

Minutes of the Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek Building, Armagh Rd, Knockaconny, Monaghan, on Monday 07th September 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr A. Campbell, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs Aughey, Carthy, Clerkin, P. Conlon, S. Conlon, Flynn, Gibbons, Johnston, Keelan, McAree, McCooey, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor and Truell.

Mr. R. Burns, Chief Executive, Ms. C O'Hare, Ms. O. McConnon, Mr. C. Flynn, Directors of Services, Ms. N. Payne, Mr. N. O'Connor, A/Director of Services, Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator and Ms. M. McMahon, Staff Officer.

MS Teams: Cllr Gilliland

Vote of Sympathy:

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. A. Campbell, referred to the sad passing of Cllr. Seamus Coyle on 17 August. He thanked his fellow councillors for their attendance at Cllr. Coyle's funeral and at the Special Council Meeting that was held on 19 August, at which members paid tribute to him. The Cathaoirleach stated that Cllr. Coyle would be remembered fondly by his colleagues as both a friend and a dedicated public representative and acknowledged his significant contribution to Monaghan County Council and to the wider community in Monaghan.

The Cathaoirleach also extended his sympathy to the McKenna family on the sad passing of former Fine Gael Councillor, Pat McKenna, on 28 August and invited Cllr. P. Clerkin to lead the tributes to the late former councillor.

Cllr. Clerkin stated that Pat McKenna was elected to Monaghan County Council in 1999 and that his election as a Fine Gael councillor in the North Monaghan area was a tremendous achievement. He noted that Pat was a proud family man who would be deeply missed by his wife, Sally, his daughters, Miriam and Barbara, his son, Peter, and his beloved grandchildren. In conclusion, Cllr. Clerkin stated that Pat McKenna's contribution to North Monaghan and to public life would be remembered with great respect.

The members associated themselves with the expressions of sympathy.

A minute's silence was observed by all present, following which the Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for a short period as a mark of respect.

Urgent Business

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

1. On behalf of the Fianna Fáil group:

'That this Council in light of the increased frequency of power outages across Ireland, particularly in Carrickmacross in recent weeks, Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Education and Youth, Ms. Hildegard Naughton, T.D., to provide funding for all schools to install backup generators to ensure educational resilience during future storm events and power outages.'

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

Following a short discussion, it was agreed to take the motion of urgent business at the end of the meeting.

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

1. Confirmation of Council Meeting Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council Meeting held on 06 July 2026

On the proposal of Cllr R. Truell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 06th July 2026, be confirmed.

(ii) Minutes of Special Meeting to consider the proposed Civic Offices on 20 July 2026

On the proposal of Cllr R. Aughey, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Special Meeting to consider the proposed Civic Offices on the 20th July 2026, be confirmed.

2. To consider Chief Executive's report on Material Contravention of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031 File Ref No. 26-6 - Rory McMahon, Cara Street, Clones.

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, outlined the proposed Material Contravention of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025- 2031, File Ref No. 26-6- Rory McMahon, Cara Street, Clones. Mr. Hughes advised that the application relates to the change of use of a commercial premises to residential accommodation at Cara Street, Clones. He noted that the proposal is consistent with the provisions of the Development Plan in all respects, with the exception of the site's commercial zoning. Notwithstanding this zoning designation, the proposed residential use is considered appropriate in this location. Mr. Hughes stated that the Planning Authority recommends proceeding with the material contravention of the Development Plan and that planning permission be granted.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Flynn, seconded by Cllr R. Truell, it was agreed to approve the proposed variation to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031 File Ref No. 26-6 - Rory McMahon, Cara Street, Clones, as detailed in the Chief Executive's report.

3. To consider the Chief Executive's Report prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) for Ballybay Old Health Centre

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, outlined the Part VIII Report circulated with the Agenda in respect of the proposed redevelopment of Ballybay Old Health Centre. He advised the members that the proposed development would comprise of the renovation of the existing former North Eastern Health Board Centre together with the construction of a new two-unit residential development consisting of a one-bedroom apartment and a three-bedroom apartment. Mr. Hughes noted that no submissions or objections were received during the statutory public consultation period and he recommended that members proceed with the proposal.

On the proposal Cllr S. Flynn, seconded by Cllr R. Truell, it was agreed to approve the redevelopment of Ballybay Old Health Centre and associated works, as detailed in the

Chief Executive's Report prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

4. To consider Section 183 - Exchange of Lands at Convent Avenue, Carrickmacross

Mr. C. Flynn, Director of Services, outlined the proposed S183 – Exchange of Lands at Convent Avenue, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan between St. Macartan's Diocesan Trust, CLG (Plot 1 – site area: 0.6 Hectares) and Monaghan County Council (Plot 2 – site area: 0.08 Hectares).

On the proposal of Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr P. Conlon, it was agreed that the Council approve the exchange of lands at Convent Avenue, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan between St. Macartan's Diocesan Trust CLG (Plot 1 – site area: 0.6 Hectares) and Monaghan County Council (Plot 2 – site area: 0.08 Hectares), in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 26th June 2026 and attached site location map in accordance with S183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

5. To approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €20m

Ms. O. McConnon, Director of Services, informed the members that it was necessary to have the approval of the Council for Overdraft Accommodation in the amount of €20m for the year 2027. Ms. McConnon noted that, in previous years, members had been requested to approve overdraft accommodation of €10 million. However, the amount had been increased to €20 million as a risk mitigation measure due to the expansion of the revenue budget and to support and safeguard the Council's extensive capital projects programme.

On the proposal of Cllr A. Johnston, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €20 million for the period 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2027.

6. To consider Monaghan County Council's Road Safety Plan

Mr A. Sullivan, Road Safety Officer, joined the meeting and provided members with an overview of Monaghan County Council's Road Safety Phase 2 Action Plan 2026-2027, which is the second action plan arising from the County Monaghan Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030. He advised that the Plan had been developed to support a coordinated multi-agency approach to road safety and is aligned with the Government's Road Safety Strategy and Vision Zero objectives. The Plan comprises primary and supporting actions, with the primary actions requiring collaboration between multiple stakeholders and the supporting actions designed to supplement and enhance these measures. He noted that the actions contained in the Plan are not the only road safety initiatives being undertaken, as partner organisations continue to implement a range of measures through their own programmes and objectives.

Mr. Sullivan responded to members' queries.

Mr N. O'Connor, A/Director of Services, noted that the Council is currently recruiting a dedicated Road Safety Engineer who will work directly with the Roads Section to progress and support the delivery of road safety measures across the county from an engineering perspective.

On the proposal of Cllr R. Aughey, seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council's Road Safety Plan, as presented, be approved.

