting inspection reports. It is hoped this matter can be substantially progressed in 2025.
Coill Darach, Castleblayney.	Further to a taking in charge application received in September 2024, the Local Authority are awaiting inspection reports. It is hoped this matter can be substantially progressed in 2025.
Lough na Glack, Carrickmacross.	The intent to take the estate in charge was advertised in mid 2024. The Planning Authority intend putting this matter to a council meeting in early 2025.
Sliabh Dubh, Corduff.	The Planning Authority are unable to put a time-frame on progressing this. In a letter to Local Authorities in 2024, UE have advised that they been assigned responsibility for the remediation of DPI infrastructure. They further advised that this will take time to resolve and that a range of resolution options are likely to be considered and used.

6. Can an overview on actions to tackle dereliction in the Castleblayney and Oram areas since the October meeting be provided?

Reply:

The Town Regeneration section has undertaken the following actions in the Castleblayney and Oram areas to bring properties back into use:

- 25.no Section 8(2) (notice of intention to enter onto the Derelict Site Register) have been issued for properties within the Castleblayney and Oram areas. We have had several interactions and engagements with property owners which will continue to be an ongoing process.
- 12.no properties did not engage sufficiently and therefore have been entered onto the Derelict Site Register.
- 2.no properties have been sold.
- 1.no property owner has applied for the Croi Conaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant with a second property preparing an application
- 3.no properties owners have completed renovations and are no longer derelict
- 3.no properties owners have indicated that they are in use and are not derelict

- *The remaining property owners have indicated they will make their property non derelict; they have been afforded a grace period in which to carry out these works.*

The Council is proposing to Compulsorily Purchase 2.no properties on Muckno Street and repurpose same as Social Housing. This process will commence in January 2025.

7. Can the number of complaints regarding smells received by Monaghan County Council in 2024 to date be provided along with the number successfully resolved? Can an overview of the legislation and procedures involved in investigating these complaints be provided?

Reply: *A total of 8 No. complaints were received to date in 2024 in relation to odours / smells. Some of the complaints involved more than 1 complainant.*

5 of the complaints were related to slurry spreading in close proximity to dwelling houses, 1 complaint was related to emissions from a mushroom farm and 2 complaints were associated to piggery units.

Majority of complaints were obviously made after single events as in the slurry spreading etc and these are usually dealt with by contacting the farmer and advising him /her accordingly.

In relation to smells / odours etc. from commercial activity, these are usually dealt with by investigating the issues on the ground, contacting the owners with a view to solving the matter in the case of an accidental discharge or an in house problem, i.e. breakdown of equipment.

The repetitive complaints are also referred to the planning department so as to establish the legal standing of the operation and whether conditions of planning are been complied with.

As of today, we have 1 outstanding complaint open.

8. Can an overview of any actions taken by Monaghan County Council in 2024 in relation to water safety be provided? This is in relation to provision of life buoys, swimming lessons, lifeguard services etc – not drinking or bathing water quality).

Reply: *In conjunction with the Monaghan Water Safety Area Committee, Monaghan County Council facilitates water safety classes weekly at the Coral Leisure complex from September to May each year. In addition, Monaghan Co. Co. facilitates the Area Committee by providing meeting rooms and administrative support as required. Monaghan County Council, in conjunction with Water Safety Ireland, promote Water Safety, across all sections of the community, during Water Safety Awareness Week utilising the Council's social media channels. The Water Safety Development Officer, in conjunction with Monaghan Water Safety Area Committee Members, deliver the PAWS, (Primary Aquatics Water Safety), program to schools across the county before the school summer holidays.*

Ring Buoys are provided at various locations based on a risk assessment carried out by Water Safety Ireland for Monaghan County Council. Ring Buoys are replaced as necessary either following inspection by Council staff or reported missing to the Council or via the WSI web portal, (<https://watersafety.ie/ringbuoys/>).

Monaghan County Council does not employ Lifeguards, as there are no designated bathing areas in the County.

9. Can an update be provided on the provision of affordable housing in the County? Are there plans for affordable housing units in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD and if so, what is the projected timeline on that?

Reply: *An application has been submitted to the Department for an affordable housing scheme in Monaghan Town. Approval for the scheme has not been received to date. Housing Section is in negotiations with developers in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD area about providing Affordable Homes for sale. At this time, no application has been submitted for this MD*

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

10. What outcomes have followed the advertisement of Expressions of Interest for Annahagh Industrial Lands Development along the Monaghan Town bypass published in September?

Reply: *Expressions of Interest for Annahagh Industrial Zoned Lands west of Annahagh roundabout is currently advertised with a closing date of 14th February 2025.*

11. For the purpose of attracting further economic investment and employment opportunities are Council actively seeking purchase of additional lands suitable for industrial zoning throughout County Monaghan?

Reply: *Yes, Monaghan County Council are seeking opportunities for suitable industrial zoned lands.*

18. Votes of sympathy/congratulations

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

- Dympna Condra, Tourism and Marketing Executive, on the death of her mother Dympna Donlon (née Fitzgerald), "Struthan", Ardnacassa Lawns, Longford Town, Longford.

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

- Monaghan Tidy Towns and Monaghan MD Outdoor staff for their achievement in placing third out of forty towns in the IBAL anti-litter league.
- The members of Memphis Belles line dancing school, Carrickmacross and Dance Fusion Line Dancing school, Smithborough, who travelled to Florida over the Christmas period and participated in the World Line Dancing Championships.

19. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin 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
Celtic Conferences	Corporate Governance	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty	7 th , 8 th and 9 th February	Cllr R. Truell Cllr. P. Conlon
LAMA	Spring Seminar	Kilford Arms Kilkenny	30 th and 31 st January	Cllr S. Conlon Cllr R. Truell
AIR	Annual Seminar	Radisson Blu, Athlone	5 th and 6 th February	Cllr S. Conlon Cllr R. Truell

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Meetings
Administrator

Date: _____