

## **Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones**

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 10.00am in Ballybay Civic Offices, Main Street, Ballybay Co Monaghan.

**Members Present** Leas-Cathaoirleach Bennett, presided

The following members were also present:-Cllrs:- Sean Gilliland, Ciara McPhillips, Seamus Coyle and Pat Treanor

**In Attendance** Eamonn O’Sullivan Chief Executive, Adge King, Director of Services, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Padraig Maguire Senior Executive Planner, Fintan McPhillips Senior Executive Officer, Darina Kierans, Executive Planner, Kieran Duffy, Executive Engineer, Angela Gallagher, Staff Officer. Mr Richard Bingham, RPS Consultants, Mr John Martin, OPW and Programme Manager for CFRAMs, Mr Aidan Harney, OPW and NWNB CFRAMs Manager

**Apologies** Cllr:- Hugh McElvaney

### **1. Confirmation of minutes of Monthly Meeting**

The minutes of the January monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr Pat Treanor and seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle.

### **2. Matters arising from Previous Minutes**

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 1 of the previous minutes regarding correspondence issued to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphrey’s TD, and the Northern Ireland Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure, Carál Ní Chuilín MLA regarding expanding the existing Departmental task force involved in the restoration of the Ulster Canal to include representatives from Monaghan County Council and asked if there had been any update on this. Mr Kevin McNally stated that no correspondence has been received, however the Municipal District would seek an update on this from both Ministers.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 1 of the minutes in connection with the closure of the Department of Social Protection offices and expressed his disappointment that the Government had decided to remove these jobs from Ballybay.

Cllr Cathy Bennett wished to thank all the TD’s who attended the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 in Ballybay Wetlands Centre regarding the closure of the Department of Social Protection Offices and stated that she hoped the Intreo Centre would be located in Ballybay.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 3 of the minutes regarding the flooding in Clones and commended the Engineering staff and Mr Kieran Duffy on working with the landowners to discuss how to alleviate flooding in the future. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that Ms Eilish Keane from the Fisheries Board has agreed to meet with the Council to discuss ongoing issues regarding flooding.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 6 of the minutes regarding a meeting of Community Groups from the Sliabh Beagh Area who attended a meeting in Knockatallon on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Cllr Pat Treanor complimented Carol Lambe for facilitating the meeting and thanked the staff from the

Municipal District who attended the meeting and confirmed that the Community Groups had agreed to forward their plans to Carol Lambe. A further meeting of this group is due to take place on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 8pm in Knocks and any members of the public who have an interest in this are welcome to attend.

### **3. Correspondence**

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to Pages 10-12 of the correspondence regarding an invitation from Liane Sedlmeier, Burgermeisterin of Osterhofen to attend the inauguration and 50 years celebration of the primary school at Altenmarkt on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and proposed that a card be sent to them thanking them for their invite but advising them that on this occasion no one from the Municipal District is able to attend, however it is hoped that in the future a link between the schools can be developed.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 15 regarding flooding and asked if a flood relief submission had been made? Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that a submission for approximately €5 million was prepared and submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and that this included the R190 and R162.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 22 of the correspondence regarding the provision of respite beds and stated that the lack of beds in County Monaghan is unacceptable. Cllr Ciara McPhillips stated that correspondence had been received by the County Council and additional beds would be made available in 2017. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that the lack of respite beds and home care packages are causing the build up at A&E and that the Council should continue to lobby for additional beds in Monaghan. Cllr Sean Gilliland stated that Monaghan Hospital is currently at capacity and are looking at building an extension to alleviate the difficulties. Cllr Ciara McPhillips stated that Consultants have been appointed and plans should be submitted shortly for planning permission.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 39 of the correspondence regarding the provision of bus shelters and expressed his disappointment that the National Transport Authority is basing the need on numbers which is difficult to achieve in rural areas.

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed the following:-

“That the Municipal District write to Bus Eireann/National Transport Authority and request that a bus stop be erected close to the gates of Monaghan General Hospital, as older people have to walk back up the hill from the bus station.”

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to pages 40-41 of the correspondence regarding hard water which is damaging appliances and proposed the following:-

“That Ballybay-Clones Municipal District write again and ask Irish Water due to their lack of actions in relation to Hard Water in Scostown, Ballinode and Smithboro.

1. Are they willing to compensate people for appliances eg Geo Thermal Heating System at €26,000?

2. Are they willing to blend water sources in order to attain softer water?
3. Are they willing to purchase water from a group scheme to alleviate the hard water levels that exist presently?"