7. To ratify the replacement of Paula Loughran, HSE Representative, on Monaghan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) with Linda McClean

On the proposal Cllr P. Gibbons, seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin, it was agreed that Ms. Linda McClean would replace Ms. Paula Loughran as the HSE representative on the Monaghan Local Community Development Committee.

8. To fix a date for Statutory Budget Meeting

It was agreed to hold the Statutory Budget meeting on Monday 23 November 2026 at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber.

9. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 25th August 2026.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr R. Truell, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 25th August 2026 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

10. To receive Management Report – July & August 2026

The Chief Executive introduced the Management Report for July & August 2026, which had been circulated with the agenda. He highlighted the strong level of community partnership demonstrated throughout the report and referred to the significant number of festivals and events that took place across the county during the summer months, many of which were supported through Council funding.

The Chief Executive acknowledged the excellent work being undertaken by the Lisdoonan Development Association, Ballinode Community Centre and the Ulster Canal Stores project and he wished them every success in the forthcoming Pride of Place Awards.

He also referred to the release of the first in a series of videos showcasing the support provided by Monaghan County Council to communities throughout the county. The first video focuses on Scotshouse and highlights the Scotshouse Community Plan as an excellent example of how a shared vision, strong local leadership and collaborative working can deliver lasting benefits for a community. He noted that, with Council support, over €1 million had been secured for projects in Scotshouse, that enrolment at the local school had increased, and that the village had progressed from having no childcare provision to establishing an after-school service and securing €750,000 for the development of a purpose-built childcare facility providing a full daycare service.

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

The members noted the Management Report for July & August which had been circulated with the agenda.

On the proposal of Cllr P.J. O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr R. Aughey, it was agreed that this Council write to Minister Darragh O’Brien requesting that he obtain a full briefing from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) on the status of the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme and provide a response directly back to the Council.

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

The members noted the reports from Cllrs Conlon and Treanor in relation to their attendance at the following Conferences/Training events:

- AILG Training – Communities in Transition – Hotel Minella, Clonmel – 22nd and 23rd April 2026.
- AILG Training Module 3 – Hotel Kilmore, Cavan – 21st May 2026
- AILG Training Module 4 – The Hodson Bay Hotel, Roscommon – 20th June 2026

12. Business Submitted by the Chief Executive

There were no matters for consideration under this item.

13. Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meetings held on 6 July and 20 July 2026

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 06th July 2026 and 20th July 2026.

14. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

No further update on the N2 National Primary Road.

15. To receive update on North South Interconnector Project

Correspondence:

The following correspondence relating to the North South Interconnector project was circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Letter from Meath County Council regarding the appointment of a dedicated coordinator in respect of the North South Interconnector Project.

In response to members’ queries, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner provided the following update:

- No further meetings have taken place between the planning authorities and ESB.
- ESB has made a number of submissions in relation to compliance matters, which continue to be assessed by the planning authorities. These submissions are significant in both scale and complexity.
- The coordinator will support a consistent approach across the three local authorities, including consistency in assessment, the avoidance of unnecessary duplication, and the orderly discharge of each authority’s statutory functions.
- The Senior Planners from each authority have met with the Coordinator on one occasion to date.
- The coordinator, together with planning officials and staff from the Roads and Environment Sections of the three local authorities, are scheduled to meet on 8 September 2026 to discuss, in general terms, approaches to the assessment process.
- Further meetings will be held as the assessment progresses; however, it is not possible to provide a timeframe for completion at this stage.
- Members will continue to be updated as appropriate, and minutes of meetings will be circulated when available.

16. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

No further update on the Ulster Canal project

17. Correspondence

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

- Response from the Private Secretary to Minister for Transport, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., requesting a meeting with the Minister to discuss additional funding needs.
- Response from the Private Secretary to Minister for Transport, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding roads funding.
- Response from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Health, Ms. Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, T.D., regarding hospital car parking charges.
- Response from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ms. Helen McEntee, T.D., regarding consular assistance.
- Response from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ms. Helen McEntee, T.D., regarding the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA).
- Response from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ms. Helen McEntee, T.D., regarding correspondence relating to Palestine.
- Response from the Private Secretary to the Minister of State, Mr. Kevin Moran, T.D., regarding the River Blackwater maintenance works.
- Response from the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment regarding the request that the Government review the current electricity pricing structure.
- Response from the Private Secretary to Ms. Norma Foley, T.D., Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, regarding the request for an update on the Errigal Truagh Special Needs extension project and a meeting request between the Minister, HSE and Errigal Truagh representatives.
- Response from the HSE, regarding the request for an update on the Errigal Truagh Special Needs extension project and a meeting request between the Minister, HSE and Errigal Truagh representatives.
- Response from the HSE regarding what measures are being taken to improve access to mental health services.
- Response from Director of Public Transport Services regarding the call for the urgent reintroduction of a telephone-based booking system to reserve seats on bus services.
- Acknowledgement from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. James Browne, T.D., regarding Affordable Housing.
- Resolution from Roscommon County Council regarding the Cost Rental Scheme.
- Resolution from Roscommon County Council regarding eligibility for CE Schemes.
- Resolution from Leitrim County Council regarding social housing.
- Resolution from Leitrim County Council regarding construction and infrastructure delivery.
- Resolution from Dublin City Council regarding upcoming UEFA League fixtures.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr C. Carthy, seconded by Cllr P. Gibbons, it was agreed that this Council rewrites to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland, Ms. Helen McEntee, T.D., regarding her response to our previous correspondence in relation to the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA), outlining our concerns that an Irish Government Minister is admitting that CETA's Investment Court System will affect the right of the State to legislate in the public's interest. This Council again calls on Government to reconsider future support of this Trade Agreement as it will tie the States' hands in future when it comes to legislating on behalf of the people of Ireland.

The Cathaoirleach put the proposal to the meeting – a vote by show of hands resulted in 10 For and 6 Against.

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McAree, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council rewrite to the HSE requesting current referral numbers and waiting times for YouThrive, CAMHS and adult mental health services in County Monaghan; Funded and filled staffing levels, including vacancies; Details of the crisis and out-of-hours support currently available; and any funded plans and delivery dates for expanding services and reducing waiting times.

On the proposal of Cllr N. McCooey, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection and Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Mr. Dara Calleary, T.D., to review the means testing and eligibility criteria for CE Schemes, with a view to widening access and making it easier for schemes to fill vacancies where suitable participants are available.

On the proposal of N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr S. Flynn, it was agreed that this Council renews our request to meet with Minister for Transport, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., to discuss current and future funding of; local and regional roads; the N2; Community Involvement Scheme (CIS); Low-Cost Safety Schemes (LCSS) and other associated roads funding and road safety matters.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Flynn, seconded by Cllr N. Keelan, it was agreed that this Council writes to the National Transport Authority expressing our complete disappointment with their response to our previous correspondence. Furthermore, this Council seeks clarification on what demand-responsive transport is available in County Monaghan and reiterates the call for the introduction of a telephone-based booking system to ensure public transport is accessible to everyone.

