

Minutes of the Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Meeting Room, Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan, on Monday 01 December 2025 at 2.00pm

Chair: Cllr PJ O’Hanlon, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs Aughey, Campbell, Carthy, Clerkin, P. Conlon, Coyle, Flynn, Gibbons, Johnston, Keelan, McCooey, 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. N. O’Connor, A/Director of Services, Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator, Ms. M. McMahan, Staff Officer.

MS Teams: Cllrs McAree and Gilliland

Vote of Sympathy

Cllr. A. Campbell proposed, Cllr. S. Coyle seconded, that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the McHugh family on the sad passing of former Fine Gael Councillor, Mr. Michael McHugh.

Cllr A. Campbell paid tribute to the late Michael Hughes describing him as a very active citizen in the community who had made great contributions to the Castleblayney area and beyond. The members joined in expressing their sincere condolences to the McHugh family and associated themselves with the vote of sympathy.

The Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for a short period as a mark of respect.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Confirmation of Council Meeting Minutes held on 03 November 2025

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr R. Truell, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 03 November 2025, be confirmed.

(ii) Confirmation of Statutory Budget Meeting Minutes held on 17 November 2025

On the proposal of Cllr R. Aughey, seconded by Cllr A. Johnston, it was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting held on the 17 November 2025, be confirmed.

2. To consider the proposed deletion from the Record of Protected Structures for County Monaghan: The Paragon Bar, Fermanagh Street, Clones (Record of Protected Structure Reference: Local 30)

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, referred to the report which had been circulated in respect of the proposed deletion from the Record of Protected Structures for County Monaghan: The Paragon Bar, Fermanagh Street, Clones (Record of Protected Structure Reference: Local 30) which had been prepared in accordance with Section 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). In providing the background he stated that the Paragon Bar had been demolished in 2021 following concerns for public safety. He advised the members that a planning application had been submitted to redevelop the site, however, it could not be considered while the building remained on the Record of Protected Structures for County Monaghan. He advised that in accordance with Section

55 (1) (a) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), a public notice had been published in the Northern Standard on 09th October 2025, with submissions and observations from the public invited on the proposed deletion, up to and including Thursday 20th November 2025. Mr. Hughes stated that no objections were made during the public consultation period and he recommended that the Paragon Bar be deleted from the Record of Protected Structures for County Monaghan.

On the proposal Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr S. Coyle, it was agreed that the Paragon Bar be deleted from the Record of Protected Structures for County Monaghan in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

In response to Cllr. S. Coyle's query in relation to erecting appropriate hoarding at the site of the former Paragon Bar on Fermanagh Street, Clones – Mr. Hughes advised that he would liaise with the owner of the site on this matter.

3. To consider Section 183 Sale of Property at Newtownbutler Road, Clones H23 YE20

Mr. C. Flynn, Director of Services, outlined the proposed disposal of property on the Newtownbutler Road, Clones, Co. Monaghan, H23 YE20 – site area 0.044 hectares. He advised the members that the Town and Regeneration Team had acquired the property via a Compulsory Purchase Order to address vacancy and dereliction, and that the proposed disposal will place an obligation on the purchaser to redevelop the property within 24 months from the date of contract closure.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr R. Truell, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of property on the Newtownbutler Road, Clones, Co. Monaghan, H23 YE20, in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 19th September 2025 and attached site location map in accordance with S183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. To consider Section 183 Disposal of Lands at Mulladuff, Smithboro, Co. Monaghan

Mr. N. O'Connor, A/Director of Services, outlined the proposed disposal of lands at Mulladuff, Smithboro, Co. Monaghan – site area 0.0096135 hectares. He advised the members that the transfer of the small parcel of lands relates to rectifying a discrepancy in relation to the mapping of this property.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Flynn, seconded by Cllr R. Truell, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of lands at Mulladuff, Smithboro, Co. Monaghan in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 3rd October 2025 and attached site location map in accordance with S183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

5. To ratify new member on the Tourism, Rural, Community Development, An Ghaeilge & Cultural Services SPC

On the proposal of Cllr S. Flynn, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that Ms Maureen McIntyre, Clones Town Team (Business/Commercial sector), would replace Mr. Packie McCarville on the Tourism, Rural, Community Development, An Ghaeilge & Cultural Services SPC.

6. To ratify a new Social Inclusion representative on the LCDC

On the proposal of Cllr A. Johnston, seconded by Cllr S. Coyle, it was agreed that Ms. Siobhan McKenna, would replace Ms. Ursula McKenna, as the Social Inclusion Representative on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

7. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17 November 2025, which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr R. Truell, seconded by Cllr C. Carthy, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17 November 2025 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

8. To receive Management Report – November 2025

The Chief Executive introduced the Management Report for November 2025 which had been circulated with the agenda. He referred to the Housing section's current projection to deliver 108 additional homes plus four acquisitions as part of the Housing for All programme - over 70% in excess of departmental targets. He also referred to the response to the Cost Rental Scheme of 16 units at Park St, Monaghan Town, noting that there had been 88 applications with 63 within the priority categories as agreed by the Council demonstrating a high demand. He highlighted that the Part VIII planning process had commenced to redevelop the old fire station site in Castleblayney into 22 modern homes further demonstrating the Council's commitment to its priorities in relation to regeneration and providing new homes.

The Chief Executive concluded by thanking the Members for their efforts and contributions and staff for their work during the year.

The members noted the Management Report for November 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 S. Coyle, seconded by Cllr R. Aughey, it was agreed that this Council writes to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. James Browne, T.D., and the government, to request an increase in the allocation for Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability. The benefits to those in need of assistance to remain in their home with limited works are enormous. While the government funding for 2025 is welcomed, with 449 applications received and many in need of urgent works due to be kept waiting for a lengthy period, additional funding is requested for the 2026 Scheme.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Clerkin, seconded by Cllr A. Campbell, it was agreed that this Council extends an invitation to Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg to attend a future meeting of this Council, to present their work and projects for 2026.

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

The members noted the reports from Cllrs. P. Conlon, S. Coyle, P. Gibbons and N. Keelan, in relation to their attendance at the following conference/training events:

- AILG - Planning and Development Act Training – Raddison Blu Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath – 15 November 2025
- AILG - Elected Members Training, Module 5 – Horse & Jockey Hotel, Thurles, Co. Tipperary – 11 October 2025

- LAMA Autumn Seminar – Amber Springs Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford – 16 & 17 October 2025
- AI in Local Governance – O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork – 08 & 09 November 2025

10. Business submitted by Chief Executive

The Chief Executive informed the members that there were no matters for consideration under this item.

11. Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held 03 November 2025 and Statutory Budget Meeting on 17 November 2025

(i) Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 03 November 2025.

In response to Cllr C. Carthy’s queries:

- *Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, advised that an advert outlining the Council’s intention to Take the Alderwood estate in Carrickmacross in Charge is due to be advertised in the coming weeks.*
- *Mr. C. Flynn, Director of Services, advised that the preliminary business case, which will outline the proposed site location for the swimming pool in Carrickmacross is expected to be presented to members in early 2026 and that the application for planning permission for the Clos na Droimmaine estate, Carrickmacross had recently been submitted.*

There were no further matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 03 November 2025.

(ii) Matters arising out of the minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting held on 17 November 2025.

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting held on 17 November 2025.

12. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

Mr. N. O’Connor, A/Director of Services, advised the members that the updated design for the Clontibret to the Border Road Scheme had been published on Friday 21st November. He stated that an elected members briefing had taken place and three public information days have been scheduled to allow landowners and the public the opportunity to meet with the project team and discuss the updates.

13. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, provided members with a brief overview of the report circulated which had been prepared following a request by the elected members at the November County Council Meeting. He referred to the Planning Authority’s statutory role in the planning process relating to the North South Electricity Interconnector.

He advised that since March 2024, three County Councils (Monaghan, Cavan and Meath County Councils) have engaged ESB Networks in relation to compliance with specific planning conditions. Mr. Hughes provided the members with details relating to each of the six compliance meetings that had taken place since March 2024 to date, stating that the minutes of the meetings had been prepared by the three local authorities on a rotational basis with the draft minutes circulated to all participants for their agreement at

the subsequent meeting. The minutes of five of the six meetings were circulated to members, and he advised that the minutes outstanding from the most recent meeting would be circulated once available and agreed by the participants.

Mr. Hughes advised that a meeting took place on 17th November between staff from ESB networks and the three County Councils. At this meeting an update of the project was provided by ESB Networks, and the County Council officials provided an update on the compliance process. The minutes of this meeting have not yet been issued by ESB Networks but will be circulated to members once received.

He referred to the significant number of Freedom of Information requests received by Monaghan County Council in relation to the North South Electricity Interconnector project since the making of the planning decision on 19th December, 2016 to date, stating that in total 28 requests had been received and responded to, and one further request had been received that morning.

Furthermore, he advised that compliance information submitted by ESB is publicly available for inspection on the Monaghan County Council website and at the offices of the Planning Authority.

He concluded by stating that the Planning Authority will continue to carry out its statutory function in an impartial and transparent manner and provide updates to elected members as the process develops, including the issuing of minutes of meetings as and when they become available.

The members thanked Mr. A. Hughes for his comprehensive report, and they conveyed their gratitude to the planning section for all of the updates provided to members in relation to the North South Interconnector project.

14. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

No further update on the Ulster Canal project.

15. Correspondence

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

- Letter from the Private Secretary, Department of Culture, Communications and Sport regarding online safety.
- Email from the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment regarding the ESB Networks Winter 2025 Grid Resilience Plan.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister of State, Mr. Kevin 'Boxer' Moran, T.D., regarding the use of CFRAM maps by insurance companies.
- Letter from Ms. Edel Quinn, Head of Disability Services, HSE, regarding funding for extension works at the Errigal Truagh Special Needs site at Knockconan.
- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Paschal Donohue, T.D., regarding inheritance tax.
- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Paschal Donohue, T.D., regarding Residential Zoned Land Tax.
- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Ms. Norma Foley, T.D., regarding Rainbow Lodge.
- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary to the Minister of State for Disability, Ms. Hildegard Naughton, T.D., regarding funding for extension works at the Errigal

- Truagh Special Needs site at Knockconan.
- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary to the Minister of State, Mr. Kevin ‘Boxer’ Moran, T.D., regarding flooding concerns.
- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary to the Minister of State, Mr. Kevin ‘Boxer’ Moran, T.D., regarding maintenance works on the River Blackwater.
- Acknowledgement email from Senator Sarah O’Reilly regarding flooding concerns.
- Acknowledgement email from Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D., regarding flooding concerns.
- Acknowledgement email from Ms. Niamh Smyth, T.D., regarding flooding concerns.
- Acknowledgment email from the Consumer Services Administrator, Ms. Fiona Campbell, HSE, regarding Rainbow Lodge.
- Acknowledgement email from the Children’s Disability Network Team, HSE, Monaghan regarding Rainbow Lodge.
- Resolution from Leitrim County Council regarding alternative pathways for further education.
- Resolution from Leitrim County Council regarding the habitual residence clause for carers allowance.
- Resolution from Tipperary County Council regarding the Child Leap Card Scheme.
- Resolution from Clare County Council regarding the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028 – 2034.

15.1 Additional Correspondence

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

- Resolution from Wexford County Council regarding injustices faced by survivors of Ireland’s Industrial and Reformatory Schools.
- Resolution from Laois County Council regarding implementation of the recommendations of the Constitutional Convention.
- Letter from Ms. Edel Quinn, Head of Disability Services, HSE, regarding Rainbow Lodge.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr S. Coyle, seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin, it was agreed that this Council, supports the Leitrim County Council resolution calling on the Department of Social Protection to undertake an urgent and immediate review in relation to the habitual clause for carers allowance. This clause impacts many in border counties where family and immediate family members are caring for loved ones and may only be living five minutes away, albeit in another County. Immediate action is required to address this issue.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr S. Flynn, it was agreed that this Council, supports the Clare County Council motion calling on the Government not to support the European Commission’s proposal to establish a single common fund under the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034, which would merge key EU policy instruments such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), Cohesion Policy, and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund into one overarching funding mechanism.

16. Notices of Motion

1. Cllr S. Coyle proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded:

'That this Council demands the extension by the EU of Ireland's Nitrates Derogation, as the current derogation ends on the 31st December 2025. As Ireland is totally dependent on grassland-based production system, economically the consequences for the entire Irish economy of a non-continuation of the derogation would be disastrous, approximately 8000 dairy farmers are totally dependent on the derogation, with huge numbers employed in agricultural related industries across the economy.