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Cllr Sean Gilliland proposed the following:-

"Ballybay Clones Municipal District write to Irish Water for clarification in relation to Irish Water billing for water supplies and Monaghan County Council separately billing for Water Meter Service. Can Irish Water/Monaghan County Council clarifying their positions in relation to billing for Water Meters/Supplies."

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed the following:-

"That Ballybay-Clones Municipal Office write to Irish Water and ask them to seek a solution to the ongoing problem of unusable water in O'Duffy Terrace, Ballybay. The water is presently undrinkable."

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Cllr Sean Gilliland referred to additional correspondence 3.42 from Eirgrid regarding attending a Municipal District meeting and proposed the following:-

"That Ballybay-Clones Municipal Office write to Eirgrid to inform them that we are not interested in holding a meeting with them at this time, unless Eirgrid have some new information or plans for an alternative for the current plans for the North/South Interconnector as previous meetings with Eirgrid have provided no benefit."

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

#### **4. Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan**

Mr Fintan McPhillips presented the Members with an overview of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2015-2021 and advised the members that each Municipal District is required to review the Plan and adopt a Statement of Support, prior to submission to the full council. The Plan is the result of collaboration between the SPC for Economic Development & Enterprise Support, which developed the economic element of the Plan, and the Local Community Development Committee, which developed the Community element. Mr Fintan McPhillips stated that the plan is designed to be flexible so as to be able to adapt, if required, as circumstances change.

Cllr Pat Treanor stated that the monitoring of the plan is vitally important and welcomes the linkages between all the agencies.

Mr Adge King stated that the plan is an important document as it sets out a range of actions that the Local Authority and other agencies in the county aim to carry out and have responsibility to deliver.

Mr Adge King confirmed that the regeneration plans for the towns need to run in parallel with this plan and any projects suggested need to match what is in the plans.

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed to adopt a statement of support of the plan, this was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle and agreed by all.

#### **5. Proposal to take Wylies Hill Estate, Ballybay in Charge**

Ms Darina Kierans advised the members that Monaghan County Council have proposed to take Wylies Hill Estate in Ballybay in charge as it currently stands after receiving a request from the residents on the Estate. Monaghan County Council placed an advertisement in the paper in November 2015 and received no objections to this and therefore recommends that the estate be taken in charge.

Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed to take Wylies Hill Estate in charge by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle and agreed by all.

#### **6. Presentation from RPS Consulting Engineers regarding C.F.R.A.M. options for Ballybay**

Mr Padraig Maguire advised the members that as part of Monaghan County Development Plan and Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009, Monaghan County Council are required to carry out a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for County Monaghan which is ongoing and is a parallel process to CFRAMs which the OPW and RPS Consultants are here today to speak about. Mr Padraig Maguire introduced and welcomed the three individuals present and stated that they would be outlining the current stages of the CFRAMs Programme in Monaghan and the Public Consultations Days on Options Reports dealing with flood risk that were taking place in Ballybay Wetlands Centre and Four Seasons Hotel today.

Mr Richard Bingham from RPS presented the members with an overview of the Preliminary Flood Risk Management Options for Ballybay. Mr Richard Bingham confirmed that after this meeting he would be attending the Public Consultation Day at the Ballybay Wetlands Centre, Derryvalley, Ballybay, from 1.00pm to 7.00pm. Members of the North Western – Neagh Bann CFRAM Study project team would be available to discuss and explain the flood risk management options to all attending on the day. The flood risk management options would be on display on the date stated and are also accessible on the Study website [www.northwestcfрамstudy.ie](http://www.northwestcfрамstudy.ie) from that date. Mr Richard Bingham confirmed that any interested persons may provide observations on the options at the public consultation event and/or through the Study website.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips thanked Mr Richard Bingham for his presentation and asked how the plan is progressed? Mr Richard Bingham confirmed that the consultation process will continue for another 3 to 4 months and then the OPW will need to prioritise a works list which will take place over the next 10 years.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to the flooding on the R190 Ballybay/Cootehill Road and asked if this is included in the current plan for Ballybay. Mr Richard Bingham confirmed that it is not part of the current study as it does not fit into the criteria.

Mr Kieran Duffy asked if the option of diversion of flow is being considered have they looked at the impact this will have on the R190? Mr Richard Bingham confirmed that this would have no impact on the R190.

CLlr Cathy Bennett asked if the Weir at Abbots was contributing to flooding on the R190. Mr Richard Bingham stated that this was looked at and they can confirm that this is not causing flooding on the R190.