18. Notices of Motion

1. Cllr S. Flynn proposed, Cllr P. Gibbons seconded:

'That this Council writes to the Minister for Education and Youth, Ms. Hildegard Naughton T.D., the Minister of State with responsibility for Special Education and School Transport, Mr. Michael Moynihan T.D., and Ms. Siobhán Griffin, Regional Manager, Bus Éireann, calling on them to urgently review all school transport routes throughout County Monaghan and increase capacity where demand exceeds available places, for both eligible and concessionary ticket holders. We further call for the outdated nearest-school rule to be abolished without delay, so that families are not disadvantaged in accessing school transport because of their choice of school'.

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 S. Gilliland seconded:

'That this Council write to the Minister for Justice requesting the following:

- 1. That specific legislation be introduced of Endangerment of a Peace Officer (Gardai, Emergency & Fire personnel)*
- 2. That all frontline Gardai permitted to use Garda vehicles be trained up to a minimum level CBD2 covering roadcraft techniques and emergency response driving and that all dedicated roads policing Gardai be trained up to a minimum of level CBD3.*
- 3. That additional roads policing staff numbers be significantly increased, in particular in border counties*
- 4. That roads policing be provided with vehicles appropriate to dealing with the incidents they encounter, together with relevant technology, to carry out their functions of public safety*
- 5. That members of An Garda Siochana be indemnified and not held liable for incidents while carrying out their duties in good faith and with the intention of ensuring public safety'*

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

3. Cllr P. Clerkin proposed, Cllr R. Truell seconded:

'That this Council writes to the Minister for Education, Ms. Hildegard Naughton, and the Minister of State for Education and Youth, Mr. Michael Moynihan, calling for:

- Increased investment in the school transport system, including additional buses and routes, to meet the significant increase in demand.*
- The abolition of the requirement for children to attend their nearest national school in order to qualify for school transport, particularly where a child's additional needs mean that their nearest school may not be the most suitable educational setting.*
- Greater individual consideration of children with additional needs, recognising that the closest school may not always be the appropriate school for that child.*
- A review of the allocation of bus tickets to ensure that places are being used appropriately. Where tickets are only used occasionally, usage should be monitored and, where necessary, reasonable criteria introduced to prevent the school transport system being abused or scarce places being unnecessarily allocated.*
- An end to the current "lottery system" for school transport, particularly where one child in a family receives a ticket while a sibling attending the same school, from the same household, is left without transport.*
- Siblings attending the same school to be considered together when school transport places are allocated, wherever possible.*
- Greater flexibility in the rules for secondary school transport, particularly where children live within a couple of kilometres of several secondary schools.*
- Such cases to be considered on an individual basis, taking account of the schools available, existing transport routes, capacity and the individual circumstances of the child and family, rather than relying solely on rigid distance criteria.*
- A comprehensive review of the school transport scheme to ensure it operates in a fair, transparent and practical manner for children and families, particularly those living in rural communities'.*

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

4. Cllr R. Truell proposed, Cllr P. Conlon seconded:

‘That this Council calls on the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to significantly increase funding available through the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF), recognising the vital role these schemes play in protecting and preserving Ireland’s built heritage.

Following the recent celebration of Heritage Week, including events in various locations across our county, we have seen the importance of investment in our historic buildings and the role they play in connecting communities with their local history and heritage. Many historic structures across the county face significant challenges in terms of maintenance, conservation and the cost of necessary restoration works.

Funding through the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund provides essential support to local authorities, community groups, property owners and custodians of historic buildings, helping to ensure that these important structures can be preserved for future generations.

Furthermore, this Council therefore calls on the Minister and the Department to:

- 1. Increase the overall funding available under the BHIS and Historic Structures Fund.*
- 2. Provide greater levels of financial support for individual projects, recognising the increasing cost of conservation and restoration work.*
- 3. Recognise the wider social, cultural, tourism and community benefits that investment in built heritage provides.*

We have celebrated our heritage during Heritage Week and must ensure that we provide the investment needed to protect that heritage for the generations who come after us’.

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

5. Cllr B. McAree proposed, Cllr S. Flynn seconded:

‘That this Council calls on the Minister for Health and the HSE to clarify why Cavan Monaghan General Hospital does not have the same level of emergency mental-health and consultation-liaison psychiatry services as Sligo University Hospital, despite both being classified as Model 3 hospitals; and to provide parity of service at Cavan Monaghan General Hospital, including a properly staffed seven-day liaison service, appropriate out-of-hours cover and a dedicated space for assessing people experiencing a mental-health crisis in the Emergency Department’.

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

19. Questions and Replies

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

- 1. What is the latest update on the Carrickmacross Swimming Pool project? Has a design team been identified and when will engagement begin between them and Councillors begin?**

Reply: The pre-appointment meeting has been held with the proposed Design Team, Kennedy Firzgerald Architects. Monaghan County Council currently await the submission of the required insurances from each Design Consultant. Subject to satisfactory submission of insurances it is hoped to appoint the Design Team will be appointed in September. Arrangements for the engagement with the Elected Members will be made following appointment of the Design Team.

- 2. What is the expected delivery of social housing units for the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD area between now and the end of 2026; will you give a breakdown of size and location?**

Reply: Monaghan County Council projects the delivery of 57 new social housing units within the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District in 2026 & 2027. Details of the proposed developments, including the number of units, locations, and delivery breakdown, are set out in the table below. The breakdown of size of units to be completed is 1 or 2-bedrooms 60% and 3 bedrooms 40%. There are a small number of projects that face delays, which could impact delivery for 2026.

Project Name	Scheme		Units	Delivery Date	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
House Acquisitions (Cby/Cmx MD)	LA Acquisitions	MCC	1	Ongoing		1	
Sean Ghairdini, Carrickmacross	Affordable Purchase Housing	MCC	10	9 Complete, 1 Ongoing	4	6	
Gleann Droimnin, Carrickmacross	Part V	MCC	2	Q3 2026	2		
Connabury (Eachlann an Locha), Castleblayney	Partnership Development Agreement	MCC	6	Q4 2026	6		
Radharc an Bhri, Castleblayney (Age Friendly)	CAS Turnkey	AHB	9	Q4 2026/Q1 2027	8	1	
Church Heath, Castleblayney	Part V	MCC	3	Q4 2026/Q1 2027		3	
Connabury (Gort an Choinicear) Castleblayney	Partnership Development Agreement	MCC	26	Q4 2027	14	12	
	PROJECTED TOTAL:		57				

Monaghan County Council will continue to take a proactive approach to the advancement of housing projects throughout Carrickmacross-Castleblayney with the objective of meeting the existing and future housing needs of the Municipal District.

