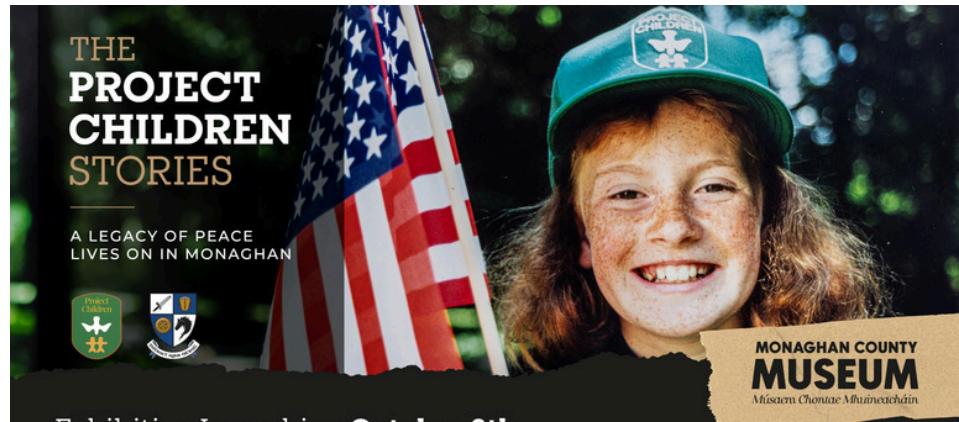




Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin  
Monaghan County Council

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Monaghan County Council

# Autumn/Winter Newsletter



Live. Work. Visit

Monaghan

# Biodiversity

## Nov 8th: 3rd Annual Monaghan Biodiversity Conference



Monaghan's third Biodiversity Conference was held on Saturday 8th November at the Sliabh Beagh Hotel as part of Cavan Monaghan Science Week. Organised by the Biodiversity Officer, the event featured expert talks on topics including marsh fritillary butterflies, otters in our wetlands, citizen science, wildfire prevention, breeding waders, and Dark Skies. The perpetual Fearghal Duffy Memorial Award was presented to Joe Shannon, for his decades of observing and recording birdlife in Monaghan. Participants received bareroot trees from John McKeon, marking his upcoming film Seeds of Inspiration.

# Climate Action



## Climate Action Week 2025

Monaghan County Council officially launched its 2025 Climate Action Week programme with a special celebration of creativity and climate awareness at the Schools Art Competition prize-giving, which took place in the Civic Offices, Carrickmacross, on the 2nd of October.

The competition, themed “Small Steps, Big Changes”, invited pupils from across County Monaghan to illustrate how everyday actions—such as cycling, planting trees, reducing waste, and protecting wildlife—could have a big impact on the environment. Hundreds of entries were received, showcasing the imagination and commitment of Monaghan’s young people to climate action.

The event was attended by the Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive, Director of Services for Climate Action, and members of the Climate Action Team, along with teachers, parents, and students.

Climate Action Week featured a full programme of events and activities across the county, including workshops, talks, and community events on topics such as energy, biodiversity, sustainable transport, and the circular economy. These events aimed to raise awareness, highlight local climate initiatives, and support both businesses and communities in taking practical action.



## Retrofit Roadshow in Monaghan Town:



The Climate Action Unit partnered with Monaghan Institute (CMETB) to host the Retrofit Roadshow from the 4th-7th of November. Raising public awareness and engagement on climate action was a key component of the Monaghan County Council Climate Action Plan. The event attracted strong public interest, with visitors eager to access the practical, no-nonsense advice on offer.

The roadshow featured a fully equipped mobile Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) unit, an initiative of LOETB and the Mount Lucas training facility. This interactive unit provided expert guidance and training on energy upgrades and home retrofitting. Located in the car park of Monaghan Institute, the retrofit rig offered hands-on learning opportunities on how to effectively reduce energy demand and carbon emissions, while also improving home comfort and saving money.

The public drop-in clinics proved extremely popular, and an additional 32 participants took part in workshops during the four-day event, including a Retrofit Workshop for Property Owners and an NZEB Fundamentals course.