Farmers/Agricultural Sector are being very harshly singled out for blame for emissions, while there are many other contributors to the challenges of water quality etc. Ireland has been very actively and progressively working on this issue, including the current government establishing a Cabinet Committee on Water Quality, chaired by An Taoiseach, Michael Martin T.D., incorporating all sectors to coordinate water quality improvements, which clearly is successful, as recent data published by the EPA showed nitrates concentration in our rivers reduced nationally last year by over 10% in most regions.

Government and farmers are taking unprecedented action to improve water quality, for example, the Farming for Water European Innovation Partnership (EIP) with a budget of 60m euro commenced last year led by the Local Authorities Waters Programme (LAWPRO), working in partnership with Teagasc and Dairy Industry Ireland. This EIP is providing financial support for specific targeted actions, beyond regulatory requirements, over 3,600 farmers have applied for support under the farming for Water EIP. The project aims to support up to 15,000 farmers over 5 years up to 2029, DAFM is providing TAMS grant aid support for low emission slurry spreading equipment and manure storage. Since 2015, a total of 138m euro has been paid to farmers supporting significant investments on Irish farms in manure storage and low emissions slurry spreading technology, with over 54,000 farmers participating in ACRES, also a water quality protection measure.

Clearly, very decisive and positive actions are being taken in Ireland and the EU must acknowledge and support this excellent work, by immediately sanctioning the extension of the Nitrates Directive, as the 31st December 2025 is fast approaching the indecisiveness and uncertainty must end, as it is a huge concern and worry to farmers and the entire agricultural industry'.

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

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

'That this Council writes to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. James Browne T.D., requesting that the 'Incremental Tenant Purchase scheme 2016' is amended to allow 'Part V' houses be eligible for the scheme.'

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

17. Questions and Replies

Cllr S. Coyle will ask:

1. **Can Monaghan County Council outline in detail the progress/work/design etc. that has been done to date on the Ballybay Market House Project, the plans for what will be included in the building when commissioned and operational, the timeframe for commencement of works on this very exciting and innovative project for Ballybay, the estimated cost of the overall completed project and perhaps the number of persons that will be required to operate the completed building and its activities?**

Reply:The detailed designs are completed, and all relevant designs and documents were forwarded to the department for approval prior to proceeding to tender stage. The Department have come back with several queries and at present responses are being prepared. When approval is in place and funding secured, MCC will be able to update Members on construction timelines, costing and the staffing arrangements.

2. **Can Monaghan County Council outline in detail their plans/progress on provision of additional Car Parking Spaces at Lower Main Street, Ballybay? There is currently a serious concern for residences/business persons for carparking spaces for customers/residents/ visitors to their homes/emergency vehicles/medical personnel/Home Helps etc., as they have to walk long distances to Lower Main Street locations and particularly in current inclement winter conditions, dangerous/slippery footpaths, heavy rains etc., with business persons experiencing loss of custom as potential customers access similar locations closer to where they are parked and now with the Market House potential as a huge attraction to this area of Ballybay town, additional Car Parking in this area must be prioritised immediately.**

Reply: Monaghan County Council recently purchased a property on Church St., Ballybay to access lands in local authority ownership at the rear of No.3 Main St. It is planned to create a car park in this area that will service the Market House and the Lower Main St. area of Ballybay.

3. ***Can Monaghan County Council immediately prioritise the installation of a Pedestrian Road Crossing from St.Mary's Church, Latton (LP03012) and the Footpath from O'Rahilly GAA Club facilities, Scoil Mhuire and the very busy Resource Centre to the (LS07000), down to the Car Park at the rear of Scoil Mhuire, as it is currently very dangerous for persons walking from the Chapel to the Car Park and also water running down the road is leading to water and muck running into a private residence, contributing to the flooding of this house in the recent heavy rain, can these works be planned for immediate works?***

Reply: Engineering staff will carry out pedestrian and traffic and transportation surveys in the area. On foot of the information received via these surveys, a funding application may be made under the Low-Cost Safety Scheme to install a pedestrian crossing and footway. Remedial maintenance works has recently been carried out to prevent surface water issue outlined.

4. **Residents of O'Duffy Terrace, Corrybrennan Park, Culbrennan, Ballybay are very concerned at the speeding on the R180-Ballybay-Carrickmacross Road as there are many pedestrians in this area, with Ballybay Community College on this road; can Monaghan County Council immediately examine the installation of Safety Measurers on the R180 and indeed all roads leading into Ballybay i.e. Speed Pillows etc.?**

Reply: Engineering staff will complete speed and transportation surveys in the area. On foot of the information received via these surveys, a funding application may be made under the Low-Cost Safety Scheme to carry out traffic calming measures in the area.

5. **The road conditions in the Connons and Drumully areas of County Monaghan are in an atrocious and totally unacceptable state for local residents, their families, and businesses. This is a unique**

area of the Border region as it is totally isolated and inaccessible without frequent crossings between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Most of the roads in this locality are shared between both jurisdictions. Can Monaghan County Council outline its plans to address the atrocious condition of roads in the Connons/Drumully area and provide an update on the progress of the Motion previously adopted by Ballybay-Clones Municipal District and Monaghan County Council at September 2022 Council Meeting regarding this issue? *‘That Monaghan County Council in conjunction with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council make an application to the Shared Island Unit in the Department of the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD for funding for the Restoration of Roads, which are in an atrocious condition in the Connons/Drumully area of County Monaghan. This area is unique to the border which was created by partition. When accessing the Connons i.e. School, Community Centre and Church the border must be crossed several times, which is the reality of a shared island on the ground for the residents in the townlands of Annaghraw, Clonfad, Clonkeelan, Clonlura, Clonnagore, Clonnestin, Clonoony, Clonoula, Clonrye, Clonshanvo, Clontask, Coleman Island, Corvaghan, Derrybeg, Drumsloe and Roranna. The government’s Shared Island initiative aims to harness the full potential of the Good Friday Agreement. This aim is to enhance co-operation, connection, mutual understanding on the island and to engage with all communities and traditions to build consensus around a shared future as announced in Budget 2021, with €500m in capital funding available between 2021-25. This funding is ring-fenced for investment in collaborative North/South projects. The full restoration of all roads in the Connons area is ideally suited to the criteria and aims of the Shared Island Initiative’.*

Reply: Monaghan County Council have contacted the Roads Services Department, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council to discuss the possibility of making an application under the Shared Island initiative.

