

**Minutes of the Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek Building, Armagh Rd, Knockaconny, Monaghan, on Monday 09 June at 10.00 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr P. Gibbons, Cathaoirleach

**Present:** Cllrs Aughey, Campbell, Carthy, Clerkin, 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, Ms. O. McConnon, Directors of Services, Mr. G. McMahon, A/Director of Services, Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator, Ms. M. McMahon, Staff Officer.

**MS Teams:** Cllrs. S. Coyle

**Urgent Business**

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received the following Notices of Urgent Business as follows:

**1. On behalf of the Fianna Fáil Party Members:**

*'That Monaghan County Council would arrange a drop-in clinic, in relation to the Border to Clontibret Road Scheme, for people affected in the villages of, Clontibret, Tyholland, Ardagh and Emyvale and that the consultants and engineers from the Council would attend those sessions to update and advise the local residents affected.'*

**2. On behalf of the Sinn Féin Party Members:**

*'Following a recent meeting with residents in the Clontibret community regarding the N2 Clontibret to the Border Road Scheme, several expressions of disappointment were voiced concerning the perceived lack of thorough consultation to date.'*

*In light of this, we propose that the Roads Section facilitate a meeting with the newly formed Clontibret Community N2 Committee. This meeting would provide an important opportunity to address any outstanding issues and ensure meaningful engagement with local residents moving forward.'*

**3. On behalf of the Fine Gael Party Members:**

*'Following a public meeting with residents in Clontibret Community Centre, the Fine Gael Group would propose that Monaghan County Council and Jacobs meet with a delegation from a newly formed committee to discuss their concerns regarding the N2 Clontibret to the Border Road Scheme.'*

*At this recent meeting, many affected landowners and residents outlined their disappointment with the lack of consultation to date, stating that the proposed works would isolate on part of the community from the other.*

*We feel that meeting with the Clontibret Community N2 Committee would be hugely beneficial for both the local authority and residents.'*

#### **4. On behalf of the Sinn Féin Party Members:**

*'That this Council write to the National Council for Special Education and the Minister for Education Ms. Helen Mc Entee, T.D., asking them to ensure that every school in Ireland has adequate SNA cover in place for the commencement of the new school year in August 2025. Furthermore, we ask that the Minister provide assurance that the new SNA Redeployment Scheme will not impede on schools' ability to provide adequate SNA cover for the duration of the schemes roll out.'*

*On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, it was agreed to enter 'into committee' to discuss whether to accept the motions submitted as urgent business.*

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that motions 1-3 would not be treated as urgent motions and would be considered under Agenda Item 11 – 'To receive an update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes'. It was agreed that Motion 4 would be considered as urgent business at the end of the meeting.

*On the proposal of Cllr C. Carthy, seconded by Cllr N. Keelan, it was agreed that the Council revert to public session.*

#### **1. Confirmation of Council Meeting Minutes**

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 12 May 2025 be confirmed.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon, it was agreed that the minutes of the Special Council meeting to adopt the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 – 2031, held on the 26 May 2025 be confirmed.*

#### **2. Correspondence**

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

- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. James Browne, T.D., regarding funding for costs associated with Storm Éowyn.
- Email from Ms. S. Griffin, Regional School Transport Manager, East regarding school transport for the 2025/26 year.
- Acknowledgement email from the Department of An Taoiseach, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., regarding carbon tax.
- Acknowledgement email from the office of the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Mr. Dara Calleary, T.D., regarding funding structures to support the Irish language.
- Acknowledgement email from the office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Martin Heydon, T.D., regarding ACRES payments.
- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary to the Minister of State for International & Road Transport, Logistics, Rails and Ports, Mr. Seán Canney, T.D., regarding road safety.
- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice, Mr. Jim O'Callaghan, T.D., regarding documents relating to the Dublin and Monaghan bombings in 1974.
- Acknowledgement regarding the letter of congratulations issued to Aaron McKenna on winning the WBA middleweight title.
- Acknowledgement regarding the letter of sympathy issued to the Garda Commissioner on the death of Garda Kevin Flatley.