# Community

## Monaghan Public Participation Network (PPN)

Workshops for a Wilder World – Monaghan PPN, in collaboration with the Irish Environmental Network, hosted a well-attended workshop at Knocknagrove Environmental Centre. Speakers included Patricia McCreesh, Monaghan Biodiversity Officer; Donna Mullen of Bat Conservation Ireland; and ecologist Billy Flynn, who spoke about the Blue Dot River Project. Emer Brennan from Monaghan Tidy Towns also presented an overview of the Monaghan Tidy Towns Biodiversity Plan.



## Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg

Throughout the month of October, Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg members met several times to continue developing their podcast series on the theme of stress. The series will explore young people's experiences of school stress, relationship stress, and other common pressures faced by their peers.

**Comhairle na nÓg**  
Your Local Youth Council

During October, Comhairle members also progressed their preparations for the Annual Youth Conference, scheduled to take place in the Hillgrove Hotel on Thursday, November 20th. The annual event showcases the work carried out by Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg over the year and was expected to be attended by more than 100 people. All aspects of planning and coordination for the conference were undertaken by the Comhairle members themselves.

The Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg steering committee met at the end of October to discuss, update, and review progress on the annual work plan, and to offer support in the lead-up to the upcoming Annual Youth Conference.

## Local Sports Plan

An outline plan for the development of the Monaghan County Council Local Sports Plan, its key Strategic priorities and the consultation process were presented to the SPC for Tourism, Rural & Community Development, Cultural Services and An Ghaeilge (25/09/25). A further presentation was presented to Monaghan LCDC (14/10/25).

## ComicCon 2025

Monaghan County Libraries were delighted to partner with CMETB to bring Comic Con back to Monaghan for a second year. On 25 October, the Peace Campus was transformed into a haven for superheroes, villains, and everything in between. Hundreds of enthusiastic fans descended on the venue for another free-entry event celebrating all things comic books, graphic novels, and pop culture.

Attendees of all ages embraced the spirit of the day with creative costumes and makeup. The impressive guest lineup included Andrey Ivchenko (known for his roles as Grigori in Stranger Things and Perseus in Call of Duty) and Damon Driver (bringing his experience from Captain America, Rogue One, and The Force Awakens). The day was packed with activities, including sketch workshops, live Dungeons & Dragons sessions, and appearances by the Nexus Covery Mandalorian Protectors.

The success of Monaghan Comic Con reflected the growing appetite for comics and graphic novels among Monaghan County Libraries' members. One of the library service's core aims is to provide a diverse collection of reading material, in both print and digital formats, to encourage reading at all levels.



## Library team member wins prestigious academic award

Congratulations are in order for Shauna Clarke, Senior Library Assistant at Monaghan County Libraries, who won the A&O Sherman award for best overall performance in the Library and Information Management Postgraduate Diploma at Ulster University. This prestigious award highlights Shauna's dedication to professional development and her outstanding academic achievement while working full-time in our library service. Shauna's success reflects the calibre of staff within Monaghan County Libraries and demonstrates the value we place on continuous learning and professional development. Over the years, in partnership with Monaghan County Council's Training Unit, we have co-funded a number of our team members to qualify as professional librarians. This investment enables our team to upskill so that we can continue to deliver high quality library services to our communities. We are really proud of Shauna - and all our recent graduates - and we wish them every success in their future careers as library and information professionals.



