

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek I Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday, 19th January 2026 at 11.30am

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

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 15th December 2025

On the proposal of Cllr A. Johnston, seconded by Cllr R. Aughey it was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held on 15th December 2025 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

In response to Member's queries Mr. M. Taylor advised the Christmas tree in Church Square will be taken down this week. Mr. R. O'Neill informed the Members that, following previous reports of anti-social behaviour in Church Square, the condition of the Christmas tree will be assessed and a report presented at a future meeting. Mr. M. Taylor advised that approximately 30 decorations had been removed from the tree and broken by members of the public. The Members expressed their strong condemnation of these acts of vandalism and requested that it be noted that such a complete lack of respect is unacceptable. The cost of the damages is to be included in the forthcoming report.

It was agreed that a letter of acknowledgment and appreciation would issue to the Féile Oriel Committee in response to their correspondence to the Members at the December meeting, thanking the committee for their longstanding efforts in organising the festival and for their contribution to attracting visitors to Monaghan.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator

Mr. M. Taylor took Members through the January Report circulated with the meeting agenda. Members noted the contents of the report.

Mr. M. Taylor responded to Members queries as follows:

- **Flooding and liability for same:** The OPW has responsibility for the River Blackwater and Monaghan County Council has responsibility for the Shambles River. Maintenance costings to be finalised; funding will be sought after this.
- **Flooding Meeting held on 7th January:** Tender for Hydrologist to be finalised.
- **Glyphosates:** The use of glyphosates has been reduced and alternatives are being used instead. Members appealed for the use of alternatives in all green areas within our MD.

- **County Monaghan Gift Card:** Mr. Taylor acknowledged the work carried out by Flemings Supervalu staff in acting as a salespoint for the Card and advised Members a second salespoint has been established in the Diesel Shop on Dawson Street, Monaghan. Redemption rate of over 30% to date, since launch on 21st November.
- **Colour palette:** following on from recent surveys, this has been chosen and agreed by Monaghan Town Team
- **Luí na Gréine Playground:** due to a delay with the manufacturer the proposed completion date has changed from end of January.
- **2026 Roads Programme:** Resurfacing works due to commence in April/May; dependent on contractor.
- **Reporting of potholes:** MD staff to discuss this internally to determine how best to manage these; possibly providing an estimate from date of reporting to completion date.
- **Speed ramps, Emyvale:** This raised crossing is in a 50km/hr zone and the required signage is in place. Following a recent Road Traffic Accident at this location, the traffic lights were knocked down and replacement traffic lights have been ordered. AGS are investigating the incident.
- **Damage to pedestrian lights in Emyvale:** The contractor has completed a survey to determine what is required - works to be done within the next week.
- **Possible installation of yellow boxes at 2 locations in Emyvale – Red Boys and the Post Office:** MD Exec to review.
- **Bus Stop Enhancement Scheme:** Current programme of works for identified bus stops has been tendered to install new bus stop poles and signage. Each of the identified bus stop locations will undergo a site-specific design for the upgrade of the bus stop.
- **Rossmore Monument:** On foot of Members request regarding the possibility of installing a plaque at this monument, detailing a brief history of the monument together with a photo, Mr. Taylor confirmed that an assessment has been completed recently of the Rossmore Monument to allow for a funding application, and the MD Exec to review if this request can be accommodated as part of this funding application.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McAree, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, that Monaghan Municipal District write to the Dept of Education asking them to urgently review the need for a bus shelter at Ballyoisin, Emyvale, Co Monaghan to ensure the safety of school children.

Members asked that a letter of gratitude issue to Flemings Dept store for acting as a sales point for the County Monaghan Gift Card. Members acknowledged the huge volume of work involved in 2025 for staff in the Supervalu and expressed their thanks to the Customer Servies team who played a vital role in the overall success of the initiative.

4. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the meeting agenda:

- Response from Roads Dept re: controlled crossing on the N54 adjacent to existing access point to the Ulster Canal Greenway
- Response from Minister Heydon's office re: EU Mercosur Trade Agreement
- Response from Ms. Nina Carberry, MEP re: EU Mercosur Trade Agreement
- Response from Ms. Regina Doherty, MEP re: EU Mercosur Trade Agreement
- Letter from Teach na Daoine re: event on 27th January 2026

5. Questions & Motions

Cllr Raymond Aughey will ask:

1. Can the MD undertake a road and pedestrian safety review at both day and night from Beech Hill College on the Dublin Road (including Tirkeenan Lane) as far as the traffic lights on Broad Road at that side of town which also includes Canal Street, Castle Street and all of the Old Cross Square area.

Response: As part of the 'Safe Routes to School' inspection for Beech Hill College the areas identified above were included in a survey completed in November 2023 for possible improvements to the infrastructure links to Beech Hill College. Various minor issues to footpaths that were identified in this report have been rectified. A larger scheme completed in 2024 on Canal Street/Mall Road involved improvement works to pedestrian and cycle ways along this road the upgrade of the pedestrian crossing adjacent to the Dublin Road.

Any larger improvement works will be considered as part of future Active Travel schemes in accordance with the recently adopted Local Transport Plan.

2. Can the MD liaise with the County Council to undertake a data cleansing operation to ensure that polling cards are no longer sent out to residents that have passed away ahead of the launch of the national online register of electors this spring?

Response: We make every effort to ensure that the names of deceased electors are removed from the Register of Electors in a timely manner. This process is carried out on a weekly basis using the information available to us. The primary sources we rely on are:

- Death Events List published by the Department of Social Protection
- rip.ie (public death notices)

Despite these efforts, there are inherent limitations:

- Electoral details can sometimes be incomplete, making it difficult to confirm with 100% accuracy that we have identified the correct elector.
- Not all deaths are registered promptly or appear on rip.ie.

- We do not have access to information on deaths that occur outside Monaghan.

It is important to note that Monaghan County Council was commended by the LGERS Board as being among the top five in the country for having the least number of outstanding records relating to deceased electors (based on matches between iReg records and Death Events List data).

Cllr Seán Conlon will ask:

1. What is the status of the SEUPB application for enhancement works at the Walled Garden at Rossmore Park?

Response: The Heritage Cross Trails project which included the Rossmore Walled Garden Project was submitted to the Peace Plus Programme under measure 4.2 - Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion. Unfortunately, it was not successful in securing funding. Other sources of funding are being investigated for this project.

2. When is it anticipated that the N54 North Road / Glaslough Street pedestrian crossing road safety scheme will be installed?

Response: Construction to commence in March 26 and completed in May 26

3. Following my unanimously agreed proposal at the September MD sub-committee meeting, what progress has occurred in exploring the potential of re-introducing the left turn option at the bottom of Mill Street?

Response: The current location of the signalised pedestrian crossing was designed using a number of criteria. The two most significant criteria were the pedestrian desire lines and visibility. Giving that there are two lanes of traffic approaching from the Church Square and Dawson Street direction and the close proximity of the crossing point to Mill Street it is not considered safe to allow a permanent left turn off Mill Street.

The location of the existing crossing is compliant with design standards when it comes to vehicles having adequate stopping sight distance on approach to the crossing. For example, a vehicle entering the North Road via church square, immediately adjacent to the former Bank of Ireland would need clear visibility of the crossing point and queuing traffic. Relocating or removing the existing crossing will introduce additional risk and compromise the safety of both pedestrians and vehicle users as stated above.

4. Further to the Motion submitted by the Sinn Féin group last September regarding Waste Water Treatment Plant capacity issues at Clontibret and Knockatallon, currently categorised as status 'Red' which prohibits any additional housing connections, as well as in Monaghan Town, currently designated as 'Yellow' by Uisce Eireann, and considering the current accelerated growth of housing and commercial development throughout Monaghan Town, that this Council seeks clarification from Uisce Eireann

of its plans for expanding WWTP at these locations, a vital infrastructural requirement in facilitating development and population growth in Monaghan.

