

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek I Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Tuesday, 18th March 2025 at 11.50am.

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

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

Apologies: Cllrs Seamus Treanor and Bronagh McAree

1. Confirmation of Minutes of MD Meeting held on 17th February 2025

On the proposal of Cllr R. Aughey, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, it was agreed that the Minutes of the Monaghan Municipal District Meeting held on 17th February 2025 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

In relation to a query raised regarding the Monaghan Town CCTV Scheme, Mr. D. McElwain confirmed the last couple of cameras will be installed within the next fortnight; there will be a meeting with An Garda Síochána when works are completed.

Regarding the Mullaghmat Community Based CCTV Scheme, Mr. McElwain confirmed ongoing upgrades have been carried out. As conditions are changing regarding CCTV Schemes, in the coming months, any application for additional cameras will be submitted subsequent to changes to the Scheme.

3. Housing Delivery Programme: Monaghan Municipal District

Mr. N. O'Connor, SEO, Housing Dept, introduced Housing staff in attendance and outlined each staff member's area of responsibility for Members information.

Mr. G. McBride, Exec Engineer, Housing Dept, took Members through the presentation circulated with meeting agenda, covering the following topics:

- Capital Projects
- Serviced Sites
- Response / Planned Maintenance
- Acquisitions / Re-lets
- Grants / DP Works
- Tendering

Housing staff addressed the following queries raised by Members:

- In respect of project delays, on the part of the contractor, there are mechanisms within contracts to address such issues
- The Framework for Term Maintenance & Refurbishment and Minor Works Contract 2025 – 2027 allows for the appointment of 1 Primary Contractor and 1 Reserve Contractor
- In relation to the Housing Development, 'Station View', the issue regarding what obligations there are on the developer to provide a playground/creche is a matter for the Planning Dept.
- Regarding Affordable Housing, there has been a very encouraging response to the scheme.
- The estimated provision of 112 houses/apartments in Monaghan MD for 2025-2026 is well above the target set by Government for 68 units.
- Referring to query raised on the provision of specially adapted housing units for persons under the age of 65, it was confirmed that Housing Dept are looking to identify bungalows to cater to

needs identified on waiting list. Provision of Group Homes also being considered; working in tandem with the HSE on this.

- In relation to vacancies / turnaround time for same, it was confirmed that the average turnaround time is 14 weeks with Monaghan County Council having one of the lowest turnaround times in the country.
- There have been no specific areas zoned for Housing in Tyholland; the housing need in Tyholland is very low.
- Serviced Sites – currently assessing these.
- In response to a concern raised by Members regarding the cost, to the tenant, of heating retrofitted homes it was stated that all homes must be brought up to a certain standard of insulation in order to be retrofitted thereby reducing cost of heating.

4. Report from Municipal District Coordinator

The Cathaoirleach announced the winners of the St. Patrick's Day Parade competition, as follows:

Category	Winner
Best Band	Aughnamullen Pipe Band
Best Commercial Float	Lowey Transport
Best Community Float	Lithuanian School
Best Float incorp the Theme	Muckno Mania Festival Committee
Best Window incorp the Theme	Dirty Fabulous
Best Window incorp Gaeilge	Rocks
Best Float incorporating a Green Theme	Beech Hill College

The Cathaoirleach commended all participants and confirmed there will be an awards event held at the April Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District in recognition of the competition winners. The Cathaoirleach paid a special word of thanks to Monaghan Motor Club who marshalled the start point in the carpark for the parade, also An Garda Siochana for their role in traffic control, the Civil Defence and Monaghan Fire Service for their assistance.

Ms. P. Monahan, DOS, joined the Members in expressing appreciation for all staff who contributed to organising the event, as well as those involved in its execution and cleanup.

Mr. D. McElwain, MD Coordinator, took Members through the March 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 response to Members acknowledgement of the completion of the Glen Road Culvert and expression of hope that valuable lessons were learned in relation to the contractor and the onus, on them, to provide additional resources to meet set deadlines, it was confirmed that concerns will be raised with Roads Department.
- The traffic activated system of traffic lights on the Glen Road has not been reinstalled to date since the Glen Road works but is planned.
- MD staff to meet with McAree Engineering re footpath upgrades in Ballinode.
- All hazardous trees have been removed from the middle section in Beechgrove Lawns.
- Regarding a request for a traffic survey in Ballinode, it was confirmed that a survey had taken place in 2024 with no excessive speeding identified. The MD will re-assess Ballinode, Scotstown Tydavnet and Glaslough villages.
- Regarding the unsuccessful application for Low Cost Safety Scheme at Bogues, it was confirmed that the MD will reapply next year; in the interim MD staff will discuss alternatives with Roads Section.

5. To agree a date for the event in Recognition of the Sporting Achievements of the St Louis U-19 All Ireland Basketball Champions

It was agreed to hold an awards ceremony in recognition of the sporting achievements of the St. Louis U-19 All Ireland Basketball Champions at the April Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District. Members agreed to reschedule the April Monthly Mtg to Tuesday 29th April, commencing at 12 noon, with ceremony scheduled for 12.45, in the Council Chamber.