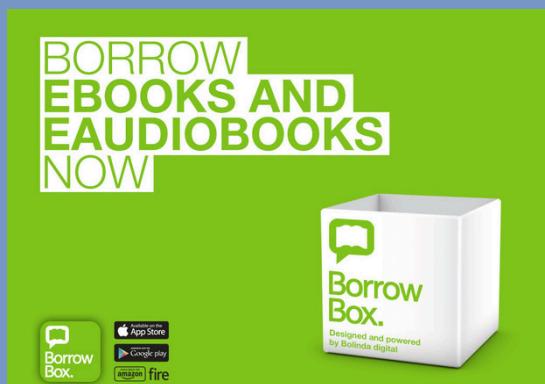


## New scanning and translation service at Monaghan Town Library

Monaghan Town Library has a new scanning and translation tool called ScanEZ. Library members can use the ScanEZ device to scan and translate documents into more than 100 languages. On-screen instructions can be changed to one of 21 different languages. Scanned documents can be printed, edited, translated, converted to audio. Old, faded photographs and documents can be restored using ScanEZ. The device also has accessibility features that make it easier for visually-impaired library members. A magnifier enlarges part of the screen so that users can see words and images better and a screen narrator reads aloud the text that appears on screen along with any audio descriptions. The device was funded through EUROPE DIRECT Clones in support of our goal of creating inclusive services that meet the needs of our diverse community.



## Borrowbox



Monaghan County Libraries provides access to the BorrowBox App. This allows library members to borrow eBooks, eMagazines and eAudiobooks for free. This year we have been promoting the App in library branches with a series of BorrowBox clinics. Library members get one-to-one help from staff to set up the App and get reading. Our usage statistics show a 100% increase in the number of loans on BorrowBox since January 2025, which is indicative of the growing interest in our communities in accessing good-quality reading material online.

## Splash of Science @ Emy Lough

Environmental Services staff joined the Splash of Science event at Emy Lough on the 9th of November 2025. The team shared insights on water quality and demonstrated how invertebrates can tell us about the health of our local streams, helping raise awareness about protecting the rivers and lakes of County Monaghan.



## Environmental Awareness:

### Green Business Hub

Following the visual waste audits carried out by Voice Ireland in the 3 Enterprising Hubs identified by Enterprising Monaghan, we are now awaiting the preliminary results and lunch and learn sessions will be organised at each of the locations.

The 7 businesses that participated in audits in the 3 MD areas have been asked to revert to us in due course outlining their learnings from the initiative. Short pieces to camera will be recorded with them for advertising the Hub once content approval has been received by the Regional Waste Management Planning Office.

Monaghan County Council has been requested by the RWMPO to be the pilot for staff training videos. A Data Processing Agreement will be drafted for approval by the relevant Director of Services. Once this has been rolled out, it is envisaged that this will be made available to businesses in the County, however, they will engage with the company that designed the videos separately to meet GDPR requirements.

A presentation on the Hub was made during Climate Action Week to SMEs in the county. This event was held in the Civic Offices in Carrickmacross.

# Fire & Civil Protection

## Fire Safety Week:

MFCP lead National Fire Safety Week in Monaghan County from 13th October – 19th October 2025 promoting fire safety in our homes and communities. This year's campaign carries a powerful message: "Together Against Fire", and highlights the importance of community action in protecting the most vulnerable among us – especially older citizens and those living alone.



4th Class poster winner from Corracrin NS Oct 2025

Monaghan County Council's Fire Service Lead National Fire Safety Week in Monaghan County, and the following activities were undertaken:

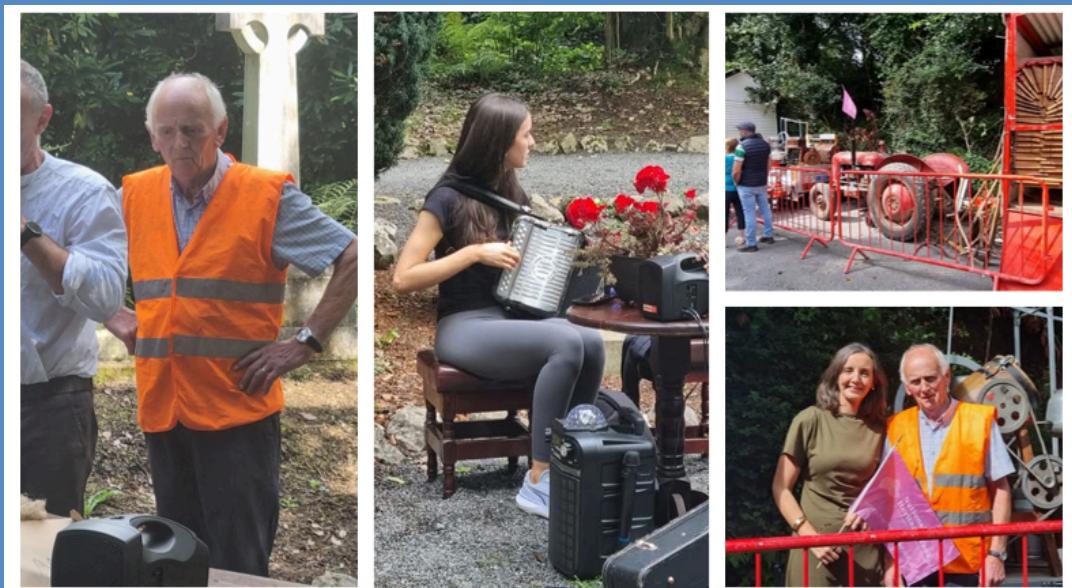
- Fire Safety Week 2025 Pre-Notice circulated via MFCP Facebook & Twitter, MCC Facebook & Twitter, Website & News and PPN.
- Daily Fire Safety Advice Poster based on National Directorate 'Theme of the Day' posted on MFCP Facebook & Twitter, MCC Facebook & Twitter, Website & News and PPN.
- Launch of Fire Safety Week by Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council and Chief Executive Robert Burns.
- CFO Radio interview with Northern Sound highlighting Fire Safety Week, safety message and Community Smoke Alarm Scheme.
- Fire fighters provided fire safety advice and free smoke alarms.

# Heritage

## Heritage Week

Heritage Week 2025 in Monaghan was a massive success with over 50 events happening across the county amounting to 76 events per 100,000 population which compares very favourably with other counties. The number of events is up 6% nationwide at over 2540 for 2025. And over 13 million impressions were achieved for Heritage Week on social media.

Events kicked off with a launch day at Rossmore Park with an archaeological Big Dig, traditional music, blacksmithing demo and lots of fun. There were very popular talks including by Professional Historian and published author Dr Michelle McGoff McCann as well as a tour of the Bath Estate. Many local groups and individuals got involved in organising their own events and there was something for everyone.



## Cost Rental- Park Street, Monaghan

Monaghan County Council completed the acquisition of 16 units at 35/36 Park Street, Monaghan.

The Cost Rental Allocation Plan was approved in principle by the Minister.

A social media campaign was ongoing, with the scheme advertised in the Northern Standard and on the Council's website.

The application portal opened on Monday, 17th November, for a 10-day period until Thursday, 27th November 2025. Applications were to be assessed with a view to issuing offers during the week of 8th December 2025.



## Domestic Violence Refuge

Stage 1 Approval has been granted on 14th October 2025 for the development of a Domestic Violence Refuge for the Cavan and Monaghan Region comprising of 12 units of accommodation, associated support facilities and communal areas in Monaghan town.

# Local Enterprise Office

## Blas na hÉireann Awards 2025

Blas na hÉireann 2025 winners were announced in Dingle on October 3rd, with 11 producers from County Monaghan taking home awards and Foraged & Infused winning Best in County, proudly supported by Monaghan Local Enterprise Office.



The county's bronze, silver, and gold winners include: **Arthur Mallon Foods**, **Connolly Meats**, **Connollys Organic Eggs**, **Carleton Cakes**, **Foraged & Infused**, **Golden Irish**, **Green Isle Foods**, **Grove Farms**, **IGWT Poultry Services**, **Silver Hill**

The Local Enterprise Office Monaghan supported many of the participating companies on their journey, helping them grow from local favourites to award-winning producers. We would also like to commend the other 12 Monaghan finalists who took part this year. Having such a strong representation highlights the incredible skill and innovation of our local food and drink producers. Monaghan continues to prove itself a powerful contender in the Irish food and drinks industry, and all our finalists are outstanding ambassadors for the county.

