

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek I Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday, 17th February 2025 at 11.15am.

Present: Cllr Seán Conlon, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs Pauric Clerkin, Raymond Aughey, Niamh McCooey, Seamus Treanor, Alan Johnston and Bronagh McAree

In attendance: Ms. Patricia Monahan, Director of Services, Mr. Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Ms. Liz Brannigan, Administrative Officer

Apologies: Mr. Ruairi O'Neill, Executive Engineer

1. Confirmation of Minutes of MD Meeting held on 20th January 2025

On the proposal of Cllr B. McAree, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, it was agreed that the Minutes of the Monaghan Municipal District Meeting held on 20th January 2025 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

In relation to a request from Members at the January meeting for a photo to be arranged in acknowledgement of the funding from the Members of the Municipal District of Monaghan towards the recently opened extension to the Rossmore Playpark and a recent addition to the Giants Sculpture trail, Mr. D. McElwain advised, due to damage to trees / paths during Storm Éowyn it will be approximately 4 weeks before paths are cleared.

3. Report from Municipal District Coordinator

Mr. D. McElwain, MD Coordinator, took Members through the February Report. The Members noted the Report which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Director of Services and MD Coordinator responded to queries raised by the Members:

- In relation to CCTV, Monaghan Municipal District will closely monitor the developing changes to the current CCTV Scheme and how these changes will impact on the CCTV operating in Monaghan Town.
- In relation to the Glen Road culvert works, the most recent date given to the Roads Dept for completion of works is the beginning of March 2025.
- Members were advised the Annual Roads Meeting will be scheduled for March in advance of the MD Monthly Meeting. Members agreed to commence the March Mtg at 9.30am to accommodate this.
- Clarification will be sought in relation to the Low-Cost Safety Scheme at Bogues.
- National Roads budgets are generally announced towards the end of February 2025.
- The Local Transport Plan will be brought to MD Members at the March Meeting.
- Active Travel Team will present to MD Members at the March Meeting.

Members requested dog fouling bins to be provided in Ballinode.

In relation to a concern raised by Members where there were a number of trees felled, in one area in Ballinode, following the storm, Members were informed that this matter had been raised with Planning, Environment and Biodiversity Depts within the Council, however, the incident did

not fall under any category where the Council has jurisdiction. The matter was then referred to the Department of Agriculture regarding the requirements for a tree-felling licence.

Members thanked all staff, who worked in dangerous conditions for the safety of the public, in preparation for, during and since the recent severe weather event, Storm Éowyn, and acknowledged the response from the community and voluntary sector.

4. Correspondence

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

- Response from EIR regarding the mast in Scotstown.
- Response from the National Transport Authority regarding Taxi Regulations.

5. Questions and Motions

Questions:

ClIr Niamh McCooey asked:

1. Could the Monaghan Municipal District confirm the total number of litter fines issued in 2024, including those related to commercial and domestic waste, as well as illegal dumping?

Response: The Council issued 37 fines in 2024.

2. Could the Monaghan Municipal District confirm the number of properties within the district that have availed of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant since its inception in 2022?

Response: To date the Council has received 287 applications for the Croi Conaithe grant. 187 of these applications have been approved in principle.

87 applications have been received from the Monaghan Municipal District administrative area of which 57 have been approved in principle.

This equates to approximately 30% of the total applications received.

ClIr Bronagh McAree asked:

1. Could I get an update on seminary hill which was to be referred to the roads department in June 2024?

Response: The road from the seminary hill to Glaslough includes three roads, L1220, L1221 and the L1222. The road to the rear of St Macartan's College, L1220 is on the 2025 Roads Restoration Programme. In 2023 large patching works were completed on the LP 1222 to address large dips in the roads surface. There are currently no further works planned for 2025.

2. Could the installation of extra street lighting at Edenmore N.S/Edenbeag childcare facility be considered for the safety of children, parents and staff?

Response: These lights are currently not in the charge of the council. The council have arranged for these lights to be assessed, and costs obtained for the upgrade of the existing lights to meet current requirements at this location.

3. Could I get an update on the current stage of the Emyvale road safety improvement scheme?

Response: N2 Emyvale Road Safety Improvement Scheme – MCC have requested a funding allocation of €1,000,000 for construction in 2025. Access arrangements with a landowner have been agreed. Site investigations to determine ground conditions are now complete.

Predicted Timeline-

Design completion, Statutory Processes, Contract Docs, Q1/Q2, 2025.

Procurement for construction Q2, 2025.

Construction Q3, 2025.

Cllr Seán Conlon asked:

1. What is the total annual income to the Municipal District from pay parking for years 2023 / 2024?

And for each of these years,

a) what are the fixed allocations deducted annually from this revenue stream i.e. traffic management,

b) what are the discretionary deductions agreed by the members i.e. Rossmore Park improvements,

c) what is the total number of fines imposed, and what is the total amount collected from parking fines and penalties during 2023 / 2024?