### **3. To consider Monaghan Arts Strategy 2025-2031**

Mr. S. MacConghail, Arts Officer, joined the meeting to present the Monaghan Arts Strategy 2025-2031 which had been circulated with the agenda. Mr. MacConghail commenced his presentation stating that the purpose of the Strategy is to support and foster artistic endeavours and the creative practice of artists and the Arts in Monaghan. He provided an overview of the development process, core principles, funding and points of interest, key points to note were:

- The Strategy is based on the following Core Principles; Commitment to Excellence; Investment; Respect for Equality; Diversity and Inclusion.
- The following Strategic Priorities have been identified;
  - Supporting Artists
  - Young People & The Arts
  - Creating Capacity
  - Supporting Venues
- The Arts Partnership Grant – the total distributed annual funding to increase from €75,000 in 2025 to €110,000 by 2031.
- The Artist Support Scheme to increase from €18,000 in 2025 to €30,000 in 2031.
- The Professional Artists Value Added Scheme will have a maximum value of €10,000 in 2025 rising to €15,000 by 2031.
- Funded Venues and Events – It will be incumbent on venues, funded through Monaghan County Arts Partnership Grant Scheme to support local amateur performing arts groups in providing for an 80/20 box office split in favour of the local groups.
- The Council will work collaboratively across all departments to ensure that the period of the strategy sees a growth in public art opportunities in Monaghan.
- The Council has recognised the potential to foster film talent within the County and to showcase sites and locations, through the development of resources for film makers who wish to produce work in Monaghan.

Mr. S. MacConghail responded to Members' questions.

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr N. Keelan, it was agreed that the Council approve the Monaghan Arts Strategy 2025-2031 as circulated with the agenda.*

### **4. To consider Museum Policies for Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI)**

Mr. L. Bradley, Museum Curator, joined the meeting to provide an update in relation to the Museum's accreditation under the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI). He noted that Monaghan County Museum had been the first in the country to achieve full accreditation in 2008 and advised that due to the museum having relocated to the Peace Campus there was now a requirement to apply for reaccreditation. He outlined the specific Standards of the MSPI, which is based on 36 minimum standards across 7 categories:

1. Constitution and policies
2. Museum management
3. Caring for the collections
4. Documenting collections
5. Exhibitions

6. Education

7. Visitor care and access

Mr. Bradley provided members with a brief overview of the following museum policies that had been circulated with the agenda and require approval by the Members in order to proceed with submission of the application for MSPI reaccreditation:

- Mission Statement
- Collections Policy
- Disposals Policy
- Education Policy
- Exhibition Policy
- Loans Policy
- Care of Collections Strategy
- Disaster Plan

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon seconded by Cllr A. Johnston, it was agreed that the Council approve the Museum Policies as circulated with the agenda and proceed with the application for MSPI reaccreditation.*

Mr. L. Bradley responded to Members' questions.

**5. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group**

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 20 May 2025, which had been circulated.

*On the proposal of Cllr R. Aughey, seconded by Cllr C. Carthy, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 20 May 2025 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

**6. To receive Management Report – May**

The Chief Executive introduced the Management Report for May 2025 which had been circulated with the agenda. He referred to ongoing work by the Fire and Civil Protection department in relation to ensuring landlords meet their legal obligations and their rental properties comply with the Fire Service Act (1981 & 2003) and the Building Control Act (1990 & 2007). He emphasised that fire safety is non-negotiable and vigilance in this area is essential for maintaining safe and lawful rental properties.

The Chief Executive commended the Housing department following the success of the Council's application for funding to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Affordable Housing fund for a 16-unit Cost Rental proposal in Monaghan Town.

The members noted the Management Report for May 2025 which had been circulated with the agenda.