3. *How many outstanding roads complaints (re: repair list) remain on our maintenance lists and can you give a breakdown of MD's?*

Replies:

BBY-CLS MD - There are currently 272 issues open on our maintenance list/Defects App.

Ballybay-Clones MD	
Outstanding Road Complaints at 01/09/26	
Category	
Overgrown Trees & Hedges	22
Potholes	56
Private Drainage	53
Public Drainage	37
Damaged Signage	28
Defective Iron Works	2
Miscellaneous	74
Total	272

CBY-CMX MD:

There are currently 197 outstanding items on the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD essential repairs and maintenance schedule, categorised as follows:

- 43 for pavement repairs/potholes
- 42 for drainage
- 5 for road markings
- 24 for overgrown trees and hedgerows
- 83 miscellaneous complaints (e.g., bridges, signage, and weight restrictions)

Monaghan MD:

As of 2nd September 2026, there are currently 19 open road complaints on the maintenance lists within the Monaghan MD.

4. ***Does the executive have any update on the unfinished estate (Clos na Droimaine), Carrickmacross; specifically, the apartment block which has had scaffolding surrounding it for a number of months?***

Reply:

For the purposes of addressing the issues associated with the Clos na Droimaine unfinished estate in Carrickmacross, under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (as amended), it has been divided into 4 sections.

On 18th July 2025, each of these sections were entered onto the Derelict Sites Register. Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register, are liable for the Derelict Sites levy of 7% of the market valuation. The demand for the Derelict Sites levies due in respect of this site, €216,650, were issued in February 2026. This amount remains outstanding.

The Council understands that the houses located on the Adree Road have been advertised for sale. We are awaiting copies of Architects certificates for substantial completion for these properties to confirm that all required construction works have been completed.

The Developer has explored the option of availing of the Repair and Lease scheme to complete the derelict apartment block. The Repair and Lease proposal to bring the 12 unfinished houses into use was considered in detail by the Housing Agency, North and East Housing Association (NEHA) and Monaghan County Council. Unfortunately, the Repair and Lease proposal is not financially viable for either NEHA or Monaghan County Council.

On 26 May 2026, the Council issued a Section 15 notice (Notice to compulsorily acquire) in respect of the unfinished apartment block. Following receipt of 2 objections to this notice, the Council has referred the matter to An Coimisiún Pleanála for review. A decision from An Coimisiún Pleanála is not expected until January 2027.

CLlr P. Gibbons asked:

5. ***Can the names of all estates in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD not taken in charge yet be provided along with a list of works outstanding in each?***

Reply:

There are 28 residential developments in the Carrickmacross / Castleblayney Municipal District area that have not been taken in charge. These are detailed in the table below. Of these, 8 are the subject of current taking in charge applications. Commentary on the status of each application and the identified defects has been included in the table.

	Town/Village	Name of Estate Not Taken In Charge	Comments
1	Carrickmacross	Ascaill Rois	
2		Carraig Brooke	
3		Coill an Ri	
4		Cúirt Droim Ard	

5		Drummond Etra	
6		Drummond Ross/Clós na Droimainne	
7		Gleann Droimnín	
8		Sean Carraig	The outstanding work relates to trip/fall hazards, signage, traffic calming measures, and storm water drainage. There is ongoing consultation with the developer to resolve the issues.
9		Sean Ghairdíní	
10		The Bridge	
11		Tobair Na Carraig	
12	Castleblaney	Ashview Court	
13		Blaeberry Walk	This development remains under consideration by Uisce Eireann , and water service defects have not yet been identified. Other outstanding works relate to road markings, trip/fall hazards, open space and safety fencing.
14		Bramley Crescent	Uisce Eireann has raised concerns in relation to water infrastructure wayleaves. The Municipal District is reviewing the remaining services, and additional defects may subsequently be identified.
15		Bramley Grove	
16		Coill Darach Phase 2	Uisce Eireann has raised concerns in relation to water infrastructure wayleaves over private property. The Municipal District is reviewing the remaining services, and additional defects may subsequently be identified. Other outstanding works relate to public lighting poles and micropillars.
17		Castle Park	
18		Church Heath	
19		Conabury Close/Conabury View	
20		Conabury Hill	Uisce Eireann has identified defects relating to the foul sewerage network. The Municipal District has identified defects relating to sight lines, storm water network, and the maintenance of open spaces.
21		Crescent Hill	Remedial works have been identified in a Site Resolution Plan (dated June 2026) currently being assessed by Uisce Eireann and Monaghan County Council , with total estimated costs of €28,558
22		Elm Brook	
23		Killycard Manor	
24		Laurel Hill Place	
25		Radharc an Bhri	The Planning Department and Municipal District Engineer notes that the construction work is ongoing and the TIC application will be determined when the work is complete.
26	Corduff	Sliabh Dubh (DPI)	This development is on a list of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPIs) in County Monaghan from the 2025 DHLGH / Local Authority National Survey of DPIs. It is being reviewed by the Uisce Eireann team overseeing the 'UÉ DPI Resolution Programme' where remediation and resolution of DPI infrastructure is being prioritised.
27	Lisdoonan	Forth View	
28	Oram	Sruth an Luir	

6. ***In the area of rates delinquency in the retail sector in County Monaghan, are there any sectors of shop, or outlets selling particular products that are overrepresented in this cohort?***

Reply: An analysis of the Commercial Rates arrears shows that:

- All Retail sectors are represented in this cohort.
- Some high-value arrears accounts are long-standing arrears. These include retail and industrial businesses

7. ***Can an overview be given on upcoming social, cost rental and affordable housing provision in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD?***

Reply: Housing Section is actively seeking new Cost Rental and Affordable Housing opportunities throughout the county. We are maintaining ongoing engagement with developers regarding the future delivery of such schemes and will continue to explore and pursue all viable opportunities.