Finalists and winners had the opportunity to showcase their products at the Blas Village and the popular Eat Ireland in a Day market. The weekend offered producers a valuable chance to connect with buyers, industry experts, media, fellow producers, and food lovers, while celebrating the people and talents that make Irish food so special.



**Tara Gartlan Chocolate**  
**Siver 2025 Blas na hÉireann**

# Transportation

## TII FUNDED ACTIVE TRAVEL – N2 CYCLEPATHS

Works continued on the N2 Emyvale Active Travel Scheme, with completion programmed for mid-October.

A Part VIII Planning Consent package was being prepared for the Corlat to Collegiate Active Travel Scheme and was due to be advertised over the following weeks. Construction was programmed to commence in Q1/Q2 2026, subject to funding.

Extensive site investigatory works were completed at the Coolshannagh Roundabout at the request of TII. These works involved monitoring the groundwater table and identifying underground utility services and drainage infrastructure. Reports concluded that a grade-separated roundabout was not a feasible option due to significant engineering constraints. As a result, design works were able to progress, with various options to be examined and a preferred solution identified that would maintain traffic flows through the roundabout while also providing safe passage for pedestrians and cyclists.

The Ballyalbany Junction to Coolshannagh Roundabout, N12 Monaghan to the Border Gateway, N54 Tullyhirm, and Corlat Roundabout to Coolshannagh Roundabout Active Travel Schemes will all converge at Coolshannagh Roundabout. Consequently, infrastructural modifications may be required at this location to achieve the objectives of the combined schemes.

### Road Safety

Irish Road Safety Week took place from 6th to 12th October and was supported by Monaghan County Council. Events included Tyre Safety Day and a visit to Scoil Mhuire NS, Clontibret, to promote active travel. The RSA's Promotions Officer also visited MDE Installations to speak with staff, and the Seatbelt Sheriff visited County Monaghan schools as part of Beep Beep Day.

As of 15th October 2025, a total of 136 people had lost their lives on Irish roads, three of whom were in County Monaghan.

A motorcyclist was killed on 16th June on the R190 at Lisnalong, a driver lost their life on the N2 at Castleshane on 10th September, and a pedestrian died on 27th Sept, three weeks after an accident that occurred in Monaghan Town.



# Planning

## Built Heritage

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage confirmed twelve projects for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2025 funding. Seven of these projects are now complete and five projects have commenced.

One project was confirmed for Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2025 by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Work has commenced and the first progress report was submitted to the Department on 19th of July.

The Department announced Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) & Historic Thatch Buildings (HTB) 2026 at the end of July. The scheme was advertised in the Northern Standard, the Council website and on social media channels. There has been a lot of interest and enquiries regarding the BHIS 2026 scheme. A number of applicants from BHIS 2025 have expressed interest in applying for the grant again. The closing date for applications was 26 September 2025.

The Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2026 is due to be announced later in the year (November).

The second progress reports for BHIS & HSF 2025 were sent to the Department in September 2025.



**Before photo of Newbliss Gate lodge**



**Works complete on Newbliss Gate Lodge (timber sliding sash windows)**

## Key Legislation Update

Planning and Development Act 2024 Commencement Circular No. 2025/04, issued in connection with the commencement of Chapters 1 to 4 of Part 3 and Chapters 1 and 2 of Part 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (Act of 2024).

Following the commencement of Chapters 2 and 4 of Part 3 of the Act of 2024, from 2 October 2025 the statutory basis for the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies will be provided for under that Act. Provisions for National Planning Statements under Chapter 3 of Part 3 are introduced and replace the provisions for Ministerial guidelines issued under section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (Act of 2000). Any guidelines made under section 28, including any specific planning policy requirements (SPPRs) therein, that are currently in force will remain in force until revoked by the Minister or replaced by a corresponding National Planning Statement.

Planning and Development Act 2024 Commencement Circular No. 2025/05, issued in connection with the partial commencement of Part 16 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (Act of 2024) insofar as that Part relates to the operation of funfairs and the certification of fairground equipment.