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

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Gibbons, seconded by Cllr. S. Flynn, it was agreed that the members be informed of Exempted Development (Section 5) applications when received by the Planning section.*

**7. To receive an update from Siobhán Griffin, Regional School Transport Manager, East, Bus Éireann**

Ms. S. Griffin commenced her presentation by advising the members that as Regional School Transport Manager for the East Region, she covers a large geographical area, i.e. Cavan, Monaghan, Louth, Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow. She provided a brief outline of the role of Bus Éireann in relation to school transport. Key points to note were:

- Bus Éireann operates the school transport scheme on behalf of the Department of Education, under the following three schemes:
  1. Primary Schools
  2. Post Primary Schools
  3. Children with additional needs
- The Department of Education provided a recent briefing to the Oireachtas members which confirmed that following a review of the School Transport Scheme there will be no change to the Scheme or eligibility criteria for the 2025/26 school year.
- The review was conducted with a view to examining the current scheme, its broader effectiveness, and sustainability and to ensure it services students and their families adequately.
- There has been considerable growth and increased demand for school transport in recent years. In 2024 compared to 2019 there was a 43% increase in pupil numbers, a 52% increase in vehicles, 43% increase in routes and a 36% increase in passenger journeys.
- The Government is committed to expanding access to the scheme so that an additional 100,000 pupils can be carried by 2030.
- As of period 4 2025, Bus Éireann are currently providing a school transport service to 144,200 mainstream pupils operating 10,660 routes across the country.
- In County Monaghan there are 1300 Primary School pupils, 3000 Secondary School pupils and 220 pupils with Special Educational Needs availing of school transport.
- At present, there are 24 bus operators and 9 taxi operators in Monaghan.
- The current operational challenges for Bus Éireann include issues in relation to driver and vehicle shortages to cater for the growth and the increased demand for school transport.

Ms. Griffin responded to Members' questions.

The members thanked Ms. Griffin for her informative presentation.

**Extension of Meeting**

*On the proposal of Cllr R. Aughey, seconded by Cllr N. Keelan, as the time had reached 3.00pm, it was agreed to extend the meeting to 4.00pm to discuss the remaining agenda items.*

**8. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events**

The members noted the reports from Cllrs, S. Conlon, McAree, McCooey and O'Hanlon in relation to their attendance at the following Conferences/Training events:

- Irish Planning Institute Annual Conference – Salthill Hotel, Galway – 10 & 11 April 2025
- ALLG Training – Limerick Strand Hotel – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

**9. Business Submitted by the Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive referred to the recent announcement that two transformative projects, Church Square & Monaghan Peace Campus, have been shortlisted for the prestigious 2025 RIAI Public Choice Award, presented by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI). He referred to the national recognition that this represents stating that the shortlisting of these projects was testament to the teams involved and their delivery of high-quality projects.

The Chief Executive noted that it was the last full Council meeting with A/Director of Service, Mr. G. McMahon in attendance. He gave an overview of his career with Monaghan County Council acknowledging his dedicated service of over 20 years and his outstanding contribution to the Senior Management Team, Transportation, Community and Rural Development, Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD, Ballybay - Clones MD, and Procurement. He highlighted his contributions in relation to leading the Storm Éowyn Response and Recovery Group, the Roads Management Strategy and the success of the Pride of Place event which took place in Monaghan in late 2024. On behalf of the Senior Management Team the Chief Executive thanked Mr. G. McMahon, A/Director of Service, for his long and dedicated service to Monaghan County Council and wished him well in his new role.

The members' conveyed their thanks and gratitude to Mr. G. McMahon for his outstanding contribution to Monaghan County Council during his career and wished him well in his new role.

**10. Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meetings**

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McAree, seconded by Cllr. P. Clerkin, it was agreed that this Council writes to Uisce Éireann seeking a specific timeframe for works at Oisín Vale and Oisín Brian and to ask that given the precarious situation, that these two estates are prioritised.*

There were no further matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meetings held on 12 May 2025 and the Special Meeting to adopt the County Development Plan 2025 – 2031 on 26 May 2025.