8. ***In light of the development recently of serious algal bloom on Lough Muckno can an overview of water quality in the lake be provided? In addition, can causes of this problem and possible remedial action to help ensure there is no reoccurrence of this issue be provided also?***

Reply: Lough Muckno has been assigned a “Moderate” Water Framework Directive Status (2019-2024). Elevated nutrients particularly phosphorus is a significant issue impacting on this status. Monitoring undertaken in 2023 as part of the Lough Muckno Road to Recovery project identified that there were excess loads of phosphorus entering the lake from tributaries and confirmed that there is a build-up of phosphorus in the lake sediment. The study indicated that even after the external loads of phosphorus in the tributaries have been reduced sufficiently, the phosphorus in the lake sediment may continue to influence water quality and that it could take a minimum period of 12 years to see improvements in water quality. Algal blooms can develop on lakes particularly during periods of calm and warm weather. The underlying cause of algal blooms is mainly due to nutrient enrichment in the lake which combined with calm warm conditions can trigger excessive growth of algae. Given the phosphorus issues that exist in the lake it is likely that we will continue to experience algal blooms particularly during prolonged periods of calm warm conditions. While the recent algal bloom is a cause for concern, it reflects the nutrient pressures within the catchment. The Lough Muckno and Fane catchment have been identified as a Priority Area for Action in Ireland's Water Action Plan (2022-2027). Environmental Services are working alongside other implementing bodies to implement a range of actions to reduce nutrient inputs and support the improvement of Lough Muckno's water quality. Warning signs in relation to the current algal bloom have been put up on site and online at www.beaches.ie. In addition to WFD monitoring programme, Environmental Services staff monitor locations that are frequently used for bathing as part of its non-designated bathing water monitoring programme. The samples that are taken are assessed for compliance with the water quality standards specified in the 2008 Bathing Water Regulations, using the two microbiological parameters, Intestinal enterococci and Escherichia coli (e-coli). Monthly samples are taken during the bathing water season which runs from June to September each year. Lough Muckno is monitored at 3 locations as part of this non designated bathing water monitoring programme,

- 1) Lough Muckno bathing area,
- 2) Lough Muckno Water Sports Area and
- 3) Lough Muckno Black Island Point

In recent years the bathing water quality at Location 1. Lough Muckno bathing area has consistently been *Poor* and was classified by the EPA as “Below the Minimum Standard” for the 2022-2025 monitoring period. A do not swim notice is currently in place at this location due to the poor bacterial results and this notice will remain in place until the quality meets the required standard. The presence of a large number of ducks at this location is thought to be having an influence on water quality. Location 2. Lough Muckno Water Sports Area was given a likely classification from the EPA of “Highest Quality” for the 2022-2025 monitoring period. Location 3. Black Island Point has not yet received a classification as monitoring only commenced at this location in 2023. At least 16 samples are needed for the EPA to assign a likely classification, it is hoped to get a classification at this location next year. Individual sample results at locations 2 & 3 have been generally good/excellent, with the exception of one exceedance at each of these locations in 2025. It should be noted that the monitoring carried out as part of the non-designated bathing water programme is aimed at providing an overall assessment of water quality and there is no absolute guarantee that on the day that an individual chooses to bathe at one of these locations that there may not be an issue with water quality. Water quality can vary significantly during the day, and from day to day, due e.g. to the influences of rain or sunshine and the number of bathers using the water at any time. Bathing water quality is however at its most vulnerable after heavy rainfall, or in stormy conditions, which may give rise to higher bacterial counts than normal.

9. ***I have been advised of several incidents where boats were damaged, and swimmers hurt due to low water levels in Lough Muckno revealing previously hidden rocks near the water surface. Has Monaghan***

County Council a role in maintaining safety on the water and if so, can an overview of responsibilities and actions be provided?

Reply: Monaghan County Council plays an active role in managing the shoreline infrastructure, public slipways, and the surrounding Lough Muckno Park. The Council is responsible for public safety signage at access points, managing visitor usage via local bye-laws, and monitoring bathing water quality through the Environment Section. Additionally, the Monaghan Civil Defence Boat Unit trains regularly on Lough Muckno and deploys at the request of An Garda Síochána to assist in water-based emergencies, search and recovery operations, or safety monitoring during specific events. Water Safety Ireland (WSI), the national statutory body for water safety education and awareness, collaborates with local authorities to promote guidelines on identifying hazards, using lifejackets, and respecting changing water conditions. Under Irish maritime guidelines, the primary responsibility for safe navigation and assessing water depth lies with the vessel operator or the individual entering the water.

Cllr. S. Flynn asked:

- 10. *Following my proposal in 2025, where I requested that Monaghan County Council work with the Local Enterprise Office, Town Teams, hospitality businesses and other relevant organisations to roll out the 'Ask for Angela' initiative across County Monaghan, can the Executive provide an update on the progress made to date and confirm whether this important safety and awareness initiative will be fully rolled out across the county in advance of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in 2026?***

Reply: In County Monaghan, a committee was established to explore options for the roll out of the 'Ask For Angela' campaign. Following extensive consultation on what the best options were for County Monaghan which included discussions with other Local Authorities, Monaghan chose to progress with Safe Gigs initiative. Safe Gigs is an awareness and advocacy initiative dedicated to making live music events, pubs, clubs, and festivals safer and more inclusive by establishing a zero-tolerance environment for sexual violence, harassment, and discrimination. Safe Gigs carry out a comprehensive audit of public bar premises to assess what is already in place and what could be better. It is more in-depth than the Ask for Angela campaign but that's not to say that Ask for Angela couldn't be incorporated into it. Safe Gigs is more a charter to sign up to which would include zero violence, training, policies and procedures for staff and implementing an anti-spiking campaign and awareness raising. Cllr Raymond Aughey has agreed to organise a meeting with local publicans for the committee to attend within the next fortnight. Monaghan Town will be the pilot for this initiative.

- 11. *(i) Can the Executive provide an update on when the proposed traffic-calming measures will be installed in Doohamlet, and outline what measure are proposed, given the continued serious speeding incidents along the R183 through the village? (ii) Also, can MCC outline what additional measures will be considered to address ongoing speeding concerns in Smithboro village along the N54, and confirm whether further traffic-calming and speed-reduction measures can be progressed as a matter of urgency?***

Reply: (i) Funding has been received for the installation of traffic calming measures in Doohamlet under the Low-Cost Safety Scheme this works will commence later this month.

(ii) The roads section are in discussion with the Regional Road Safety section of TII, they are aware of the concerns raised by the elected members of Monaghan County Council. We have proposed to carry out the following measures in Smithborough village.

- A video survey to be undertaken to establish the existing movements of both pedestrians, vulnerable road users and the traffic along the N54. With this information we can present both pedestrian and traffic movements, along with speed detection.
- Also, a Vehicle Actuated Sign is currently in position on the eastern side of the village, it is proposed to relocate it closer to the pedestrian crossing (Clones side),
- The office is currently in discussions with the TII Regional Road Safety Section. A Feasibility and Options Report will be prepared once the video survey has been completed, allowing the survey results and associated information to be incorporated into the report.