Part 16 of the Act of 2024 provides for funfairs and the licensing of certain outdoor events. It broadly replicates Part XVI of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (Act of 2000). From 2 October 2025, Part 16 of the Act of 2024 is partially commenced insofar as it relates to the operation of funfairs and the certification of fairground equipment. Section 239 of the Act of 2000 (Control of funfairs) is repealed. The Planning and Development (Funfairs and Fairground Equipment) Regulations 2025 (S.I. No. 457 of 2025) came into operation on 2 October 2025.

By way of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (Commencement) (No. 4) Order 2025 (S.I. No. 452 of 2025), these provisions came into operation from 2 October 2025.

Senior Planning staff attended training on the implementation of the Planning and Development Act 2024 on 21 October 2025.

# Town Regeneration

## Launch of Monaghan Town Centre First Plan and €7 Million Funding for St. Louis Convent Redevelopment

On Monday 20th October, Monaghan County Council in partnership with Monaghan Town team, formally launched the **Town Centre First Plan for Monaghan Town**. The **Plan presents a clear vision to revitalise the town centre, promote town-centre living, and breathe new life into underused heritage sites.**

The plan was developed through extensive community engagement and provides a roadmap for sustainable growth, improved public spaces, stronger local enterprise, and enhanced connections between the town's key cultural and civic areas.

As part of this launch, the Council announced a **€7 million investment under the THRIVE Town Centre First Programme** for the **redevelopment of the historic St. Louis Convent and Chapel**. The project will conserve and adapt the landmark Chapel building to create a new cultural and community hub, with performance and exhibition spaces, creative work areas, and improved public access through landscaped grounds.

Funded jointly by the **Government of Ireland and the European Union**, the THRIVE Programme supports towns to repurpose vacant heritage buildings and drive regeneration. The investment in the St. Louis site will act as a key catalyst for Monaghan's renewal, strengthening its identity as a vibrant and welcoming town centre.



# Town Regeneration

## Croí Cónaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant photos



# Tourism



## C'mon to Monaghan Series



The final two videos in the “C’mont to Monaghan 2025” video campaign have now been released. These featured the McKenna Clan and Carrickmacross guided walking tours. Overall, the campaign was very well received with good engagement across Facebook, Instagram, X and YouTube.



## Dromore River Blueway

Following on from the grant of planning permission for the project by An Comisiun Pleanala, the tourism unit is working in conjunction with Ballybay-Clones MD to draw up tender documents and to agree a programme of works which will align with the planning conditions and mitigation measures.

## Sliabh Beagh- Shared Island Project

The next meeting of the Sliabh Beagh Partnership Committee is scheduled for 23 September. A representative of the Peace Plus project on Sliabh Beagh will present an overview of that project to members. A Letter of Offer in relation to the Shared Island project is yet to issue.

## Black Island ORIS Project Update

The contractor has now completed the trail upgrade works and has commenced installation of the fixtures and fittings (viewing points, seating, signage etc).



# Tourism

## Festival Funding Programme

Funding support for tourism focused festivals in 2026 was advertised on 17 November with a closing deadline of 19 December for applications. The festival grants will be administered under two schemes.

**Scheme 1: Monaghan County Council Tourism Festival Funding Programme** – for the delivery of small tourism focused festivals and events. The key objective of this fund is to provide support to local and community event organisers and activities/projects which will drive visitors to county Monaghan. This scheme provides fund amounts of a maximum of €2,000 per event and it is envisaged a minimum of five events or festivals will receive support from this fund.

**Scheme 2: Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals & Participative Events Funding Scheme** – for the delivery of larger scale regional focused festivals and events. This scheme aims to support festivals and participative events that will drive domestic tourism and help to improve the visitor experience by attracting and developing domestic and international visitors to the area, to increase bed-nights and benefit the local economy, and to raise awareness of the region internationally.

## Scenic Sessions

The new 'Scenic Sessions' initiative continued over the past number of weeks with performances by the following:

- Jamie Duffy Laragh - Tin Church
- Grainne Duffy - Haltons Amenity Area
- Caitriona Sherlock - Lough Muckno
- Keys & Strings - Ballybay Town Park
- Tiarnan Dinkin - Church Square

The series has been a resounding success and footage from the sessions will be released on our social media channels during the month of September. The intention is to expand on this series in 2026.