**11. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes**

**Correspondence**

The following correspondence relating to the N2 National Primary Road Schemes was received:

- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding funding.

The Cathaoirleach referred to the following Notices of Motions:

**1. On behalf of the Fianna Fáil Party Members:**

'That Monaghan County Council would arrange a drop-in clinic, in relation to the Border to Clontibret Road Scheme, for people affected in the villages of, Clontibret, Tyholland, Ardagh and Emyvale and that the consultants and engineers from the

Council would attend those sessions to update and advise the local residents affected.'

**2. On behalf of the Sinn Fein Party Members:**

'Following a recent meeting with residents in the Clontibret community regarding the N2 Clontibret to the Border Road Scheme, several expressions of disappointment were voiced concerning the perceived lack of thorough consultation to date.

In light of this, we propose that the Roads Section facilitate a meeting with the newly formed Clontibret Community N2 Committee. This meeting would provide an important opportunity to address any outstanding issues and ensure meaningful engagement with local residents moving forward.'

**3. On behalf of the Fine Gael Party Members:**

'Following a public meeting with residents in Clontibret Community Centre, the Fine Gael Group would propose that Monaghan County Council and Jacobs meet with a delegation from a newly formed committee to discuss their concerns regarding the N2 Clontibret to the Border Road Scheme.

At this recent meeting, many affected landowners and residents outlined their disappointment with the lack of consultation to date, stating that the proposed works would isolate on part of the community from the other.

We feel that meeting with the Clontibret Community N2 Committee would be hugely beneficial for both the local authority and residents.'

In response to the motions relating to the N2 Clontibret to the Border Road Scheme, Mr. G. McMahon, A/Director of Services, provided the following update:

- The project is being delivered in accordance with the TII's Project management Guidelines which sets out the process for public engagement. Landowner meetings (for all land and property owners directly impacted by the scheme) took place in April and May of this year.
- In addition, the project team can be contacted by any individual, or group, via the dedicated phone line or email address. There is also a dedicated website ([www.n2monaghanlouth.ie](http://www.n2monaghanlouth.ie)) which provides regular updates on progress of the scheme.
- Plans are in place for members of the project team to meet with a delegation from the Clontibret Development Committee later this week.
- Any decision to move beyond the programmed formal consultation period and process may cause delay and additional costs to be incurred on the scheme.

**Extension of Meeting**

*On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, as the time had reached 4.00pm, it was agreed to extend the meeting to 4.10pm to discuss the remaining agenda items.*

**12. To receive update on North/South Interconnector project**

*On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, jointly seconded by Cllrs S. Coyle and S. Flynn, it was agreed that this Council, writes to Minister Darragh O'Brien T.D. seeking an urgent meeting at the earliest opportunity regarding Eirgrid's continued threat to the farming community with the compulsory acquisition and use of their lands. Furthermore, we write to the Oireachtas members for this constituency requesting an intervention with the Minister and Government in order to avoid conflict and confrontation with the communities affected by the pylon supported North South Interconnector proposal which has no community acceptance.*

**13. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project**

The members noted the correspondence received from Waterways Ireland in relation to the next stage of the Ulster Canal project.

**14. Questions and Replies**

**Cllr R. Aughey asked:**

1. *Further to the planning permission sought in 2011 by the Town Council and County Council, could roads give us an update on the two link roads that are on our Development Plans from 2014 and the steps that have been taken since then to get them to approval from the TII. How many times have we attempted to get approval, and do we see these links as essential to the growth off the town?*

**Reply:** A Local Transport Plan (LTP) is currently being prepared for Monaghan Town, which may provide robust evidence of how the introduction of planned Active Travel facilities, public transport hubs/links would benefit from rerouting vehicular traffic (particularly HGVs) away from the urban core and therefore strengthen the case for a bypass/ring road. Before TII would consider funding a bypass, it must be demonstrated that a high level of Active Travel infrastructure (existing or planned) along the N54 is included in our transport strategy for Monaghan Town, whereby a bypass would relieve the town centre from HGVs and create a less hostile environment for Vulnerable Road Users, not only in terms of road safety but also in air pollution, as Decarbonisation and The Mobility of People and Goods in Urban Areas are the 2 most significant priorities in transport investment policy. The LTP is due to be completed later this year.