- 12. *As Chairperson of Monaghan Women's Assembly, can the Executive provide an update on the safety audits previously carried out in each Municipal District, outlining the recommendations and safety measures identified, what has been implemented to date and what remains outstanding? Can a full progress report also be provided to the Monaghan Women's Assembly, as we continue to identify any areas of concern and opportunities for further measures to enhance safety and wellbeing for women and girls across our towns and communities?***

Replies:

Monaghan MD

A walkability audit was carried out in Monaghan town earlier this year. The target group for this audit was older people; however, some elements are likely to overlap with safety. An audit report is being prepared for presentation to Monaghan MD. On completion of this detailed audit and report, areas requiring addressing will be identified, and elements of these will be incorporated into our ongoing maintenance schedule for Monaghan Town. Larger items may require specific funding applications in order to complete, or can be completed by incorporating into larger projects if they overlap an area. Previously, separate walkability surveys were completed by groups in previous years looking at walking through Monaghan town at night. Problematic areas identified in this survey have been addressed by installing additional street lighting at various locations identified in this audit.

Ballybay Clones MD

Items outlined in the audit report has been of incorporated into our ongoing maintenance schedule for both Ballybay and Clones Towns. An example of same has been the upgrading of the public lighting on Fermanagh St Clones. There are other elements identified that require specific funding application and will in included in relevant funding applications going forward.

Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD

The Disability Network organised a walkability audit of Castleblayney town which was held in June. The primary focus of this audit was on access for persons with a disability/mobility issue and how they can make their way through the town on footpaths, pedestrian crossings. The findings of this audit will be presented to the MD in September/October.

Women's Safety Audits were carried out in both Carrickmacross and Castleblayney in October 2024. The main concerns identified included poor lighting levels, uneven footways, and overgrowth impacting clear passage along some footways. The MD subsequently carried out extensive enhancements to the public lighting along Main Street and West Street, Castleblayney, in late October 2025, while similar enhancements to the public lighting along Main Street, Carrickmacross, were completed in February 2026. The remaining issues identified continue to be addressed through our annual maintenance programmes and, depending on scale, are included under broader funding applications, such as the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

- 13. *Following ratification of the Part VIII process on industrial zones lands opposite Combilift at the Annahagh roundabout at the July meeting, what progress has occurred in signing contracts for purchase by businesses who have previously committed to developing industrial units at the 9 hectares of land at this location?***

Reply:

Part 8 Planning for the Annahagh Industrial Lands was approved at the July Meeting. The next project stage includes the preparation of contract documents to construct the access, roads, footpaths and utility services to the site. Monaghan County Council will engage with the shortlisted 'Expressors of Interest' in Quarter 3 to reaffirm their commitment to acquisition. It is likely that Section 183 will not be progressed until such time as each business has secured their respective Planning consents.

Also, considering that development at these lands has substantially reduced the Council's zoned land bank for industrial and commercial purposes, are the Executive actively pursuing lands for the purpose of establishing additional serviced sites that will attract investors, and employment opportunities, to the Monaghan town area?

Reply:

The availability of zoned industrial lands on the market is currently limited. Monaghan County Council are active in this regard.

- 14. *What progress has occurred in relation to operations at the BioConnect food research facility at Tullyherim?***

Reply:

The Certificate of Substantial Completion for the BioConnect facility issued on Friday 31st July. Substantial completion marks the end of the construction contract, apart from, the 12 months engaging period. Operations have commenced off-site. BioConnect currently employ three staff. It will be some months yet before BioConnect finish the lab fitout, procure specialist lab equipment etc. and start operations from the facility.

- 15. *With Phase 1 of the Rooskey Lands Access Road and Active Travel Links Project on formerly owned HSE land and beside Monaghan Harps nearing completion, are plans in place, and requisite funding streams being sought, to continue this roads scheme which is a key component of the Rooskey Masterplan, and that will open up housing development opportunities?***

Reply:

Monaghan County Council applied to the Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund (HIIF) for funding to

complete the road and active travel links. Funding has now been approved for the remainder of the road and active travel links required to open housing development opportunities. A change order has been agreed under the contract with the original contractor employed for Phase 1 of the “Rooskey Land Access Road and Active Travel Links Project” to allow the continuation of the road and active travel links required to open up housing development opportunities. Subject to final approval from the Housing Activation Office to proceed it is intended that the road and active travel links required to open up housing development opportunities will proceed in Quarter 4 of 2026 and be completed in 2027.

Clr R. Truell asked:

16. ***Can Monaghan County Council provide an update on the progress of the 2026 Roads Programme, including which roads have been completed, are currently underway, or are still awaiting works.? Given the ongoing condition of many roads across the county, can the Council also advise if there is any scope for additional roads to be added to the 2026 programme, should further funding become available or savings arise within the current programme and also can the council advise if additional funding is being sought from the Department of Transport to allow further road improvement works for 2026?***

Reply:

Substantial progress has been made on the 2026 Roads Programme, with a significant number of road improvement schemes already completed across the county.

The following schemes represent the remaining elements of the 2026 programme that are either due to commence or are currently scheduled for completion in the next few months.

Schemes Remaining to be Completed:

Contract 1 - McQuillan (Contracts) Ltd

- L1632 High Street / Hospital Hill - Commencing
- L8622 Inniskeen
- R927 Inver College, Carrickmacross
- R-162-1 Glen Road (Night Works)
- L4930/L4931 Mullinary, Carrickmacross (Night Works)
- L4102 Lisdoonan (Day Works)
- R179 Kingscourt Road, Carrickmacross (Night Works)
- LT-31014 Access Road to Primary Care Centre, Ballybay (Day Works)

Contract 2 - TH Moores (Contracts) Ltd

- L8001 Bawn
- L40431 Tooa, Shantonagh
- L62801 Knocks, Scotshouse
- L51523 Glenmore

Monaghan County Council continues to engage with the Department of Transport and monitor funding opportunities for road improvement works. The addition of further roads to the 2026 Roads Programme remains dependent on the availability of supplementary funding allocations and any savings realised through the delivery of the current programme. Should additional resources become available, the Council will work in collaboration with each Municipal District to identify and progress additional road restoration and maintenance schemes.

17. ***Can Monaghan County Council provide an update on the proposals for the development of sensory gardens at Ballybay Town Park and Seamus McCabe Play Park in Clones? Could the Council also advise if funding has been identified or applied for and whether there is an expected timeframe for progressing these projects? Reply:***

At present there are no proposals for the development of sensory gardens at both play parks.

18. ***a) Can Monaghan County Council provide an update on the derelict properties within Newbliss village, (Main Street Newbliss and Lower Main Street Newbliss) including any properties currently under consideration for action by the Council under the Derelict Sites legislation?***

b) Can the council also provide an update on the old Garda Station in Newbliss, which was acquired by the Council, including the current plans for the property and the expected timeframe for any proposed works or redevelopment?

