

Cathaoirleach
Monaghan County Council
The Glen
Monaghan

12th June 2017

Dear Cathaoirleach,

It is with a deep sense of sadness that I inform you of my decision to resign from Monaghan County Council, with immediate effect. This is not a decision that I have reached lightly and without considering the many people who may feel let down by my decision. However, it has become quite clear to me that I cannot continue in my role due to time constraints. I have been very fortunate for a long number of years that I have been able to manage my professional career alongside my work as an elected representative. Unfortunately, as my career and indeed my life progresses, I no longer enjoy this luxury and I am unwilling to do either job by halves.

I wish to thank all of the members of Monaghan County Council, both past and present, with whom I have worked for their unfailing professionalism and support. We may differ greatly in our views on how to achieve our goals, but I am always certain that our collective aim is to make the County a better place. I, particularly want to thank my party colleagues and former party colleagues, who have encouraged and guided me. I also wish to acknowledge the work of all of the staff of the Council. In the main, I have found the staff to be ever helpful and willing to engage. They are ably led by the Executive and CEO.

I also wish to thank former deputy Seymour Crawford and Minister Heather Humphreys, I simply would not have had this opportunity without them and they are no longer colleagues but dear friends. I am eternally indebted for the trust they placed in a very young girl.

It has been my greatest honour to work for and with the people of the former Clones Electoral Area and more recently, Ballybay-Clones Municipal District. I wish to thank all of those who opened their doors to me throughout campaign canvasses and all of those who invited me into their homes and lives to work alongside them on an unimaginably wide array of projects and issues. This was always the most rewarding part of my work as a Councillor. I sincerely apologise to any member of the public who feels let down by my decision.

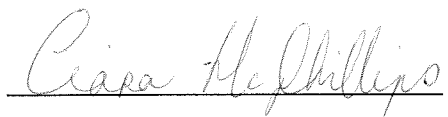
I did not knock those doors on my own. I was supported throughout by a wide team of grassroots Fine Gael and non-party members, who gave voluntarily of their time, in particular I wish to acknowledge the contribution of my own branch. The team that has built up in West Monaghan to support Seymour, Heather and I has become fondly known by some as the "Aghabog Mafia" - such is their support and loyalty.

Finally, I wish to thank my fiancé, Stephen, who has only ever known me as an elected representative. I hope that with more free time, he does not come to realise my many faults. My friends, who are supportive in everything I do, although at times I am sure my love for politics seemed a little odd to them. My family, my parents, Pat and Betty and my brother, Pauric and the extended aunts, uncles and cousins who have been there long before I was a member of Monaghan County Council and whom with God's blessings will continue to be there for me long into the future.

I hope that someday life may give me the chance, once again, to work in elected office and until that time, I hope that you will pass on my best wishes to all of the members and staff of Monaghan County Council.

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ciara McPhillips". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Ciara McPhillips