**Cllr P. Gibbons asked:**

2. *Annyalla village has expanded considerably in recent years with many new houses constructed and most of these include small children. There is however no playground facilities provided. Can the village be assessed and potential sites and funding streams examined to see if a playground can be progressed?*

**Reply:** The Executive will shortly be bringing a draft Play & Recreation Strategy before the members. An action in the Strategy involves carrying out an audit of housing estates to determine the need for play. It is intended to prepare a list of such sites and to schedule the development of pre-development work such as consultation with residents and playground design, so that projects may be advanced to funding application stage as expediently as possible. The provision of playground facilities in Annyalla Village will be fully considered as part of this process.

3. *There are houses under construction at Radharc an Bhri, Castleblayney. Can timelines be provided on the estimated completion date of this development?*

**Reply:** The 9 single-storey accessible houses at Radharc an Bhri are being constructed directly for Tuath (Approved Housing Body) with the support of Monaghan County Council and the Department of Housing. The houses are being provided under the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision of housing for older people and people with disabilities. An update received from Tuath states that the houses will be completed in November 2025.



4. *Can an update be given on the number of applicants waiting on the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS), progress on assessments for the applicants for the 2024 LIS along with projected timelines for the completion of this scheme.*

**Reply:**

The 2017/18 List has 28 applications with completion dependant on funding provided, this will take approximately 3 more years. It is envisaged that 10 schemes will be completed in 2025. The 2024 List currently has 272 applications which need to be reviewed, verified scored and seeded. Funding is unknown and completion dates are unknown; it will take a considerable number of years to complete.

5. *I raised the issue of the development of a dog park in Castleblayney several months ago. Can an update on the consideration of this potential project be provided? I note the success of the Carrickmacross dog park and the substantial number of people from Castleblayney who use this excellent facility.*

**Reply:**

The provision of a dog park in Castleblayney will be fully explored in the context of the developing **Lough Muckno & Environs Masterplan and Development Framework**.

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

**Reply:**

Applicants with Oram as an area of choice	13
1 bed	6
2 bed	1
3 bed	5
4 bed	1

There are currently no approved social housing projects in Oram.

**Cllr N. McCooey asked:**

7. *Through the substantial cross-border funding available from the EU Peace Plus Programme in the years ahead, will Monaghan County Council engage with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council in partnering an application aimed at continuing the Ulster Canal Greenway north of Tyholland to Middletown?*

**Reply:**

The current position is that no cross-border funding source is available for neither the design nor construction of the section of Ulster Canal Greenway, between the North of Ireland/ROI Border and Middletown. This has been the case since SEUPB withdrew their funding in 2022. This section has since been delivered by Armagh/Banbridge/Craigavon Council and currently remains at land acquisition stage. However, MCC continue to liaise with ABC Council to gauge progress, as the Monaghan to the Border scheme will link into the Border to Middletown scheme, albeit they are at different stages of development. MCC and ABC Council will continue to engage and avail of any funding opportunities that arise, to provide a cross-border greenway at this location.

**Cllr C. Carthy will ask:**

8. *Can the executive confirm where the process of taking in charge 'Lough na Glack' housing estate (Carrickmacross) currently stands and is the council actively pushing to bring this long-running process to an end (Note: I'm told by residents that lighting issue has now been resolved)*

**Reply:** Public lighting defects within the estate have recently been addressed. It is the intention to bring the taking in charge of the estate to a Council meeting shortly.

9. *When is it expected the taking in charge of 'Alderwood' estate (Carrickmacross) will be concluded?*

**Reply:** The Local Authority is continuing to liaise with the developer's agent regarding remediation of a number of defects in the estate. The most recent response from the developer's agent to queries raised was received in June 2025. Once outstanding matters have been resolved the intent to take the estate in charge will be advertised.