Correspondence to be directed to

customerservice@water.ie

operations@water.ie

newconnections@water.ie

Response: Letters will issue to those listed above.

5. What progress is occurring on the design and implementation of the Council – led Community Garden plans at Mullaghmatt where works will be undertaken, in partnership with Teach na nDaoine Family Resource Centre, National Learning Network, and Tidy Towns, and financed through the €116,837.00 Monaghan PEACEPLUS Community Action Plan?

Project Title	1.4 Community Garden - Mullaghmatt
Indicative Budget	€116,837.00
Participant no.	200
Project Description	Carry our works to existing pathways to enable wheelchair and pushchair accessibility. Existing pathways have loose gravel, which is not suitable for wheelchair access. Creation of new covered spaces which can be used in all weather conditions. Multi use workstations to be used for potting and planting. Design of a sensory garden and planting of an orchard.
Proposed Delivery Mechanism	Council-led working in partnership with Teach na Daoine Family Resource Centre, Local Learning Network, Tidy Towns.

Response: Meeting held on 1st December 2025 Peaceplus Co-ordinator to discuss the Community Garden at Mullaghmatt and the conditions of the funding. A separate meeting was held on 3rd December 2025 with Teach na nDaoine Family Resource Centre to discuss the project in more detail, and to discuss how the required engagement with a minimum of 200 participants.

A further meeting will be held with Global Action Plan in the coming weeks, following which a consultation process will commence with the stakeholders in advance of the design stage commencing.

It is planned to have the design completed in Q2 2026, and to go to construction in summer 2026 with construction works completed before the end of 2026. Teach na nDaoine Family Resource Centre have agreed to work with Monaghan Co Co to run the programmes following the completion of the project to ensure compliance with the funding requirements.

The entire project including the programme involving the 200 plus participants is to be completed by 2028 as per the conditions of the funding.

Cllr Niamh McCooey will ask:

1. Can Monaghan County Council confirm whether the provisions of playgrounds in Clontibret and Annyalla is being considered as part of the new Play and Recreation Strategy? These are the only two villages within the MD that currently do not have a public play park.

Response: The new Play & Recreation Strategy includes a mapping exercise which identifies areas of population which do not currently have access to a local playground.

It also includes as Actions the preparation of a full assessment of need of these areas, and the commencement of preparatory works such as local consultation with children on the design of any facility provided, so that the Council is in a strong position to avail of funding opportunities for the provision of play and recreation facilities as they become available.

2. Can Monaghan County Council provide an update on the replacement of the information sign at the Battle of Clontibret site, including timelines for installation?

Response: The Monaghan MD have been unsuccessful in obtaining an original proof of the graphics on the existing Battle of Clontibret sign. The existing sign is badly degraded and cannot be replicated by sign manufacturers. The Monaghan MD have commenced digitally replicating the sign so that it can be remanufactured.

3. Following the allocation made in 2025 for the safety scheme at N2 Castleshane / R213 junction, can Monaghan Council Confirm:
 - a. Whether TII has signed off on the feasibility and options reports, and
 - b. Whether funding has been allocated / applied for to complete safety works at this junction in 2026?

Response: The appointed Design Team for a solution to the slippage on the R213 at Castleshane village have completed the Preliminary Design Report which has been reviewed by both the Monaghan MD and Roads Section. Following this review the Design Team have progressed to detailed design on the preferred option. An application has been made to the Department of Transport's Climate Adaptation Fund for an allocation to allow these works to be constructed in 2026.

4. Can Monaghan County Council consider undertaking a comprehensive safety audit of all pedestrian crossing and ramps within Monaghan Town, to ensure they are appropriately marked, and highlighted for the safety of both pedestrians and road users?