Clr P. Gibbons will ask:

6. Can the number of people presenting as homeless in 2023, 2024 and 2025 to date be provided along with an overview of services provided to anyone presenting in these circumstances?

Reply:

Total Presentations by year		
2023	2024	2025
161	185	191
*Note 2025 is YTD (20/11/2025)		

The figures above include all of the NTQ - 10 NTQ in 2024 and 34 in 2025.

Service provided to households who present as homeless

The services provided to households who present as homeless are outlined in our Homeless Services Procedure which include: -

- Advice and guidance on preventative measures, for example signposting to organisations like MABS, Threshold or referral to other agencies as deemed necessary, for example, HSE or Tusla.
- HAP Place Finder support which includes financial support with a deposit and first month rent in PRA and guidance on the most effective ways to search for Private Rented Accommodation.
- Tenancy Sustainment Support.
- Emergency Accommodation, where deemed appropriate.

7. **Have all monies spent by Monaghan Country Council dealing with Storm Eowyn being refunded by Central Government?**

Reply: An invoice has been raised to the National Directorate for Emergency Management for costs associated with Storm Eowyn. It is expected that the amounts receivable will be confirmed before year-end once all supporting documentation has been received and reviewed by NDFEM.

8. **Can the result of the examination of parking in the vicinity of Market Square leading into Muckno Street (i.e. at Ginos Diner leading down to Muckno Street) in Castleblayney be provided? There are issues including sight lines of cars and lorries driving on the road, parked**

cars and their impact on same, placement and suitability of double yellow lines in this area and incidences of parking on pavement hindering progress of people with disabilities and parents with prams.

Reply: The executive has examined the modification of road markings at this location and is currently drafting a revised parking layout for this area. Any such changes shall require an amendment to the adopted Parking Control Scheme for Castleblayney Town. It is anticipated that any proposed revisions to the Parking Control Schemes for each of Castleblayney and Carrickmacross Towns will be brought before the members in early Q1 2026.

- 9. Can the number of outstanding applications under the Housing Grant for People with a Disability, Mobility Aids Grant and Housing Aid for Older People Grant schemes be provided? Can this be broken down into unprocessed applications and approved applicants, with an estimate of the cost of works applied for that remains outstanding be provided?**

Reply:

Current Status of Grants

	HGD	HOP	MAG	Total	Amount
Registration / OT/Initial Stage Grants	22	23	15	60	Unknown
Recommendation Stage	18	8	6	32	€394,634
Works Stage	40	50	2	92	€1,136,753
Final Inspection Stage	10	26	2	38	€340,657
Payments Stage	6	8	1	15	€203,757
	96	115	26	237	€2,075,801
Applications on Hand – awaiting processing	18	114	18	150	Amount not yet determined

- 10. Can an update be given on the planned works to be undertaken at the Market House, Castleblayney including the proposed dates of beginning and completion of works?**

Reply: Monaghan County Council lodged a submission with the funding department (DRCDG) on 10/10/25 under *Decision Gate 3 Approval to Proceed*, seeking approval to award the construction contract. This submission is still under consideration by the DRCDG. The commencement of construction works is contingent on the approval timelines under Decision Gate 3. Subject to approval to award the construction contract, it is envisaged that project construction may commence in Q1 2026 with an estimated completion of 2 years thereafter.

Cllr S. Flynn will ask:

- 11. Can Monaghan Co Co please provide an update on where and when new local authority houses are being planned for construction in Co Monaghan in 2026 and what proportion of these units will be accessible/age-friendly or designed for people with disabilities?**

Reply: At present Housing Section has approval for the delivery of 68 social housing units in 2026, this figure will increase as additional projects, acquisitions and affordable purchase housing is added. The Housing Section consider accessible and age-friendly housing at initial design stages to make sure all our projects are located close to amenities such as shops, health, cultural and leisure facilities and be within walking distance of public transport and have gardens and/or balconies that are accessible from the home via a level access and wide enough opening so that everyone can enjoy. We also make sure our housing units have sufficient internal space to permit a person to move independently around their home. We look to provide an entry level toilet with sufficient space and below floor drainage for a future shower installation and in the case of two storey properties provision of a 'soft spot' in the ground floor ceiling to enable a future lift to be installed to access the upper floor.

All social housing units proposed for 2026 will be age-friendly homes with provision for future stair lift or through floor lifts where required. For people with disabilities, we have proposed accessible bungalows in Sli Lorcan (14) and An tÚllord, Scotshouse (4) and the Old Fire Station in Castleblayney will be 100% accessible for people with disabilities as there will be a lift. In addition, a further 9 bungalows will be provided in conjunction with Tuath AHB in Castleblayney and a proposal from North & East Housing Association to provide 12 accessible dwellings in Carrickmacross may also proceed in 2026.

- 12. Can Monaghan Co Co please provide a detailed list of roads on the future road maintenance and surface dressing programme?**

Reply: Monaghan County Council's 3-year roads Annual Restoration Maintenance programme that has been adopted by each Municipal District will be the roads where the new roads maintenance strategy will be trialed on.

The annual programme for the Surface Dressing is prepared by each Municipal District each year following the announcement of the Surface Dressing Grant allocations in January/February time.

Restoration Maintenance Programme

Municipal District of Monaghan

Monaghan MD - Adopted 2026 Local Roads Programme								
	Road Class	Road ID	PSCI Rating	W	Road Length (m)	Total Area of work (sq.m)	Road Name and/or Townland Name	
1	LP	LP3510	4,6,7	5	1764	8820	Annyalla	Tason
2	LP	LP1220	4,5,6,7,8	5	2373	11865	Kinadain	Straghan
3	LP	LP1420	4,5,7	4.3	1281	5508	Tullylish	N12
4	LT	LS5513	4,5,6,7,8	6	1443	8658	Cortolvin Road	Killyconigan
5	LT	LT20201	3,4,5	2.9	1632	4732.8	Mullyera	Graffagh
6	LT	LT51523	3,4	3	768	2304	Killybern	Glenmore
Monaghan MD - Adopted 2026 Regional Roads Programme								
	Road Class	Road ID	PSCI Rating	W	Length of work (m)	Total Area of work (sq.m)	Road Name and/or Townland Name	
1	R	R 185-1	5&6	7	800	5600	Corbeg	Tiravera
2	R	R 162-1	4,5&6	7.5	200	1500	Killygowan	Elm Church
3	R	R 162-1	5&6	8.8	240	2112	Glen Road at Council office	Killygowan