#### **7. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator**

Mr Kevin McNally confirmed the following:-

Ongoing and recently completed works in District:

- Completion of additional flood mitigation works in Threemilehouse village
- Ongoing patching and maintenance works
- Completion of improvement works in Fitzpatrick Square in Clones
- Ongoing repairs following damage from recent storms

Upcoming works:

- Commencement of drainage and preparatory works for 2016 roads program.
- Remedial works at Corraskea bridge (tender process completed and contractor due to commence works before end of month)

#### **Clones Regeneration committee**

Mr Kevin McNally stated that the last meeting of the Clones Regeneration committee was held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that the Municipal District are progressing the feasibility studies for a number of sites in Fermanagh Street. Various reports have been prepared on the sites been examined and are now working in conjunction with the housing section to seek funding for the provision of social housing for the sites.

The Municipal District have identified a number of other properties in Clones that are derelict and these are been actively followed up in conjunction with the planning section with the view to ensuring that they are no longer classed as derelict.

At the request of the committee the Municipal District are organising a further meeting which will be facilitated by Carol Lambe. The purpose of the meeting is to identify and explore a range of possible projects for Clones Town.

#### **Clones Erne East Partnership**

Mr Kevin McNally stated that the Municipal District at the request of the Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership have organised a further meeting of community groups in the Municipal District and Erne East area of Fermanagh –which was held on 8th February in Knockatallon.

The meeting was facilitated by Carol Lambe

- The purpose of the meeting was to provide a platform for information sharing regarding projects/ services the various actors are providing presently, and new projects they are working to get off the ground

- To discuss how Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership/the partner Local Authorities might support the project promoters to advance their ideas & prepare for upcoming funding opportunities

Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that a further meeting has been arranged for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 8pm in Knocks to develop the ideas and proposals discussed.

### **Clones Courthouse Seating Project**

Mr Kevin McNally stated that as advised at the last meeting the Municipal District has received funding from the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht for the installation of a retractable seating system for the former Courthouse in Clones. Tenders for the installation of the seating were returned on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and once assessed the Municipal District will expect to award the contract and have works completed by May.

### **Clones Famine Graveyard**

Mr Kevin McNally stated that the Municipal District office are working in conjunction with the Clones Famine committee to develop the stone arch proposal for the Clones Famine graveyard. This project has been financially supported by ABP and Tenders for the required works were due to be returned on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

### **Clones Market House**

Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that the Municipal District in conjunction with Ms Shirley Clerkin, the Councils Heritage officer are progressing the plans for the redevelopment of the Market House and it is hoped that the feasibility report for the redevelopment will be completed shortly.

### **Youth Work Ireland – Clones**

Mr Kevin McNally advised that the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones are delighted to be assisting Youth Work Ireland (Clones Branch) in conjunction with Clones Community Forum in their awareness Event which will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2016 @ 2-5.30pm in The Peacelink, Clones.

The event is led by the Clones Youth Council and is an Amber Flag Initiative, if successful Clones will be the 1<sup>st</sup> community to receive this award. The youth council is made up of transition year students from Largy College.

In order to achieve the Amber Flag, the youth council are required to achieve 3 aims/initiatives which they have identified, as follows:

1. On 10<sup>th</sup> February 200 Largy College Students took part in the Youth Work Ireland Monaghan-Amber Flag initiative "Moods" art project.
2. Signage on the approach roads to show that the community supports positive mental health. (This signs are sponsored by Ballybay-Clones MD.
3. The main event which takes place on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2016 – Guest speakers on the day will include
  - Mamo McDonald
  - Pieta House
  - Tony Ward, Fighting Blindness Ireland – cyclist
  - Oisin McConville, Ex Armagh County Footballer
  - Video conference with Monaghan Men's GAA

A range of community groups will have stalls on the day.

### **Ballybay Regeneration Committee**

Mr Kevin McNally stated that the last meeting of the Ballybay regeneration committee was held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and as approved at the last meeting the Municipal District has agreed to provide additional funding of €8000 to supplement the funding being received from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government for various works to Ballybay Town.

Mr Kevin McNally stated that the Municipal Office are proposing to issue tenders next week seeking quotations for the painting of the front elevation of particular buildings and also the repair of gutters on the main street. The Municipal Office are also progressing the development of a new website for Ballybay, it is anticipated that this process will be completed towards the end of February.