Response: The Council will complete an assessment of all pedestrian crossing and ramps within Monaghan Town to ensure they are appropriately marked, and highlighted for the safety of both pedestrians and road users

5. The N2 Clontibret to Border Road scheme will sever the L54203 local road at Clonlonan/Dromore, Castleshane. This will cause disruption to local residents and farmers. Could an underpass/overbridge be considered at this location to avoid severing the local road, or to facilitate the movement of farm machinery and livestock.

Response: The L54203 is a Local Tertiary Road, and is proposed to be closed due to severance by the new N2. This will have an impact on farming activity and local travel patterns in the area. When the April 2025 'Initial Design' was published, feedback from stakeholders highlighted the impact of this road closure and the resulting requirement for long diversions, particularly for farming activities.

The project team then considered this feedback, and considered options to address severance caused by the closure of the local road, including the provision of a bridge at this location. A 7-day traffic count was undertaken, which showed low traffic volumes using the road. Agronomy reports for directly affected farm holdings were also further reviewed to reconsider the agricultural impacts caused by the severance (It is noted that one of the farm holdings impacted by this road closure and the N2 alignment is being provided with an underpass approximately 400m northwest of the local road).

Constructing a bridge at this position would also be costly and difficult due to site levels and design constraints. The project team consider that the provision of a public road bridge for the L54203 is not practical or warranted due to the low levels of traffic on the road. From an agricultural perspective, the impact on agricultural activities does not warrant the provision of a farm access bridge at this location either. From a project perspective it is not considered reasonable to provide a bridge. Through the CPO process, the impact of severance on individual land holdings may be considered within the compensation package.

In response to the feedback received to the 'Initial Design' and its impact on local traffic, a new 900m agricultural access road has been included in the 'Updated Design' published in November 2025. It links to L54203 and the R215, and aims to reduce the diversion length for agricultural movements. Stakeholders who attended the November/December Public Information Days again requested that a bridge be provided at this location, however the reasons that the project team have not included a bridge within the design proposals were explained to them.

Cllr Alan Johnston will ask:

1. Can the MD confirm how much has been spent to date on the N54 Tullybryan realignment project and a breakdown by cost centre

Response: From 2016 -2020 there was €381,932 spent on the Road Safety Improvement Scheme.

In 2020 it was classified a Minor Work scheme, to date €705,563 has been spent. Overall cost is expected to be €23m

2. How many requests have been submitted by An Garda Siochana to MCC for access to Monaghan Town CCTV and if possible a breakdown of the nature of the requests

Response: We have received 2 viewing requests and 20 download requests from An Garda Siochana for the Monaghan Town CCTV Scheme to date.

The nature of the requests received relate to the following offences:

burglary, road traffic accidents, vehicle theft, criminal damage, public disorder and assault.

3. Can the MD provide a project timeline to completion for the Ulster Canal Greenway from Monaghan to Smithboro

Response: It is expected the Phase 3 deliverables to be approved mid/end March, which is TII approval to proceed with Planning and CPO. It is programmed to publish the Part VIII Planning Application in April 2026, subject to TII approvals.

4. Can the MD provide an update as to the proposed automated traffic light management system that was to be reviewed from the Cathedral through to the traffic lights at Dunnes Stores

Response: An extensive traffic survey has just been completed for Monaghan Town, including the section of National Road between Old Cross Square and the Margaret Skinnader RaB. The results are currently being assessed and a report will be available in the coming weeks. Following this, a number of potential scenarios will be modelled and tested to determine their impacts on traffic flow and an optimum solution will be recommended.

5. Can the MD provide the current gritting routes for the MD

Response: The Monaghan County Council Winter Maintenance Plan and Treatment Routes are available on the Monaghan County Council website, see links below.

In regard to salting within the Monaghan town area, other than those covered by the programmed salting routes, this duty is managed locally by the Municipal District. These routes are not treated as part of the normal winter service but may receive intermittent treatment during certain severe weather events.