Monaghan MD - Adopted 2027 Local Roads Programme								
	Road Class	Road ID	PSCI Rating	W	Road Length (m)	Total Area of work (sq.m)	Road Name and/or Townland Name	
1	LP	LP2010	4,5,6,9	4.3	2604	11197.2	Scotstown Village	Mullaghmore West
2	LT	LT-11713	4	2.9	1265	3668.5	Tirnaskea	North Tydavnet
3	LT	LT35111	3&4	3.2	429	1372.8	Croaghan	South 3 roads
4	LT	LT52201	3,4,7	3	1442	4326	Derrylea - 3 Roads	Dernahatten - 3 Roads West
5	LT	LT20312	4	3	2095	6285	Sheskin-3 Roads	Gola English
6	Ls	LS 7420	4,5,7	3.8	1695	6441	Avalreagh	Carrickanure
7	LT	LT14201	4	2.9	1336	3874	Tullylish	Carn
							Note: The 2023 Ri Local Road	
Monaghan MD - Adopted 2027 Regional Roads Programme								
	Road Class	Road ID	PSCI Rating	W	Length of work (m)	Total Area of work (sq.m)	Road Name and/or Townland Name	
1	R	R189	5&6	8	600	4800	Tullygrimes (N54)	Kilycushil
2	R	R186-2	4,5&7	7	550	3850	Killylough	Annygally

The Municipal District of Monaghan 2028 programme to be presentation for Adoption at the next Municipal District meeting.

Municipal District of Ballybay/Clones

Roads Programme 2026		Length	Width	Area m.sq
L	LT20324 Loughoony	1393	2.7	3761.1
L	Access Road to Primary Care Centre	120	8	960
L	LS8001 Lisinisky - Bawn to Shantonagh Road	2041	4.4	8980.4
L	LT40431 Shantonagh	1403	3.5	4910.5
L	LT62801 Knocks	1849	2.8	5177.2
L	LT22311/2 Drumreenagh	1909.5	3.2	6110.4
L	LS7410 Cornanagh Lennon	1774	4.25	7539.5
L	LS7001 Veeldins Cross to Cavan Border	2437	4.4	10722.8
L	L3402 Cordelvis	1006	5.1	5130.6
L	LT63102 Doohat	1954	3.4	6643.6
R	R162 Drumgor - Latton to Shercock	1250	8	10000
				69936.1
Roads Programme 2027		Length	Width	Area
L	LS6160 Templetate	2634	3.9	10272.6
L	LT30123 Lisdrumcleve Housing Estate	158	8.5	1343
L	LT40441 Beagh Reduff	2301	3.4	7823.4
L	LP4021 Cargaghoge	2271	4.7	10673.7
L	LT32003 Cornahoe	2059	3.4	7000.6
L	LT22415 Clonlure Roranna	1564	3.5	5474
L	L64301/11 Leck	2500	3.1	7750
L	LT22331 Crosslea	1032	4	4128
L	LT40051 Sreenty	2147	3.4	7299.8
R	R181 Lough Egish to Shercock Road	1000	7.9	7900
				69665.1
Roads Programme 2028		Length	Width	Area
L	LT40101 Beagh Laragh	767	3.5	2684.5
L	LT65101 Nart	1550	2.5	3875
L	LT63411 Drumrooghill	1169	4.1	4792.9
L	LT6340/1 Killycraggy to Drumulla	3550	3.55	12602.5
L	LT21101 Tiernahinch	1994	3.4	6779.6
L	LT30101 Edenforan Drumfaldra Tamlat	2699	4.1	11065.9
L	LP4022 Corcreagh	1697	5.1	8654.7
R	R188 Swans to Rockcorry	2000	7.8	15600
R	R183 Clones Road Ballybay	1000	7.4	7400
				73455.1

Municipal District of Carrickmacross/Castleblaney
Roads Programme 2026

	PMS Rating	Road Class	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Start	End
1	Red	R	R-181-1	Creaghanroe		
2	Red	R	R-178-7	Drummond Otra		
3	Red	LP	LP-4041	Bocks Lower	Greaghlane - 3 Roads North	Corbane - 4 Roads
4	Red	LP	LP-4102	Lisdoonan	Lisdoonan - 3 Roads South	Drumlurg - 3 roads North
5	Red	LP	LP-4930	Mullinary	McCartneys Cross	Mullinary Road - 4 Roads
6	Red	LP	LP-4931	Mullinary	Mullinary Road - 4 Roads	Kingscourt Road - 4 Roads
7	Red	LS	LS-8602	Moyles	Mullaghunshinagh - 3 Roads	Edenamo - 3 Roads South
8	Red	LS	LS-8500	Lisnamoyle Otra	Cargaglishnanarney - 4 Roads	Lisnamoyle Etra - 3 Roads South
9	Red	LT	LT-32101	Tullyskerry	Tullyskerry - 3 roads South	Tullyskerry - 3 Roads

Roads Programme 2027

	PMS Rating	Road Class	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Start	End
1	Red	R	R181-2	Killygola	420m North of the R182 Junction	Killygola Junction
2	Red	R	R179-5	Kilmactrasna/Mullanary	Ardee Rd Junction	Woodvale Estate/L-8940
3	Red	LP	L-4050/1/2	Ross Road	Castleblayney Rd	Shercock 3 Roads
4	Red	LS	L-8921	Camaghy/Drumerlough	Ballaghneearn 3 Rds South	Camaghy Mill
5	Red	LS	L-7801	Knockavolis	Tattgare 3 Rds	Lackafin 4 Rds
6	Red	LS	L-89121	Greaghwillin	Alts 4 Rds	Lisatillister 3 Rds East
7	Red	LT	L-49031	Corlea/Doagh	Corlea 3 Rds Sth	Aghinillard 4 Rds
8	Red	LT	L-85011	Coolcair	Killycranfy 4 - Rds	Lurganboys - 3 Rds North
9	Red	LT	L-41041	Monyglen	Tusker 3 Rds South	Lisnamacka 4 Rds

Roads Programme 2028

	PMS Rating	Road Class	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Start	End
1	Red	R	R182-1	Drumaliss/Killygola	240m Northeast of R181 Junction	200m East of the L-3700
2	Red	R	R180-6	Cloughvalley	R927-2	152m Southeast of the Roundabout
3	Red	LP	L-4910	Scobins Brae	340m NW of the R179	Camaghy Mill 3 Rds
4	Red	LP	L-4510	Tullynacross	Tullynacross - 3 Rds	Lurganboys 3 - Roads
5	Red	LS	L-8801	Carrickashedoge	Halfate 4 Rds	Killark 4 Rds
6	Red	LS	L-8630	Drumcatton	Oghill 3 Rds West	Drumganny 4 Rds
7	Red	LT	L-40202	Shanco	Lisnafeddaly 3 Rds West	Ardragh 3 Rds
8	Red	LT	L-41021	Cashlan East/	Lisgall North 3 Rds	Lisdoonan 3 Rds South
9	Red	LT	L-34102	Grigg	Killycrom 3 rds East	N2
10	Red	LT	L-41102	Lisagore	Corrinary 3 Rds North	400m Start of Corrinary 3 Rds North
11	Red	LT	L-46401	Lisanisk	285m from Junction R179	350m East of Start Pt.