10. *Will the council consider putting together a plan for Magheracloone area which would include for the improvement of pedestrian access to community infrastructure, recreation, schools etc, in consultation with the public around what additional supports and amenities could be delivered for the area?*

**Reply:** The Municipal District Executive is already progressing the installation of a controlled pedestrian crossing and new section of footway in the vicinity of Drumgossatt National school and Magheracloone Community Centre. It is anticipated that these works will commence in early July 2025. Discussions are also ongoing, with affected landowners, surrounding the potential extension of the footway from Magheracloone Community Centre to the local shop and St. Peter & St. Paul's Church.

Monaghan County Council will be advancing the preparation of village plans, over the new development plan cycle, to support long term community – led village development. Each plan will identify the key opportunities and projects, resulting in long-term socio-economic, cultural and environmental benefits for communities, businesses and visitors to the village.

**Cllr S. Conlon asked:**

11. *In efforts at advancing development at the Council owned lands at St Louis Convent, Monaghan Town, and relating to the extensive acreage under mostly coniferous forestry, are plans in place with Coillte to harvest this area outside of nesting season between September and March next year, and new planting commence?*

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council are currently examining several options to develop the section of land/forestry adjacent to the former St Louis Convent. The options consist of clear felling the entire lands to partial felling of particular areas. Options will be evaluated using criteria such as economic return/cost to impact on biodiversity etc. The timing of any felling and replanting will be informed by the advice of our Horticulturalist and Biodiversity Officer and will be subject to any necessary environmental assessments and surveys being completed in advance of works.

12. *Following the completion of the land zoning process as compiled in the newly adopted Development Plan, particularly for residential/housing development, what is the total acreage of lands zoned Residential A & B across the 5 towns in County Monaghan, and what amount of that acreage is determined by Uisce Éireann as unsuitable for housing development due to lack of water infrastructure, and their stated inability to deliver said infrastructure, over the 6 year lifetime of the Plan?*

**Reply:** A total of 82.71 ha (approx. 204.38 acres) of land is zoned for Proposed Residential A / Proposed Residential B (PRA / PRB) within the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031. This is broken down as follows: Monaghan - 30.91 ha, Carrickmacross - 22.38 ha, Castleblayney - 15.35, Clones - 7.67 ha and Ballybay - 6.40 ha.

The National Planning Framework stipulates that lands may only be zoned for development within the development plan if they are serviced (Tier 1 lands), or can be serviced during the lifetime of the plan (Tier 2 lands). All of the lands zoned either PRA or PRB within the Development Plan are indicated as Tier 1 lands. During the drafting of the Development Plan, MCC consulted with Uisce Éireann, and although some sites may require extensions of existing networks or further infrastructure works to service the site, no issues were identified within the existing network that would have prevented the zoning of these lands.

13. *With the opening of the new Monaghan Town Branch Library one year ago at the Peace Campus, when is the proposed My Open Library (MOL) initiative set to commence which will provide for automated access to the branch for library members via membership card and pin code during unstaffed hours, similar to that service offering at the Carrickmacross Branch Library?*

**Reply:** We are working on the final technical and health/safety requirements in order for the service to open safely for all users. We must go through a test phase to make sure all elements are working correctly. Once all is compliant, we plan to open it by end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of this year, with a publicity campaign.

14. *In an effort at enhancing road safety for both vehicle and pedestrian, at the only road junction servicing the newly built and much-needed creche facility at Latlorcan, along with the current construction of 100 new houses in the vicinity, that will bring to over 200 houses in the area exiting one junction onto the old N2 / Dublin Road opposite Bogues garage, what new traffic management measures are being considered to ensure optimum safety for road users and pedestrians?*

**Reply:** An application for funding for a pedestrian crossing and traffic calming measures at this location was submitted to the Department of Transport in November 2024 as a Low-Cost Safety Scheme, Monaghan County Council were notified that the application had been unsuccessful. This location will also be considered for Active Travel provision in the coming years, and any further planning will be assessed for Traffic Calming measures.