<https://monaghan.ie/roadtransport/salting-routes/>

<https://monaghan.ie/roadtransport/winter-maintenance/>

CLlr Pauric Clerkin will ask:

- 1 To ask Monaghan Municipal District to outline whether it will provide and install dedicated dog fouling bins in Ballinode Village, in light of ongoing issues with dog fouling, and to advise if an assessment has been carried out or is planned to identify suitable locations for such bins.

Response: To date, no assessment has been carried out in Ballinode Village in relation to dog foul bins, however Monaghan MD will discuss this with Ballinode Tidy Towns and to agree locations of bins where required. Additionally Monaghan MD will discuss this issue with the Environment Section of Monaghan Co Co and organise for the Dog Warden to attend Ballinode village. Monaghan MD will agree to install dog foul bins where required in Ballinode village, however do not empty the bins in Ballinode village. Bins in Ballinode Village are serviced by the Tidy Towns and Community Employment scheme.

- 2 To ask Monaghan Municipal District to clarify who holds responsibility for the emptying and maintenance of public litter bins in villages and towns across North Monaghan, and to outline the current arrangements in place, including whether this responsibility lies with the Council, a contractor, or another body.

Response: Monaghan Municipal District empty and maintain the public litter bins in Monaghan Town only. Monaghan Municipal District do supply and install public litter bins in the villages outside of Monaghan Town. Bins located in these villages outside of Monaghan Town are serviced and emptied by the various Tidy Towns and Community Employment schemes. Monaghan Municipal District do supply and install public litter bins in the villages outside of Monaghan Town.

- 3 To ask Monaghan Municipal District to confirm whether the piece of land located outside McCagues Bar in Scotstown, situated between the Knockatallon Road and the Roslea Road, is in the ownership of Monaghan County Council or in private ownership, and to advise accordingly.

Response: The green area located in front of McCagues Bar in Scotstown is believed to be in public ownership by Monaghan County Council. The road in front of McCagues Bar is a private road and is not owned or maintained by Monaghan County Council.

- 4 To ask Monaghan Municipal District to carry out, or to confirm if it has carried out, a comprehensive assessment of all public playgrounds in towns and villages across the MD, to ensure they are up to current standards and safe for public use, and to outline

any findings, remedial works required, and timelines for completion where issues are identified.

Response: Monaghan Municipal District carry out weekly inspections on all of the playgrounds under its control. Defects raised in these inspections are analysed by technical staff in Monaghan Municipal District who arrange to have the defects repaired either using in house staff or by external contractor depending on the defects. Yearly, these playgrounds are inspected by a ROSPA certified inspector. Again, any findings from these reports are completed in the same manor as above.

Individual defects receive a timeframe for completion based on a case by case basis depending on severity, risk, and likelihood of causing injury. These defects are completed within the given budget available for maintenance of playgrounds, or temporary repairs are completed. In some instances, items of equipment are taken out of service until such times that funding becomes available to allow for the necessary repairs.

- 5 To ask Monaghan Municipal District for an update on the Crosses Realignment project, which has gone over schedule, and to advise on the reasons for the delay and the revised timeline for completion of the works.

Response: The Low-Cost Safety Scheme at Crosses was surfaced before the Christmas break. A delay was experienced on the Project due to poor weather in November 2025. The installation of the vehicle restraint system (VRS) is due for installation during week of the 19th January. Remaining works, including lining, signage and landscaping are scheduled for completion by the mid of February 2026, subject to favourable weather.

Cllr Seán Conlon proposed that this Council write to all Irish MEP's seeking them to vote in favour of the proposal coming before the EU Parliament in the days ahead seeking to refer the matter of the Mercosur Trade Agreement to the European Court of Justice in the interests of Irish farming and public health.