13. **Can Monaghan Co Co please provide an update on tourism development projects for the County? Reply:** The Tourism Unit is working continuously on the implementation of the Council's Tourism strategy 2023 - 2028, which contains 26 overall actions, within which there are several, distinct individual projects identified. The Tourism Forum continues to meet on a quarterly basis to support the implementation of the strategy and development of tourism in the county.

Dromore River Blueway

Tenders are currently being sought for a multi-disciplinary design team to develop detailed design, produce a construction tender package and to provide oversight of the works during construction of this 12km Blueway. Tender deadline is 16th December.

Sliabh Beagh - Shared Island Project

€6million funding was previously announced under the Shared Island Funding programme for the development of Sliabh Beagh as an Eco-Tourism destination – currently awaiting a Letter of Offer for this project.

Mullaghamatt Cycle Trails Project (ORIS)

The tender deadline for a multi-disciplinary design team for trail design, planning preparation and construction tender documentation development was 20th November. Tender evaluation will now commence.

Black Island ORIS Project Update

ORIS funding was secured for recreational enhancement works at Black Island. All works (including remedial works following Storm Amy) are now complete. An official launch of the project will be organised in Q1 2026.

Interactive Recreation Map (ORIS)

Tender documents are currently being drawn up for technical services to create and build an interactive geospatial repository containing information on outdoor recreation amenities in Co. Monaghan.

Castleshane Forest

Tender documents are currently being drawn up for a multi-disciplinary design team for this project. This tender will be uploaded in December.

Clones Visitor Attraction Project

The tender deadline for Exhibition & Interpretative Planning Design Services for a new Visitor Experience at the former Lennard Arms Hotel property in Clones is 27th November. Tenders will be evaluated immediately thereafter.

14. **Following on from my previous question in October regarding water and wastewater infrastructure across the county, and noting that many towns and villages in Monaghan remain in the AMBER or RED categories for wastewater treatment capacity, can the executive please confirm, with regards the announcement of the €32 million WEST (Water Enhancements through Sustainable Treatment) project, which includes a low-carbon wastewater treatment upgrade for Ballybay as part of a major cross-border collaboration between Uisce Éireann and NI Water, what impact will this development have for the Ballybay–Clones Municipal District and the county as a whole? Furthermore, can other towns and villages identified in the AMBER and RED categories also apply for similar funding through the accelerated capital programmes of Uisce Éireann and the Department of Housing, to address these ongoing deficits and ensure that rural towns and villages are not left behind in future infrastructure investment plans?**

Reply: The Ballybay Clones Municipal District welcome the news of the proposed low-carbon wastewater treatment upgrade for Ballybay. This proposed upgrade will offer significant environmental, social, and economic benefits to Ballybay by transitioning from a high energy consumer to a resource receiving and self-sufficient system. Environmental Services also welcome the proposed works as improved treatment at Ballybay wastewater treatment plant has the potential to positively impact on water quality and support compliance with Water Framework Directive objectives in the Dromore River and lake system and downstream of Ballybay.

In relation to the eligibility of towns and villages identified in Amber and Red categories to apply for similar funding, such decisions are the remit of Uisce Éireann, and Councillors who have specific queries are advised to contact Uisce Éireann via the dedicated elected representative channels for further information.

Cllr N. McCooey will ask:

15. **As part of Monaghan County Council's Strategic Workforce Planning, has the Council considered creating a Full-Time Irish Language Development Officer position?**

Reply: Monaghan County Council Strategic Workforce Plan has received compliance from the Department. The Irish Language Officer post is included in the Plan which sets out our workforce priorities for the next five years.

16. **Can Monaghan County Council provide an update on the funding application for the installation of a VRS on the N12 at Skinnagin Bridge, Tyholland?**

Reply: An application for funding has been made to TII for provision of a VRS (crash barrier) at this location. We are awaiting a response and will continue to follow up.

17. **Can Monaghan County Council confirm whether its own buildings are subject to energy-efficiency improvements similar to those being implemented across the housing portfolio?**

Reply: Monaghan County Council, like all public bodies, compiles and reports annually on its energy performance and progress towards 2030 targets. This includes a strong focus on improving the energy efficiency of our non-domestic building stock. Unlike the housing portfolio—where upgrades are fully funded by central government—energy-efficiency improvements to Council-owned non-domestic buildings receive only limited external support, such as through SEAI Pathfinder programme. The majority of funding must be provided directly by the Council and therefore we adopt a targeted approach, prioritising buildings with the highest energy use to ensure upgrades deliver significant improvements in energy performance, advance sustainability objectives, and balance costs effectively.

18. **Can Monaghan County Council confirm the projected housing figures for 2026, including both the Council's own housing stock and units expected to become available through Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs), both county-wide and per Municipal District?**

Reply: At present Housing Section has approval for the delivery of 68 social housing units in 2026

as follows:

12 - Ballinode

34 - Monaghan town

9 - Castleblayney

13 - Smithborough

The figures above will increase as additional projects, acquisitions and affordable purchase housing (subject to Department approval) in Carrickmacross is added.