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

15. *How many applications are currently on the list for the local lane improvement scheme (LIS) and what funding is available this year 2025?*

**Reply:**

The 2017/18 List has 28 applications with completion dependant on funding provided, this will take approximately 3 more years. It is envisaged that 10 schemes will be completed in 2025. The 2024 List currently has 272 applications which need to be reviewed, verified scored and seeded. Funding is unknown and completion dates are unknown; it will take a considerable number of years to complete.

16. *In 2025 Monaghan County Council will complete 10 lanes. The 2025 allocation is €373,479. In relation to the Vacant home and Derelict house grant; how many grant applications have been received to date, how many have been approved, how many have been refused, how many have been closed off and paid out and how much was paid out to date?*

Reply: Please see below reply in table format:

<b>Grants values approved in Euro</b>	<b>€14,820,724</b>
<b>Average amount of grant approval</b>	<b>€61,753</b>
<i>Grants drawn down to date</i>	<b>83 (10 in progress)</b>
<i>Grant Amount paid out to date</i>	<b>€4,762,791</b>
No. of Croi Conaithe grants <u>received</u> :	<b>344</b>
No. of Croi Conaithe grants <u>Approved</u> :	<b>240</b>
No. of Croi Conaithe grants <u>Rejected</u> :	<b>13</b>
No of Engagemnets since March 2024	1605
No of Engagements in month	142

**83 grants have been closed out 83 with a further 10 additional grants in the process of being closed out.**

17. *How many Derelict site notices have been served to date? What is the breakdown down per MD area? Have any levies been issued to date?*

**Reply:**

To date there have been 185 properties have been served Notices Section S 8(2).

Breakdown per Municipal District is as follows:

- Ballybay-Clones = 60 properties served notices (S 8(2) Notice)
- Castleblayney-Carrickmacross = 68 properties served notices (S 8(2) Notice)
- Monaghan = 57 properties served notices (S 8(2) Notice)

Derelict Site levy demands have been issued to all applicable properties entered on to the Derelict Sites register prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

18. *What is the process for taking a housing estate in charge and what is the process for taking a private road / laneway in charge, is there a difference between the two? Has the council ever sought legal advice on these issues in relation to the Roads Act 1993 and whether a public right of way exists on such roads, as an example?*

**Reply:**

S.180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) sets out that where a development for which planning permission has been granted, includes the construction of 2 or more houses and the provision of new roads, open spaces, car parks, and services, the authority shall, where requested, initiate procedures under section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 (as amended), such that the development may be taken in charge. The process of taking a housing estate in charge is a reserved function and the procedures are set out in the MCC Housing Estate Taking-in-Charge policy. The planning authority also requests Uisce Eireann to take in charge any sewers, watermains or service connections.

The process for a Local Authority to take a road in charge is set out in Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 (as amended). For the purposes of the Act there is no difference between a private road and a laneway. The process is a reserved function.

*Section 11 states:*

*A road authority may, by order, declare any road over which a public right of way exists to be a public road, and every such road shall be deemed to be a public road and responsibility for its maintenance shall lie on the road authority.*

*Where a road authority proposes to declare a road to be a public road it shall:*

- 1. satisfy itself that the road is of general public utility,*
- 2. consider the financial implications for the authority of the proposed declaration,*
- 3. publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area where the road which it is proposed to declare to be a public road is located a notice indicating the times at which, the period (which shall be not less than one month) during which and the place where a map showing such road may be inspected and stating that objections or representations may be made in writing to the road authority in relation to such declaration before a specified date (which shall be not less than two weeks after the end of the period for inspection),*
- 4. consider any objections or representations made to it.*

**In relation to legal advice the local authority will seek legal advice if this is deemed necessary and is determined on a case-by-case basis.**

- 19.** *When is it hoped to roll out an affordable housing scheme in the Carrickmacross area? When is it hoped to roll out a cost rental scheme across the county? What are the workings of such a scheme?*