# Monaghan County Museum

## Project Children Stories - A Legacy of Peace Lives on in Monaghan

A powerful new exhibition chronicling the extraordinary legacy of **Project Children** has opened at **Monaghan County Museum**. The launch was kicked off by a historic march through the town led by the Garda and the NYPD Pipe Bands. A capacity crowd of over 1,000 people packed out the Peace Campus. The exhibition was officially opened by Project Children Chairman and co-founder, Denis Mulcahy along with Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council Cllr PJ O'Hanlon and Monaghan County Council Chief Executive, Robert Burns.

Among the huge crowd that mixed to celebrate the launch of this incredible story were hundreds of visitors from the US and Northern Ireland. These were past participants, co-ordinators and host families, all of them with a powerful emotional connection to the story on display. This feeling of love and compassion in the face of one of the darkest times in our island's history pervaded the night and made it a truly historic event that helped cement the Peace Campus's place in the hearts of the people of Monaghan.



## County Monaghan Gift Card launched on Friday 21st November.

This Card began with the paper Monaghan Town Voucher introduced in 2016 as a response to local demand for a convenient, community-based shopping solution. However, over time the paper system became too cumbersome for everyone involved. It became clear that we needed a more efficient, modern, and manageable solution. The County Monaghan Gift Card gives us exactly that.

Whether it's for birthdays, Christmas, employee rewards, or just to say thank you — this card makes it easy to give the gift of choice, while making sure that choice benefits local people and local businesses.

For businesses hoping to purchase County Monaghan Gift Cards for their staff, please visit this link: <https://corporate.townandcitygiftcards.ie/>

For all other purchases of the County Card, please visit the Town & City Gift Card website here: <https://townandcitygiftcards.ie/product/county-monaghan-gift-card/> where you can choose whether to purchase a physical card or an e-card which can be emailed to the recipient.

As of Friday 21st November, over 270 businesses have registered to accept the County Card, that's 270 options for people to be able to spend their Gift Cards, across the County, while keeping money within our county. Businesses will continue to register in the coming weeks, as news of the County Card spreads.

Our thanks to everyone who made this possible — our Elected Members, our local businesses for coming on board, Town Teams and Chamber of Commerce throughout the county, Monaghan County Council staff, and all the people who continue to champion "Shop Local" every day.

With the support of our community, this card can become a symbol of Monaghan pride — a reminder that when we shop local, we all win.

Let's make it the go-to gift for every occasion, and let's continue building a stronger, more connected, and more prosperous Monaghan.

# Monaghan Municipal District

## Launch of County Monaghan Gift Card - Friday 21st November



# Rural Water

## Annual Rural Water Services Conference

On the 11th of September 2025, the National Federation of Group Water Schemes hosted the annual Rural Water Services Conference. At the event Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, Christopher O'Sullivan T.D., announced the winners of the **Group Water Scheme Excellence Awards**.

These Awards are divided across four categories. The awards were judged by an independent, expert panel. Group water schemes that achieved a required standard within their respective category were awarded an excellence flag and each category had an overall winner.

Please see below all awards received by Group Water Schemes in County Monaghan:

### Water Safety Planning and Quality Assurance Implementation

*Excellence Flag recipients:*

- Aughnashalvey Group Water Scheme, County Monaghan
- Glaslough Tyholland Group Water Scheme, County Monaghan

### Water Demand Management and Climate Action



**Overall Winner:**

- **Tydavnet Group Water Scheme, County Monaghan**

*Excellence Flag recipients:*

- Doohamlet Group Water Scheme, County Monaghan
- Glaslough Tyholland Group Water Scheme, County Monaghan
- Tydavnet Group Water Scheme, County Monaghan

# Communications

#MonaghanCountyCouncil

**Follow us on social media!**

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



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Monaghan County Council



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