Cllr S. Conlon will ask:

- 19. When road junction driver sight lines are being impeded by overgrown trees and hedges, or tree branches causing damage to passing vehicles, what are the timelines for the landowner to take remedial hedge trimming or tree pruning action that ensures these critical road safety measures are implemented at the earliest opportunity following the landowner being notified by the Council?**

Reply: Hedge cutting issues raised by members of the public/elected members/staff are initially logged on the MCC Defects app. Once ownership has been confirmed, the MD executive, in the first instance, endeavour to liaise informally with the landowner concerned, to discuss the danger(s) associated with the trees/hedges in question and agree appropriate remedial measures. If any agreed remedial works are not completed within a reasonable timeframe, or communication breaks down, or a landowner cannot be contacted, then a letter will issue to the registered landowner outlining their obligations under Section 70 of The Roads Act with respect to the trees/hedges in question. This initial informal notice provides that the landowner has a 14-day period in which to complete the required remedial works.

If after 14 days, the required remedial works have not been satisfactorily completed, a second informal notification is issued to the landowner, advising that they have a further 7-day period in which to complete the required works. If, following this period, the issue has not been satisfactorily addressed, a recommendation for further action is prepared by the Municipal District engineer and submitted to the Roads Section. The Roads Section then issue a Hedge cutting Notice to landowner under the Roads Act 1993 allowing the landowner 21 days to comply.

- 20. Can assurances be provided to all contracted service users and agencies using the Peace Campus that the building opening hours, as originally agreed, are maintained for the purpose ensuring 'after hours' access continues to be available and that will prevent the dilution of essential services being delivered especially for young people?**

Reply: In line with evolving business needs and to ensure optimal support for building operations, the Peace Campus closing hours will be amended from 10pm to 8pm with effect from 01/01/2026. Anchor tenants have been consulted and informed, and works will begin on 2nd December to fob the areas where access is required after 8pm and to zone the alarm in these areas to enable separate access for tenants as required. All essential services will continue to operate as normal. Event bookings outside of the normal opening hours can be accommodated on an ad hoc basis as required.

- 21. What are the current circumstances that are causing delays with the Knockroe Glen, Clones Road housing development being 'Taken-in-Charge', and is there a timescale for when this process will be concluded?**

Reply: Uisce Éireann Legacy Infrastructure Team are reviewing water infrastructure at Knockroe Glen, Clones Road, Monaghan Town. Following receipt of confirmation from them that they have no objections, the intention to take in charge this development shall be advertised.

- 22. In an effort at creating solutions to the repeated flooding in the immediate vicinity of the Monaghan Shopping Centre and Credit Union, can a programme of dredging works along the short section of the Shambles River from that point to the side of St Patricks Church at Old Cross Square be undertaken for the purpose of ensuring no blockages exist? Also, can an underground scoping camera be utilised to assess the condition of drainage infrastructure that runs underground at Old Cross Square?**

Reply: The River Shambles is currently undergoing a comprehensive assessment, and any blockages identified during this process have been removed. A walk-through survey of the section from Slí Ógie Uí Dhufaigh to Castle Road is scheduled in the coming weeks to confirm that this stretch remains clear. Any remedial works identified during the survey will be prioritised and programmed for completion accordingly.

In addition, a broader review of flooding issues within Monaghan Town has commenced. The Municipal District team, in collaboration with the Roads Section, is working toward developing a permanent solution. However, completion of the Flood Risk Assessment - necessary to determine appropriate mitigation measures—will require several months.

23. **Following the recent publication of another Housing Plan, can the Council confirm if upfront funding will be made available to Local Authorities to install civil infrastructure such as footpaths, lighting, water and drainage services at Serviced Sites such as those for sale at Latlorcan? If so, will this Council be pursuing same?**

Reply: Serviced Sites are mentioned under the new housing plan called Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-2030 however there is no mention of “upfront funding” for Serviced Sites in the plan.

ClIr N. Keelan will ask:

24. **When is it hoped to commence work on the Inniskeen village plan. As I understand consultants will be engaged by the council to carry out this important work. When is it hoped to have consultants in place?**

Reply: The tier 4 village plans shall be consultant led, and their appointment shall be subject to a public tendering process. It is anticipated that the consultants shall be in place and work on the village Plans commenced in Q1 of 2026.

25. **Given that the Local Lane improvement scheme (LIS) closed for applications on Friday 7th of November last, how many applications in total have the council to now process? When is it hoped to commence accessing the laneways on the ground with a view to awarding points for condition of laneways/value for money etc.?**

Reply: The council received 305 applications; to date we have 205 eligible applications. There are a number of other applications where we have requested further information. Assessment of the lanes will begin before the end of 2025 and will be completed in Q1 2026.

26. **Given that the new 60km speed limits are now in place across the county on our local roads, what is the up to date position in relation to the review of the speed limits on the National primary and Secondary routes, in particular on the access routes into our towns and villages including the access into Castleblayney town coming from Carrickmacross along the N53?**

Reply: The 2025 County Monaghan National Road Speed Limit Review is near completion, with a Public Consultation taking place from 7th of August to 11th September 2025, inviting submissions from members of the public, elected members, An Garda Síochána, TII and any interested stakeholders. A report has been prepared and is currently being presented to each MD, after which it is intended to have by-laws adopted at the Jan/Feb 26 full council meeting.

The section of the N53, specifically from the Tullyvin RaB to the junction with the Dundalk Road formed part of this review and amendments have been agreed to the existing arrangement. This amendment was discussed at the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross MD meeting on 24th November and subsequently agreed to bring forward for adoption.

Built-up and Urban Areas - The proposed speed limit changes in built-up and urban areas will be implemented by way of ‘*special speed limit bye-laws*’, rather than by way of a change in the ‘*default speed limit*’. The default speed limit for built-up areas will therefore remain at 50km/h.

Accordingly, in respect of those roads in built-up and urban areas where local authorities propose to change existing speed limits, it will be necessary for each local authority to undertake a statutory public consultation process and consider all representations. As the making of ‘*special speed limit bye-laws*’ is a reserved function, the speed limits on roads in built-up and urban areas will only be changed where a majority of the elected members vote to do so. The DOT has instructed that all LA’s shall ensure implementation of all urban speed limit changes by 31st March 2027. Several key actions including the special speed limit by-law process must be concluded by 30th October 2026.

27. **Following on from the Ministerial/Government directive in relation to the reopening of County development plans, including the County Monaghan Development Plan, for the purpose of zoning additional lands for the provision of much needed housing, what is the up to position on this process?**

Reply:

On foot of the issuing of the Ministerial Guidelines, the Forward Planning Team have carried out significant preparatory work which is required to enable the formal development plan variation process. A number of meetings have been held with the Elected Members, and further meetings are to be scheduled as the process evolves. It is anticipated that the formal variation process will commence in Q1 of 2026.