**Reply:**

**Housing continues to explore opportunities for an Affordable Purchase Scheme in Carrickmacross and other towns in the County. At present there are no further schemes approved. Monaghan County Council's application for funding to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Affordable Housing Fund for a 16-unit Cost Rental proposal in Monaghan Town has been successful. The Housing Section will now work towards completing the acquisition of these apartments and will be able to announce further details of the scheme in the coming weeks.**

## **15. Notices of Motion**

**Cllr S. Flynn proposed, Cllr N. McCooey seconded:**

- 1.** 'That this Council calls on the Minister for Health and the HSE to urgently lower the age of eligibility for cancer screening programmes and to provide increased funding for palliative care services in County Monaghan, including the development of a dedicated hospice for the county.

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

**Cllr P. Clerkin proposed, Cllr A. Johnston seconded:**

- 2.** 'That this Council ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne T.D. to provide an update regarding the Multi-annual Rural Water Programme 2024-2026. Several local catchments areas in Co. Monaghan are currently awaiting the outcome of this vital scheme. The homes in question are currently NOT connected to a group or public water scheme and they must source a private supply of water, by boring their own well in many cases. We are in 2025 and would urge Minister Browne to make this much needed funding announcement as soon as possible'.
- 3.** Following a short debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the members, and it was agreed unanimously.

**Cllr P. Clerkin proposed, Cllr A. Johnston seconded:**

4. 'That this Council ask the Minister for Justice, Jim O'Callaghan T.D. to carry out a review of the list of Peace Commissioners for County Monaghan. I have gone through the list of Peace Commissioners in County Monaghan and came across approximately 15 to 20 Peace Commissioners who we believe to be either deceased or incapacitated. How often is the list of Peace Commissioners updated as we feel new applicants are being refused because this list is out of date'.

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

## **16. Votes of sympathy/congratulations**

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

- Cllr Peter Conlon on the death of his uncle Pierce Kerr, Cortaghard, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan and Merrick, New York.

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

- Brendan O'Dufaigh on his retirement as principal of Coláiste Oiriall.
- Margaret Conlon on her retirement as principal of St. Louis Secondary School.
- Joe Ó Gallchóir on his retirement as principal of Gaelscoil Ultain.
- Barry McGuigan on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his world championship win over Eusibo Pedroza.
- Sliagh Beagh Swimming Club on winning the Ulster Division 2 Aqua Sprint final in Omagh on Friday 06<sup>th</sup> June.
- Cathair Corley who won 4ú the under 12 boys CLRG World Irish Dancing Championships, Dublin 2025.

## **17. Conferences**

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

<b>Promoting Authority</b>	<b>Subject/Theme</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Members Selected</b>
AILG	Eastern & Midland/Northern & Western	Hillgrove Hotel Monaghan	21/06/25	Cllr. S. Conlon Cllr. B. McAree Cllr. N. McCooey Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon Cllr R. Aughey

**Urgent Business:**

*Cllr B. McAree proposed, Cllr C. Carthy seconded, that this Council write to the National Council for Special Education and the Minister for Education Ms. Helen Mc Entee, T.D., asking them to ensure that every school in Ireland has adequate SNA cover in place for the commencement of the new school year in August 2025. Furthermore, we ask that the Minister provide assurance that the new SNA Redeployment Scheme will not impede on schools' ability to provide adequate SNA cover for the duration of the schemes roll out.*

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

Cllr P Treanor sought latitude of the members in proposing the following motion given developments in the media throughout the day:

*Cllr P. Treanor proposed, Cllr. P. Clerkin seconded, that this Council writes to the Taoiseach, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D. and the Tanaiste, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D., expressing our serious concerns for the passengers on the Madleen vessel who were attempting to deliver aid to Gaza, urging them to use all diplomatic means to end the blockade of food and medicine to the people of Palestine and demand a ceasefire.*

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

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings  
Administrator

Date: _____
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