

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

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 10.30am in Ballybay Civic Offices, Main Street Ballybay.

**Members Present**        The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Eugene Bannigan, presided

The following members were also present:-Cllrs:-, Cathy Bennett, Seamus Coyle, Hugh McElvaney Ciara McPhillips and Pat Treanor

**In Attendance**        Paul Treanor, Head of Information Services, Carmel Thornton, Administrative Officer, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Kieran Duffy, Executive Engineer , Angela Gallagher, Staff Officer.

**Apologies**                Cllr, Adge King, Director of Services,

### **1. Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting**

The minutes of the June monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr Cathy Bennett and seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle.

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

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 2, paragraph 2 of the previous minutes regarding safety measure at Kilmore football grounds and stated that the safety measure have now been carried out and this is a great help to everyone using this facility and wanted to thank the engineering staff for organising this.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 2 of the minutes in correspondence and asked if the Municipal District have received an update regarding the Social Welfare Office in Ballybay. Mr McNally confirmed that he had received nothing further in relation to this and is led to believe that the closure of these offices are imminent.

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed the following which was seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all.

“That this Council renews its request to meet the Minister for Social Protection An Tainaiste Joan Burton T.D. through our local Fine Gael, Oireachtas Member’s to have the Department of Social Protection Offices retained in Ballybay.”

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 4 regarding drainage works on the LT61603 Dyan Road and asked if there was any update on this. Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed that discussions had taken place with the landowner and works is due to commence in August.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 5 of the minutes regarding the recent visit to Osterhofen and stated that the local paper in Osterhofen suggested if they could write an article on what is happening in Ballybay that perhaps the Northern Standard could do the same. Mr Kevin McNally advised that the Municipal District would follow up on this.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney referred to page 5 of the minutes regarding Clones Regeneration Committee and asked for an update. Mr Kevin McNally stated that it was agreed at the last meeting that he would prepare a brief for the appointment of a planning consultant. Mr Kevin McNally advised that he had met with a couple of members of the regeneration sub-committee to progress this further and it will be discussed with the full committee on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 6 questions 2 and 4 regarding the crossing at Main Street Ballybay and the seating in Fairgreen, Ballybay. Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed that Elmore's from Dublin had recently carried out a survey on the pedestrian crossing and will submit their proposals once completed. In relation to the additional seats in Fairgreen, Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed that these have already been supplied.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 6 question 5 regarding Drumlane Cross and asked if there was an update as these outstanding issues need to be resolved. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that he had spoke to Mr John Lennon, Executive Engineer in Carrickmacross and that a joint approach has to be taken and Mr Kieran Duffy will discuss this further with the engineering staff in Carrickmacross Municipal District.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 7 of the minutes regarding the clean up of Ballybay, Main Street and asked if there was an update on this. Mr McNally confirmed that he is still progressing this.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 8, first paragraph regarding the grass cutting and asked if the Municipal District could request additional staff as work is being carried out slower than normally and suggested that an approach be made to the Chief Executive for an additional squad of workers. Mr McNally advised that there is currently an embargo on employing additional staff and that the Municipal District is currently on schedule with the works programme. Mr McNally advised Members that if they have concerns about work not being carried out to contact him directly and he will address these issues.

Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed the following which was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

“That Cathy Bennett as Vice Chair, Eugene Bannigan as Chairperson and Kevin McNally as co-ordinator meet the Chief Executive to discuss the appointment of an engineer to the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District. Presently only one engineer is employed as area engineer, this does not provide the most efficient service to the area of Ballybay Clones Municipal District and this needs to be addressed immediately.”

Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that the abolition of the Town Council has had a detrimental effect in Clones Town and proposed that the staff look at the following solutions.

- Installation of traffic lights at the top of Cara Street
- Create additional car parking spaces at the Diamond.

Mr McNally stated that these proposals would be considered. Mr McNally also advised the Members that the former Town Council outdoor staff are still employed within the Town and if there are any issues regarding work not been carried out to raise these issues directly with him.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 9 of the minutes regarding O'Neill Park and asked if all outstanding issues could be raised before their 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations specifically the netting, painting of the wall, extra lighting, additional seating and parking spaces.

Mr Kieran Duffy advised that the Housing Section have confirmed that a contractor has been appointed to provide the nets. Additional consultation had taken place as requested and no issues were raised. In relation to the Public Lighting, Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed that to provide the additional lights would be very expensive, however a new LED light has been ordered from ESB at the play park. Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed that additional seating was in hand however a location was to be agreed with the residents committee. Mr Kieran Duffy suggested that the additional car parking space could be located adjacent to the former Met Éireann Station however confirmation is required from the Committee that there is no issue with this location.

Mr Kevin McNally advised that the owner has raised issues regarding the proposed works and suggested that the O'Neill Park Residents group deal directly with the owner to resolve these issues.

Cllr Seamus Coyle raised an issue regarding the pedestrian crossing at Church Hill. Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed that he would ask Elmore's to look at this when they are fixing the lights in the town.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to the planting in O'Neill Park and stated that even though the group has missed the deadline for all funding, the residents group could request funding from the Housing Section and they would consider their request. Cllr Ciara McPhillips confirmed that she advised the group to do this.

### **3. Correspondence**

#### **3.11 Letter received from Monaghan Rose Centre**

With regards to the letter received from the Monaghan Rose Centre Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed the following.

"That Ballybay-Clones supports this brilliant opportunity that has arisen, Michelle Caulfield from Scotstown will be taking part as the Ulster Rose. As this is a unique opportunity, I propose that we contribute towards Michelle's expenses and give Michelle €500 as way of advertising our locality as a place of tourism."