Mr Kevin McNally advised that the Bank of Ireland have agreed to extend the Enterprise Town Event which was held in Clones last year to Ballybay. This event is scheduled for the 13/14 May. The Municipal District is committed to working with the project steering committee to ensure that the event is as successful as Clones.

Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that the Municipal District are currently working in conjunction with Ms Dympna Condra to develop an information brochure for the Municipal District and it is anticipated that this brochure will be completed by early March.

### **Wi-Fi Update**

Mr Kevin McNally advised the Members that Mr Paul Treanor had met with his IT colleague from Cavan County Council to discuss the recent Wi-fi solution installed in Cavan Town and confirmed that the installation consisted of 7. No. Wireless units erected throughout the centre of town which gives adequate coverage of the main streets. The Cavan solution relies heavily on cooperation from traders in allowing the erection of the units on their buildings and also allowing their broadband to be used to provide the services. This means that the trader is sacrificing some of their own bandwidth to the wireless unit. The cost to Cavan was €15,000 plus VAT and the costs for Ballybay and Clones would be in the same range allowing approximately the similar number of antennae.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the use of broadband and stated that the Fibre Optic method is the only option to consider and that the Municipal District needs to catch up with the use of IT within its towns to attract people into the town and stated that the Municipal District needs to continue to look at this.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to the seating in the Courthouse in Clones and wished to congratulate Clones Film Festival in seeking funding for this project.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to road works preparations regarding the length of time taken to tender and asked if the Council had looked at putting this out to tender earlier. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that Tenders have not yet been submitted as the Roads Programmes have not been approved, however he stated that there would be better co-ordination between the Municipal Districts and the Roads Section.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to the Ballybay Enterprise Town event and asked if the Municipal Office would be taking a stand and asked if local estate agents would be encouraged to participate to advertise properties for sale. Mr Kevin McNally stated that the Municipal Office would be taking a stand and that local estate agents would be encouraged to attend.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to a visit due to take place from German Students and asked what events were being planned. Mr Kevin McNally stated that a Town Twinning meeting would be arranged to discuss this visit in more detail.

## 8. Questions

### Cllr Bennett asked:

1. In relation to the footpath on the Scotstown to Roslea road. Have there been any more developments and when are works due to commence?

Reply The Ballybay Clones Municipal District has prepared a design for the footpath on the Scotstown/Roslea road and has had a number of meetings with the various landowners on site. The Ballybay Clones Municipal District is awaiting confirmation from some of the landowners concerned as to whether the proposals are acceptable. This matter will be continued to be followed up.

2. In relation the much needed footpath at Corlatt housing Estate in Knockatallon, has Ballybay Clones Municipal Office made any more progress in commencing works there?

Reply The Ballybay Clones Municipal District has carried out an initial survey and it is the intention to progress these works as part of the Municipal Districts footpath capital works program for 2016 (subject to the member's approval of the 2016 footpath programme).

3. In relation to safety measures at Barratiatoppy cross and Knockatallon cross in Knockatallon. Can safety barriers please be installed at both crossroads as deep verges are on ongoing concern for road users?

Reply The Ballybay Clones Municipal District will assess both crossroads to assess what measures can be implemented on site. Any works though will be subject to funding being available.

4. The lack of lighting on the Monaghan road out of Ballybay is a major issue for residents of Cluain Mhuire. This needs to be addressed urgently before a fatal Road traffic accident occurs. It is my understanding that preliminary works had commenced for lighting and it would not be hugely expensive to complete the lighting on this stretch of road. Can Ballybay-clones Municipal Office address this issue as a matter of urgency please?

Reply The Ballybay Clones Municipal District has inspected the site and can confirm that ducting is in place. The cost of erecting public lighting to Cluain Mhuire is estimated at €11,000. In 2016 the allocation for public lighting in the Ballybay Clones Municipal District is approximately €10,000 which again will only facilitate some localised public lighting works to be carried out in the Municipal District.

5. Have road signs been ordered and located in the following areas yet? \*Replacement signs for various locations in Cremartin \*A sign for Fivemiletown sign on the Dernahesco road.

Reply These signs have been ordered and will be erected once received.



**Cllr. McPhillips asked:**

6. What progress has been made in identifying a suitable site for a Bring Bank in Smithboro village?

Reply The Environment Section has confirmed that they are currently undertaking improvement works at 10 bottle banks in the County and once this work is completed they propose proceeding with 2016 works programme which will include sourcing a new bring bank for Smithboro. Ballybay Clones Municipal District staff are liaising with the Environment section regarding the installation of same.