28. **Given the number of vape shops, phone shops and barber shops that have opened in our towns and villages across the county over recent years, could the local enterprise office (LEO) give an outline as to what financial supports, if any, are available for such business ventures?**

Reply: Businesses such as vape shops, phone shops and barber shops fall under the retail and services sector. These types of businesses are **NOT** eligible for Measure 1 grant aid which is our main financial support mechanism for businesses, as this funding is specifically aimed at manufacturing businesses or internationally tradable services.

While direct grant aid is not available, owners of these businesses can access a range of soft supports through the Local Enterprise Office. These include training and mentoring programmes designed to help business owners develop skills and strategies for growth. Consultancy supports are also available, such as Green for Business and Digital for Business, which focus on improving efficiency, sustainability, and digital capability. However, it is important to note that **vape shops would not qualify** for these as they sell tobacco-related products. Businesses involved in activities considered ineligible by LEO, such as gambling, adult entertainment, tobacco products and certain cannabis-based products, cannot participate. Eligibility for these programmes generally requires that the business is established, registered and operating within the LEO geographic area, is trading for more than six months, operates in the commercial sphere, and has an annual turnover of over €30,000 and are tax compliant.

Cllr C. Carthy will ask:

29. **Has a suitable site been identified in Carrickmacross to locate a Swimming Pool/Leisure Centre and when is it expected preliminary layout and design works might begin on the project?**

Reply:

S3 Consultants have completed the assessment of potential sites for the proposed swimming pool and leisure complex in Carrickmacross. The Consultants are scheduled to present the preferred site location to the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Elected Members at the MD Meeting on the 24/11/25. It is anticipated that procurement of Design Consultants to progress the project through design and planning stages may be commenced in Q1 2026.

30. **When is the process of Taking in Charge of the Alderwood estate in Carrickmacross expected to begin?**

Reply: Uisce Eireann has agreed to the taking in charge of Alderwood housing development. While there are some minor defects which are to be remedied by the developer, they are of a nature that they should not impede the taking in charge process. It is intended to advertise the taking in charge of this development imminently.

31. **Can the Executive outline what steps MCC has already taken to Implement the Town Centre First Plan for Carrickmacross and what strands are expected to be implemented and commenced in 2026? Reply:**

The Carrickmacross Town Centre First plan consists of 63 projects actions spread over the themes of:

- Welcome to Carrickmacross,
- Town Centre Streets,
- Green and Blue Carrickmacross and
- Town Centre Streets

Carrickmacross Town Team working in partnership with Monaghan County Council have commenced the process of implementing several key projects identified in the Town Centre First plan such as:

- Preliminary work on developing Place Brand, Wayfinding strategy and Gateway designs
- Progression of vacancy and dereliction programme
- Development of events calendar
- Gallows Hill Landscape Masterplan
- Developments of High-Quality Pool and Leisure facilities
- Community based Energy Efficiency Scheme
- The Bridewell Restoration
- Carrickmacross Workhouse Community Hub
- Convent Lands Masterplan

Progress is reviewed at each meeting of the Town Team and updates are presented at the monthly meeting of the Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District.

Subject to funding it is expected that the further elements of the plan will be progressed in 2026.

32. **Has the Affordable Housing Scheme proposed for Carrickmacross been sanctioned by Government yet and, if so, can the Executive outline a rollout timeframe?**

Reply: We have not received approval from Government yet for the Affordable Purchase Development in Carrickmacross. Following formal approval, we will begin a marketing campaign including an information evening in Carrickmacross.

33. **Are there any updates on the provision for 1 & 2 bed properties for Carrickmacross to deal with our extensive housing waiting lists in the area? Also, in the knowledge that we have a small number of housing applicants on our 5-bed list, are there plans in place to house these applicants through Part V purchased properties or one-off purchases; and will these applicants be considered for 4-bed units if no 5-bed properties are available?**

Reply: There are proposals for apartments and 2-bedroom terraced houses in Carrickmacross that will help to address the 1 & 2 bed need and it is hoped that a proposed new development in Carrickmacross that is yet to receive planning permission will help to address the 5-bed need. The possibility of allocating 4-bedroom houses to applicants in need of 5-bedroom accommodation may also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

18. Conferences

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
Celtic Conferences	Irish Health Service Entitlements	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford	07 th December 2025	Cllr R. Truell Cllr P. Conlon
LAMA Spring Seminar	Re Spring Seminar	The Connacht Hotel, Co. Galway	28 th and 29 th January 2026	Cllr N. Keelan Cllr S. Flynn Cllr P. Treanor Cllr. N. McCooey Cllr. P. Gibbons Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr R. Truell

19. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

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

- Doohamlet Community Centre who took first place in the Community Wellbeing Initiative category at the All-Ireland Pride of Place Awards.
- Carrickroe Community Development Group who received runner up place in the area with a Population of 0-300 category at the All-Ireland Pride of Place Awards.
- Scotstown GAA Club on reaching the Ulster Senior Club Championship final.

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

- Evan O'Reilly, on the death of Sean McKearney, Moraghy, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.
- Clair McKenna, Business Advisor, LEO, on the death of her father Martin Harte, Shantavney, Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone.
- Cara Greenan, Staff Officer, Rates section, on the death of her father Míceál Greenan, Drumconnick, Cavan, Co. Cavan.

The members extended their good wishes to Cllr. Sean Conlon and asked that their best regards be conveyed to him, wishing him well in his recovery.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr PJ O’Hanlon, thanked all staff for their work throughout 2025 and wished them a happy, peaceful and safe Christmas. He referred to his attendance at a recent Safe Ireland launch event in Monaghan Peace Campus, an initiative associated with the 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, describing the occasion as inspirational. He also reflected on his attendance at the opening of the new Samaritans facility in Monaghan and he conveyed his gratitude to Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Services and to all of those involved in the opening of the new facility. The Cathaoirleach, invited Ms. Monahan to provide members with information in relation to the Samaritan’s Longest Night Campaign.

Ms. P. Monahan stated that the Samaritan’s in Monaghan are calling on the public to support it’s ‘Longest Night’ campaign, which reminds those who are struggling to cope that its helpline is open during their darkest hours this Christmas. Businesses and landmarks are being urged to light up green on Sunday 21st December – the winter solstice.

The Cathaoirleach concluded by emphasising the importance embracing the spirit of compassion and looking out for those who are less fortunate, especially over the Christmas period.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Meetings
Administrator

Date: _____