Reply:

- a) The Town Regeneration section has engaged with 9.no properties in Newbliss village. 4.no sites have now been compulsorily acquired/purchased by agreement, by the council: -
- Main Street, Newbliss H18 XR81. Housing section have taken ownership of this building and are proposing to construct a new three-unit residential development
 - Former Garda Station, Scotshouse road, Newbliss. Housing section have taken ownership of this building. Design for building complete, awaiting department funding approval
 - Site at Lower Main Street, Newbliss H18 KH59. Clones/Ballybay MD have taken ownership of this site and are proposing to repurpose for community use. (Subject to funding)
 - Lower Main Street, Newbliss. H18 TE80. Property has been sold to developer.

The other sites engaged with are:

- Lower Main Street, Newbliss H18 FK52. Vacant homes grant applied for, Addition information requested
 - Lower Main Street, Newbliss H18 W932. Vacant homes grant approved in principle 16/07/25
 - Main Street, Newbliss, Co. Monaghan, H18 D638. Vacant homes grant paid out for renovation works
 - Main Street, Newbliss, Co. Monaghan, H18 FT93. Owner discussing grant options with VHO
 - Main Street, Newbliss, Co. Monaghan, Folio: MN27267F. Owner discussing grant options with VHO
- Follow up inspections are scheduled for September to assess if programmed works have been completed.

b) The former Garda Station in Newbliss was acquired by Monaghan County Council with the objective of examining its potential for residential and community regeneration purposes. A proposal to refurbish and adapt the building for social housing was developed and submitted to the Department for consideration. Following engagement with the Department, concerns were raised regarding the estimated cost of the proposed refurbishment works and the overall value for money of the scheme. As a result, the Council is currently reviewing a number of potential options for the future use of the property. These options include a revised housing proposal, alternative redevelopment approaches, or other potential uses for the site. As the review process is ongoing, it is not possible at this stage to provide a definitive timeframe for works or redevelopment. Once a preferred option has been agreed and any necessary approvals secured, a programme for delivery will be established and communicated.

19. *Can Monaghan County Council provide an update on the old Leonard Arms hotel development in Clones Town?*

Reply: A detailed construction design team and a detailed design space exhibition team have been appointed and designs are nearing completion. Designs will be forwarded to the Department for approval to go to tender in the coming weeks.

CLlr N. Keelan asked:

20. *How much funding was taken in from commercial rates last year 2025? What was the percentage collected? What was the percentage written off? How many of these commercial businesses are trading as Phone shops/Vape Shops & Barbers shops across the County?*

Reply:

Rates Collected €15,432,070

Opening Arrears €1,931,369

Commercial Rates Accrued €17,034,378

% collected - 81%

% Written Off - 9%

A breakdown of phone shops and vape shops is unknown as Tailte Eireann categorise all as retail.

21. *In welcoming the progress being made on Village & Community plans across the county, when is it hoped to have the Village plan for Inniskeen completed?*

Reply: The Inniskeen Community Vision and Spatial Land Use Plan is currently being prepared by Studio Idir Ltd in partnership with Monaghan County Council. Public consultation has commenced and the project is currently progressing through the various stages of information gathering, analysis, community engagement, and plan preparation. Subject to the completion of the remaining stages of the process, it is anticipated that the Plan will be finalised before the end of 2026, with a Variation to the Monaghan County Development Plan proposed for 2027.

22. What progress if any has been made in relation to progressing the proposed pedestrian and Cycle bridge project at the River Fane in Inniskeen Village centre?

Reply: Monaghan County Council acknowledges the potential benefit of a pedestrian and cycle bridge at the River Fane in Inniskeen in terms of improving local connectivity, supporting active travel, and enhancing accessibility within the village centre. However, the Active Travel Section of the Roads Department is funded solely through allocations provided by the National Transport Authority (NTA). The NTA has advised, as recently as 31st August, that funding is not currently available for the provision of a dedicated pedestrian and cycle bridge at the proposed location. As a result, no further progress has been made on advancing the project since the previous update. Monaghan County Council will continue to monitor future funding opportunities and will consider the progression of the bridge project should a suitable funding stream become available. Any future consideration of the project will also be informed by the wider planning and development objectives for Inniskeen Village and the prioritisation of infrastructure projects across the county.

23. What is the up-to-date position in relation the various housing grant aids available, including Housing Aids for older people, Mobility Aids, Housing Adaptation etc in terms of funding available and extra funding applied for, the backlog from 2025, and when is it hoped to re-open these very important schemes for applications?

Reply: Monaghan County Council received a total grant allocation of **€2,488,816** under the **Older Persons and Disabled Persons Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for 2026**. This funding includes a contribution of **€373,322 (15%)** from Monaghan County Council.

Funding Source	Amount
Department Allocation	€2,115,494
Monaghan County Council Match Funding	€373,322
Total Funding Available	€2,488,816

Monaghan County Council continues to monitor and review both the operation of the scheme and the available budget allocation throughout the year.

The scheme remains open for applications relating to **Priority 1 medical cases**, which will continue to be assessed and processed in accordance with the scheme criteria.

24. What is the up-to-date position in relation to taken-in-charge of the Sliabh Dubh estate at Corduff? Is it still the case that Uisce Éireann is the impediment to progressing this issue?

Reply: This development includes Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) and it remains under consideration by Uisce Eireann's team tasked with the delivery of the 'UÉ DPI Resolution Programme'.

Cllr A. Campbell asked:

25. With regard to the recent and ongoing consultations around the Master Plan for Lough Muckno and Hope Castle.

a) What has the results of the latest public consultation?

Reply: The consultation in June consisted of a facilitated workshop, attended by 9 different stakeholder groups, a community walk-in event brought 102 persons to the Gate Lodge to view the project display boards and to interact with the consultant team, 192 responses were received to the online community survey, along with 2 written submissions. This represented a strong level of public interest and engagement in the future of Lough Muckno and its environs.

b) What has these results informed Monaghan County Council as to the next round of work on this plan?

Reply: There has been an overwhelmingly positive response to the project proposals, including:

- Natural heritage/biodiversity and water quality should take precedence over other themes
- Strong consensus that Hope Castle should be refurbished and treated as a 'priority project'
- Improved visitor facilities and recreational opportunities, and visitor accommodation through a range of options.

Many very constructive observations and comments were provided in the feedback which will be assessed against the project proposals to inform the drafting of the Masterplan.

c) What and when is the next part of this consultation process?

Reply: It is intended that the results of the consultation process will be presented to the Municipal District Members at their October meeting and to then publish the report. The consultant team are continuing to progress the preparation of the draft Master plan.

d) Can Monaghan County Council start work to take down the fencing around the Hope Castle which portrays a very poor image?

Reply: Municipal District staff will continue their efforts to maintain and keep tidy the area. To help ensure public safety and building security, the fencing surrounding Hope Castle will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

26. What is the update with Monaghan County Councils "Road to recovery" process for enhancing the water quality of Lough Muckno?