7. How are plans to make Ture Cross, on the Scotshouse-Newbliss road an "all stop" crossroads progressing?

Reply Following discussions with the local gardai, the Ballybay Clones Municipal District was recently advised against making this junction an "all stop" as it was felt that such a proposal could constitute a traffic hazard.

8. Will Monaghan County Council investigate the feasibility of erecting a bus shelter at Swanns Cross? This issue has been raised on a number of occasions over a long number of years. A large number of students from the area congregate here as it is the only available option if they are travelling to schools in Monaghan town.

Reply In November 2015, the Ballybay Clones Municipal District made a submission to the National Transport Authority seeking funding to provide bus shelters at 11 locations throughout the Municipal District with Swanns Cross noted as being the Municipal Districts priority location. In late January the National Transport Authority replied stating that none of the locations outlined in the Municipal Districts submission met their policy criteria. Consequently, alternative funding sources for the provision of a bus shelter at Swann's cross will be investigated.

9. Cllr Gary Carville previously raised the issue of public lighting in Cremartin. Has this project been advanced?

Reply Public lighting at Cremartin is on the multi annual program listing of areas requiring public-lighting but this project has not advanced due to a lack of funding for public lighting works. In 2016 the allocation for public lighting in the Ballybay Clones Municipal District is approximately €10,000 which again will only facilitate some localised public lighting works to be carried out in the Municipal District.

10. In relation to parking, and more particularly designated disability parking spaces, what can a member of the public who witnesses a breach of the rules governing such spaces do? For example, if a member of the public witnesses a person parking a vehicle in a disability space, leaving the vehicle and failing to display the appropriate disc, can the person photograph the vehicle registration plate and the vehicle's dashboard and furnish these photographs to Monaghan County Council? Can Monaghan County Council take any action arising from such a situation?

Reply If a member of the public witnesses a breach of the rules governing parking spaces, they should report this incident to An Garda Síochána and/or to Monaghan County Council

**Cllr. Treanor asked:**

11. Is there any update on the erection of crash barriers at Teehill/Clonboy, Clones, to address the problem of speeding vehicles entering a number of gardens there, endangering those residents and their children/grandchildren? This issue has been brought to the attention of the roads section as this is a National road.

Reply The roads section of Monaghan County Council has confirmed that this location has been brought to the attention of the safety inspector with the TII (Transport Infrastructure Ireland) and the possibility of carrying out improvements is being examined.

12. Has the council got a proposal to deal with speeding on the Newtownbutler Road, Clones and Clones road, Newbliss? When will a solution be put in place?

Reply The Newtownbutler road (Clones) currently has existing traffic calming islands and a driver feedback sign in place. The Ballybay Clones Municipal District staff will meet with the local gardai to determine whether increased enforcement can be carried out on the Newtownbutler road in an attempt to reduce speeding at this location. Similarly, the issue of speeding in Newbliss on the Clones road will be raised with the local gardai.

The Ballybay Clones Municipal District staff will also be erecting speed detection cameras at both locations which will help assess and determine whether additional measures can be implemented to reduce speeding. Any works though will be subject to the availability of appropriate funding.

13. In relation to public lighting from Killeevan to Newbliss, at the Connors chapel, Rockcorry, Clones and other places, what options for funding are we considering? Has these problems been brought to senior management at Monaghan County Council?

Reply The 2016 allocation for public lighting in the Ballybay Clones Municipal District is approximately €10,000 which again will only facilitate some localised public lighting works to be carried out. The Ballybay Clones Municipal District has previously written to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sports requesting specific funding for additional lighting but no additional funding has been made available.

**9. Chief Executive Orders**

Chief Executive Order No's BCMD 01/16-05/16 were noted by the Members.

**10. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy**

The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:-

The Caulfield family, Scotstown & Ballinode on the death of Matt Caulfield (former County Councillor)

**11. AOB**

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to an article which appeared in last weeks Northern Standard regarding a comment made by Minister Heather Humphrey's and proposed the following:-

“In the absence of a public explanation, that Ballybay-Clones Municipal District request the Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council to hold a special meeting of Monaghan County Council to allow the members, executive and roads section, respond immediately to the public comments of Minister Heather Humphrey's “that Monaghan County Council had not handled the situation the same as many other Local Authorities when it came to putting in bids to Central Government for Roads Grants.”

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

Mr Eamonn O'Sullivan advised the Members that Minister Humphrey's had contacted him directly and advised him that these were not her views and that Minister Humphrey's was looking for this to be retracted by the Northern Standard.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator

Date 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016