6. Correspondence

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

- Response from HSE: Expedite the process of approval for extension of works – Errigal Truagh Special Needs Site at Knockconan
- Response from Minister for Transport, Darragh O'Brien, regarding Small Public Service Vehicles

Members expressed disappointment with the response from the HSE and the 'hoops' Errigal Truagh must go through to run their services.

Members also expressed disappointment with the response from the Minister's office regarding SPSV's and reiterated the need to keep lobbying for better services in Monaghan.

7. Questions and Motions

Cllr Niamh McCooey asked:

1. Due to the numerous car accidents that have occurred on the N12 in the vicinity of Skinnagin Bridge, can Monaghan County Council confirm the following:

- a) What preventative measures have been taken to improve safety in this area?

Response: A pavement rehabilitation scheme was implemented in 2024 on the N12 from Liscarney to Tullylish, approx. 1.50km in length. The bend at Skinnagin which had seen several collisions, received additional attention in the form of a high friction aggregate in the surface course which significantly improved the skid resistance on and approaching the bend. In addition, the road cross sectional profile at this location was modified by changing the camber to make it compliant with current design standards.

- b) What further measures are being considered or required to ensure the safety of road users?

Response: A Report has been prepared for this location with objectives to address a number of road safety issues that were identified under the TII's National Road Safety Inspection Programme. This report is currently with TII's Road Safety Section for review. The Report contains a number of options that are designed to address Road Safety and these options range from medium cost to significantly high costs where land/property acquisition is required to facilitate road realignment.

- c) Would the installation of a crash barrier at this location be beneficial in preventing further vehicles from entering the Ulster Canal?

Response: MCC have been in discussions with TII regarding provision of a crash barrier at this location. We are preparing a funding application and will advance works subject to our application being successful.

2. Given that the recycling facility at Scotch Corner is no longer accepting household electrical waste, can the Council confirm the following:

a) What was the reason for this decision?

Response: Due to national logistical issues outside the control of Monaghan County Council, which impacted the collection of WEEE nationally, Monaghan County Council, along with a number of other local authorities, had to temporarily suspend the acceptance of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) at both the Carrickmacross and Scotch Corner Recycling centres.

b) Will the facility resume accepting household electrical waste in the future? If so, when is it expected to reopen for public disposal of these items?

Response: Monaghan County Council can confirm that this issue has been resolved at national level and that since Wednesday 5th March, WEEE is again being accepted at both the Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross recycling facilities

3. Can Monaghan County Council confirm how many Dog Fouling fines were issued in 2024 and how many have been issued in 2025 to date?

Response: We issued one Dog Fine in 2024, and it was paid in full. We have issued zero Dog Fines year to date in 2025. We have recently launched the Green Dog Walker Scheme on February 27th, 2025, which is a non-confrontational, positive, and friendly way to change attitudes about dog fouling in County Monaghan. Volunteers wear a GDW Hi-Viz vest, and their doggie friends wear the green GDW collar dispenser with biodegradable bags, to show they have "taken the pledge" to always:

- Clean up after their dog
- Carry extra dog waste bags
- Be happy to be approached to 'lend' a dog waste bag to those without
- Be a friendly reminder to other dog walkers to clean up after their dogs

Cllr. Sean Conlon asked:

1. (a) What date is scheduled for the commencement of grass cutting and landscaping maintenance by the MD's Outdoor Staff throughout the Council Housing Estate?

Response: The grass cutting season is scheduled to commence at the start of April 2025. To date, and where resource has allowed, the staff have completed grass cutting to some areas already.

(b) Will the first cut clippings be cleaned up in an effort at supporting residential committees in their Tidy Estates efforts?

Response: Similar to the approach taken in previous years, any areas that have a heavy first cut will be gathered and removed of site for composting. Subsequent grass cuts will be mulched in situ.

MOTION

Cllr. Sean Conlon proposed, seconded by Cllr Raymond Aughey:

That Monaghan County Council establish measures, in partnership with disability advocacy groups, aimed at re-establishing a Disability Steering Committee.

Following a short discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting, and it was agreed unanimously, to forward this motion to the Strategic Policy Committee.

8. Votes of Congratulations and Sympathy

On the proposal of Cllr A. Johnston, seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin, it was agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to Ms. Kayleigh Trappe on her success on reaching the finals of the Dancing With The Stars competition.

It was agreed to extend good wishes to both Monaghan United and Monaghan Town as they enter the National Amateur Football League.

It was agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to Monaghan County GAA who are on the brink of an immediate return to Division 1.

9. A.O.B.

MD staff to look at Belgium Park grass cutting, in the coming week.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: 

Cathaoirleach

Signed: 

Municipal District Coordinator

Dated this 29th day of April 2025