Reply: Environmental Services are continuing to work to improve water quality in the Muckno catchment area. Catchment characterisation and inspections are ongoing in the County Water River, Gentle Owens River and Fane_10 Catchment areas. Our work to date on the Lough Muckno Road to Recovery project has highlighted the County Water and Gentle Owens Catchment areas as the catchment areas contributing the most significant pollutant loadings to Lough Muckno. By targeting the areas and the activities causing the biggest impacts, we hope to support the long-term recovery and improvement of the lake's water quality.

Farm inspection work makes up a significant portion of our water quality work in Environmental Services. "*Pressures from Agriculture (Farmyards) - slurry/soiled water collection and storage*" and "*Pressures from Agriculture (Farmland) - slurry and fertiliser spreading*" are two National Enforcement Priority areas as directed by the EPA on which Local Authorities must allocate significant time and resource to. Alongside this, Environmental Services continue to implement the EPA River and Lake Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme, respond to and investigate pollution complaints and incidents and implement our discharge licence monitoring programme within the catchment area and across County Monaghan. Monaghan County Council are an associate partner on the PEACE 5.3 plus Project titled "Protecting Shared Waters" (PSW). In recent weeks, Environmental Services have supported the project team with the selection of demo farms to be used for knowledge exchange purposes in the Lough Muckno /Upper Fane catchment area. An ECO programme which has been developed by the PSW project is due to commence on the 5th of September 2026. The ECO programme will run in the River Fane Catchment and as it is a cross-border catchment it is open to participants from Northern Ireland and Ireland. The free 14-week ECO (Educational Community Outreach) Programme is now open for anyone with an interest in improving and protecting their local water environment including community groups, anglers, recreational users, farmers, and landowners. More information on how people can get involved is available online at <https://monaghan.ie/environment/events/>

27. What is the latest update on the proposed works on the upgrade of the N2?

Reply:

N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme: Background work continues to finalise the design, develop the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and the business case.

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme: Given the scale and nature of design standard and appraisal changes that have arisen during the 3 years since the project was suspended, Monaghan County Council is examining procurement rules, value for money and alternative options for completion of the Phase 3 design.

28. What is the latest update with the ongoing planning being carried out by Monaghan County Council to upgrade the Ballynacarry bridge on the N53?

Reply:

Part 8 Planning Consent obtained at MCC March meeting, for the section of the project located in the ROI. NI Planning section have circulated the planning documents to their statutory consultees, for the section of project located in NI. Further information has been requested from Dept for Infrastructure Roads & Rivers agency and the Historic Environmental Division to date. Responses to these requests is currently being prepared by MCC. Supplementary environmental site surveys were carried out in July at the request of the NI Environmental division and a report has subsequently been prepared. Requested info will be submitted to NI Planning within the next 2 weeks.

29. What and how many current roles are Monaghan County Council advertising for?

Reply:

1. Environmental Awareness Officer
2. Assistant Engineer
3. Retained (Part-time) Fire Fighters in each of the following Fire Stations: -
 - Castleblayney Fire Station
 - Ballybay Fire Station
 - Carrickmacross Fire Station
 - Clones Fire Station

Cllr N. McCooey asked:

- 30. Further to my written question at the February 2026 council meeting regarding road safety concerns at Connolly's Bridge / Rafeenan Junction, R186-6, can Monaghan County Council confirm whether the road safety survey has now been completed, what were the results from this survey, and what timeframe is anticipated to implement any identified safety measures?**

Reply: Following the question in February 2026, a site survey was carried out at the bridge to determine if additional measures are required at this location. Due to the geometry of the bridge, sight lines cannot be improved at this location due to the curvature of the R186 and the position of the bridge in its current location. There are plans to install additional signage along with additional road markings at this location along the R186 before the end of 2026.

- 31. Can Monaghan County Council provide an update on the progress with the Monaghan to the Border section of the Greenway and confirm when construction works will commence?**

Reply: Closing date for receipt of tenders was 23rd July. Tender Assessment was completed on 4th August. A number of tender clarifications were issued post the Tender Assessment process. It is planned to appoint the successful contractor in September, subject to TII approval.

- 32. Following my previous written questions regarding the proposed VRS on the N12 at Skinnagin Bridge, Tyholland, can Monaghan County Council confirm whether a response has now been received from TII following the additional information that was submitted in April 2026, and provide an update on the next steps and expected timeframe for possible works?**

Reply: In February 2026 a Feasibility and Options Report was submitted into the TII Road Safety Section, in March the report has been approved in principle, there was additional information required to progress the scheme for funding, MCC submitted an addendum to the Feasibility & Options report to TII Road Safety in mid-April 2026, to date we have no response, MCC will continue to seek funding for the VRS system at Skinnagin Bridge.

20. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

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

- Mary and Peter Gollogly, Ronan and Serena Gollogly, Caroline Gollogly, and the extended Gollogly family on the death of Stephen Gollogly, 66 Highfield, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.
- Ruairi and Emmet Duffy on the death of their sister Bronwyn Duffy, Stoke-on-Trent, England and formerly Beechgrove Lawns, Monaghan Town, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan.
- Róisín Moore (Nic Án Iarla), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, on the death of her mother, Róisín (Rosaleen) Early (née Murphy), Leixlip, Co. Kildare.
- Mary McCoy, Clerical Officer, Environment, on the death of her father, John McCoy, Clones Road, Monaghan Town, Monaghan, H18WK29.
- Frankie Murphy, Executive Engineer, Roads Section, on the death of his wife, Aisling Murphy (née Duffy), Modeece, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.

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

- Emma Treanor, on securing first place in the U17 Irish World Dancing Championship in April 2026.
- Clontibret Community Games U10 Gaelic Team, on becoming All-Ireland Champions for the second consecutive year.
- The Askin family, Emyvale, on organising another highly successful event in memory of Gary, with a number of local charities benefitting from the event.

21.Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, 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
AILG	Next Regional Caucus Meeting for the Northern & Western Regional Caucus.	Cavan County Council	10 th September 2026	Cllr. R. Truell Cllr. N. McCooey Cllr. B. McAree Cllr. S. Flynn

Urgent Business:

Cllr PJ O’Hanlon proposed, Cllr R. Aughey seconded that this Council, in light of the increased frequency of power outages across Ireland, particularly in Carrickmacross in recent weeks, calls on the Minister for Education and Youth, Ms. Hildegard Naughton, T.D., to provide funding for all schools to install backup generators to ensure educational resilience during future storm events and power outages.’

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

It was agreed that the October County Council meeting would commence at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber to facilitate the civic reception being held at 6.00pm in the Peace Campus.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Meetings
Administrator

Date: _____