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

In relation to the Ask for Angela campaign, Cllr R. Aughey confirmed he will bring this request before the next meeting of the Vintners Association on 10th February. Ms. P. Monahan confirmed Our Monaghan SAFER collaborative project is part of a new national initiative 'Building SAFER Communities' which is rolling out in 12 communities across Ireland, based on a WHO programme which aims to prevent and reduce alcohol related harms in the community. The initiative was launched in December 2025 and one of the first things to be implemented across the county is the Ask for Angela Campaign, linking in with the local bars and restaurants and Vintners' Association.

Speed Limit on N2 at Collegiate – Mr. Taylor confirmed that the National Speed Limit Review for N2 at the Collegiate was presented in December 2025. On the N2 at the Collegiate there is a current 80km/hr zone with a Periodic Speed Limit of 50km/hr for school times.

Motions

Cllr Alan Johnston, seconded by Cllr Pauric Clerkin:

That the MD write to the regional manager, ESB Networks, seeking answers as to why significant network outage and interruption is occurring in Monaghan town and surrounding areas, in particular on Friday 5th December affecting 729 customers and on Wednesday 31st December affecting 1,203 customers and confirm that the reasons for these outages have been satisfactorily resolved. Also, that the MD seek confirmation from ESB Networks what they are doing to ensure such large outages do not occur in the future

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

Cllr Alan Johnston, seconded by Cllr Pauric Clerkin:

That the MD write to the Garda Commissioner seeking additional Garda personnel for the District for the purposes of community patrols.

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

Cllr Pauric Clerkin, seconded by Cllr Raymond Aughey:

That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications Darragh O'Brien TD to urgently intervene and expedite the allocation of an Eircode to Ballinode Community Centre, which opened at the end of 2025 and remains without an Eircode despite applications to both An Post and Eircode/ Capita Business Support Services Ireland Limited.

The absence of an Eircode is preventing the Centre from securing essential services such as broadband and a telephone line, thereby restricting its ability to rent the facility to businesses and operate to its full potential. The Council requests that this matter be treated as a priority to support the viability and sustainability of this important community facility.

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

6. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

On the proposal of Cllr P. Clerkin, seconded by Cllr A. Johnston, and agreed by all to extend a vote of sympathy to Ms. Grainne McNamee and Ms. Teresa McGuirk following the death of Mr. Eddie McKenna (Hughie), Corrachor, Scotstown, Co. Monaghan

7. AOB

Regarding a motion raised at the new Local Community Safety Partnership, Ms. P. Monahan advised Members the contents of the motion have been noted and forwarded to the relevant staff; however, confirmation on the protocol on whether motions can be forwarded to the MD from the LCSP to be determined.

Members referred to an incident involving a school bus on a road in Ballinode, which had not been gritted, and asked that the roads listed on the gritting programme be revisited. Mr. M. Taylor advised that 610km are gritted; stating that financially it is impossible to cover all roads. Mr. Taylor confirmed road gritting routes are reviewed on an annual basis.

Members referred to having raised the possibility of a HGV ban on Dublin Street asking that we write to An Garda Siochana in relation to this; referring to a couple of recent incidents where vehicles have been damaged due to large lorries using this street. Mr. M. Taylor confirmed the MD have met with AGS in relation to this.

Regarding concerns over an increasing level of littering, Mr. M. Taylor asked Members to inform the staff if they become aware of litter blackspots.

Members also asked that we liaise with An Garda Siochana in relation to traffic / pedestrian safety and incidents of this nature around the town to help identify any blackspots that we may not be aware of. Mr. M. Taylor advised that there is a periodic road safety meeting with An Garda Siochana on pedestrian safety.

Regarding the re-location of the Hive of Knowledge, Members asked that this be brought before Members, again, at the February Meeting, in order to make a final decision on the relocation. Mr. M. Taylor confirmed a report will be prepared for the February meeting.

Members condemned the break in at The Village Brew as an attack on the community and appealed to the public to share any CCTV footage or any information on this incident with An Garda Siochana.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Municipal District Coordinator

Dated this _____ day of February 2026