Response: Total annual Income from Pay Parking:

2023 €675,678

2024 €646,578

a) -Traffic Management Operations (Car parks, Pay parking system and associated staff)
€396,570

b) - Rossmore Forest Park €50,000
- Monaghan Town Team including Monaghan Town Business Executive €65,000

- Monaghan Town Voucher €40,000

c) Number and Income from Fines are,

2023: Nr. of fines 3,441, Income €113,652

2024: Nr. of fines 2,252, Income €85,374

2. What is the annual income for years 2023 / 2024 to the Municipal District from fees and licenses issued to casual traders?

Response: Casual Trading

Total income in 2023 - €4,500

Total income in 2024 - €6,700

3. Following the €500,000 funding allocation from the National Transport Authority in 2024 under the 'Bus Stop Enhancement Programme' I ask:
- a) what progress has occurred in advancing the enhancement / upgrade of existing bus stops to the meet the NTA's minimum requirements for passenger experience,
 - b) is there indication of a 2025 allocation under this scheme that will provide for overdue improvements to bus stop locations around the County,
 - c) what locations been identified throughout the County for bus stop enhancement works?

Response:

- a) **Monaghan County Council met with the NTA in July 2024 to discuss the allocation as announced in early 2024. This meeting was a follow up after the council received information, guidance and a bus stop inventory in June 2024 in relation to the BSEP.**
 - b) **After the announcement of the 2025 grant allocation from the NTA, a meeting was requested with their public transport section and that was held on 28th January 2025. At that meeting, the NTA informed us that the plan for 2025 is that they are going to go through the list of existing bus stops and will identify 30-40 locations that need renewal works.**
This will then be issued to us for review, and we will meet with them again to go through it, establish the scope of works that is necessary at the stops and what is achievable in 2025. It has also been requested for a resource to manage the programme which they are to come back to us on.
 - c) **The locations are to be identified by the public transport section of the NTA and we await that information.**
4. In the interest of giving prominence to road safety measures, will this Council undertake an assessment, and appropriate remedial measures, that will result in the painting of ramps, as well as painting lines on the road at junctions where a yield or stop is required?

Response: Each year the Municipal District completes an assessment of road markings and compiles a programme for upgrade and renewal of same. Ramp markings and junctions are included in this assessment. This is completed in accordance with available budgets.

Cllr Alan Johnston asked:

1. Can the Municipal District assess the need for public street lighting and footpaths at the Tullyherim Road from St. Davnets to the end of the road given the increased level of pedestrian use of this road to access and exit the greenway which is causing road safety concerns?

Response: There is an active travel scheme currently being progressed to preliminary design for the access from Tullyherim lane onto the road accessing St. Davnets. This is currently going through a stage 1 Road Safety Assessment and proposals will be presented to the Municipal District meeting when the design is further advanced.

2. Is the speed limit along the N54 Clones Road going to be reduced entering the town from the 60km zone at Kingspan under the recent default speed limit introductions?

Response: Currently, various locations throughout the National Road Network are being reviewed as part of the National Road Speed Limit review. The section of the N54 referenced is included in the review. As per criteria contained in the 'Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland', various parameters must be satisfied in order to ensure that the road is self-explaining. This means that the road environment shall be reflective of the posted speed limit in terms of the number of side road junctions & accesses and pedestrian activity. The stretch of 60kph carriageway, commencing at Kingspan into town is deemed to be appropriate and as such, will not be reduced. If an excessively low speed limit is introduced, the road user will tend to ignore it, creating enforcement difficulties and bringing the whole system of speed limits into disrepute.

3. Can the Municipal District provide an update on the progress of the Ulster Canal Greenway under Phase 2 Smithborough to Middletown?

Response: The Ulster Canal Greenway Phase 2, Smithborough – Middletown has been subdivided into 3 sections, the current status of each section is set out below,

1. Middletown – NI Border, this section is now being delivered by the ABC Council. The project is currently at land acquisition stage.

2. NI Border – Monaghan town, estimated completion date Q2/Q3 2026.

3. Monaghan town – Smithborough, discussions are ongoing with internal MCC Dept's re project feasibility following flood modelling of the scheme and subsequent amended design. Estimated completion date of Q4 2028 subject to statutory approvals and funding availability.

4. Can the Municipal District executive meet with ESB & Uisce Eireann area management with a view to improving backup systems resilience in the event of large-scale loss of power, including having backup systems/generators in place for water pumping plants so they can operate independently when such losses of power occur and can continue to provide adequate water services to the Municipal District area?

Response: The Council will be holding a number of post storm Éowyn debriefing/review sessions with the relevant stakeholders, considering the various future resilience measures to be implemented.

MOTION

Cllr Seán Conlon proposed:

With the first Council tenants taking up residence at the Mullaghmatt Housing Estate almost 50 years ago in 1976, that Monaghan County Council partner with the current and former residents and relevant stakeholders in commemorating this noteworthy occasion.

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

6. Votes of Congratulations and Sympathy

There were no votes of congratulations or sympathy passed at the meeting.

7. A.O.B.

The MD Coordinator confirmed an update would be provided to the Members at the March Meeting on the Back Lane at Dr. McKenna Terrace.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: 

Cathaoirleach

Signed: 

Municipal District Coordinator

Dated this 18th day of March 2025