Cllr Ciara McPhillips confirmed that Monaghan County Council has agreed to pay €500 towards Ms Michelle Caulfield's expenses and stated that if an additional €500 was paid from the Municipal District Allocation that Ms Michelle Caulfield would be receiving double funding from the Council.

The Members agreed that the proposal be put to a vote with the outcome as follows:-

For: Cllrs Bennett, Coyle and Treanor  
Against: Cllrs Bannigan, McElvaney and McPhillips

As Cllr Eugene Bannigan, Cathaoirleach has the casting vote, this proposal was not carried.

### **3.13 Response received from Paschal Donohoe regarding flooding on the R190**

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to pages 26 & 27 regarding the response received from Paschal Donohoe and expressed his disappointment with the response and proposed the following:-

“That the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District expresses serious disappointment at the failure of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Paschal Donohoe TD, to meet in relation to the serious flooding issues on the R190 (Ballybay-Cootehill) and seeks through the local Fine Gael Oireachtas Members an immediate meeting to ensure the residents/road users are not again marooned in a few short months.”

Cllr Coyle requested that this be circulated to all Oireachtas Members in this constituency.

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

### **3.12 Response received from Cavan County Council regarding planning permission for the Ulster Canal**

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the letter received from Cavan County Council and was pleased to see that Planning permission was in place to continue the restoration of the Ulster Canal at Castlesaunders and stated that the planning permission is due to run out in 2018 and hopes that they keep the project moving.

### **3.6 Letters issued to the Ulster Bank**

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to letters issued to the Ulster Bank which have not been responded to and expressed his disappointment that they have proceeded to erect a For Sale sign on the premises but not had the courtesy to respond to the letters sent.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips advised the Members that the Bank of Ireland was open yesterday (Sunday) to enable supporters to access the ATM machine and wanted to thank them for doing this.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney also acknowledged the Bank of Ireland being open on a Sunday and hope that they would continue with their efforts to install an ATM at the same location.

## **4. Update on the installation of Wifi by Paul Treanor, Information Services**

Mr Paul Treanor advised the group that he wanted to give them an update in relation to installing Wi-Fi in Ballybay and Clones and to clarify some of the issues involved. Mr Treanor confirmed that technology for mobile networks has now caught up and people can now easily access the internet through their data packages. In Clones for example, the Council would only be able to provide access on the diamond if they used the Council building to mount the required equipment. Mr Paul Treanor noted the Council could not provide the same speeds as mobile networks, there are ongoing costs involved with providing the service including a minimum set up cost of €6000, there would also be a cost to provide security on the Wi-Fi network to ensure that inappropriate sites were not being accessed. Mr Treanor also stated that the Council currently provide free Wi-Fi access in the libraries.

Cllr Pat Treanor thanked Mr Paul Treanor for his update and stated that the reason he thought Wi-Fi was a good idea because it attracted people into the Towns. Cllr Pat Treanor referred to towns to such as Enniskillen and Dublin which promoted the use of free Wi-Fi and asked if these towns could be contacted to find out did it work. Mr Treanor advised the Members that he would do some more investigations into this and would revert back to the Members with an update.

Cllr Cathy Bennett expressed concerns regarding blackspots in the rural area and asked if the Governments National Broadband Scheme will rectify these issues?

Mr Paul Treanor confirmed that the New National Broadband Scheme indicates that all household should have broadband speeds of 30Mbits by 2020.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips advised that Eircom are currently running an E-Fibre competition and indicated that Rockcorry will be submitting an application and that Cllr McPhillips will be looking for input from Mr Paul Treanor and from Ms Carol Lambe. Mr Paul Treanor advised that he would be delighted to help with this.

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked Mr Paul Treanor if County Monaghan could be a priority in the role out of the National Broadband Scheme, Mr Paul Treanor advised that he had already requested this.

Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed the following:-

“That the Municipal District write to the Department of Communications Energy and National Resources in relation to the National Broadband Plan (NBP). Presently Monaghan has only 42% of County broadband coverage and 58% of premises within the NBP Intervention Area with no broadband coverage. Can this issue be addressed immediately and make Monaghan a priority when rolling out the National Broadband Plan (NBP)”

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

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

### **Staff Changes**

Mr Kevin McNally advised the Members that as part of the ongoing review of the Council staffing structure, Ms Ann Burke Assistant Staff officer in the office has been assigned to the Community and Enterprise section of the Council. Ms Ann Burke will be replaced by Ms Lorraine Brogan who is being reassigned from Water Services section. Mr Kevin McNally wished Ms Ann Burke all the best in her new role.

Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that the Municipal office has also been assigned Dianne McPhelim via an Internship from the Job Bridge Programme. Dianne will be assisting the staff in the Municipal District office and will have a key role in developing the Clones Erne East Partnership and also dealing with dereliction in the Municipal District.

### **Engineers Report – July 2015 MD Meeting**

Mr Kevin McNally confirmed the following works completed and ongoing in the Municipal District.

### **Works recently completed since last meeting**

*Resurfacing works on the LT21003 and LT21003 (i.e. Carn Lane)*

- *Resurfacing works on the LT21102 and the LT21103 (i.e. Mullanamoy Lane)*

- *LS-6420 – Kiltubrid-Togan (Red Hut Road) – 850 metre section from Togan crossroads to just past the Kiltubbrid road)*
- *R183 – Surface dressing works At Aghdrumkeen and Drumate.*
- *Erection of bus shelter in Newbliss village.*
- *Completion of preparatory works on the R181 AT Shantonagh and R190 at Anny in advance of regional road resurfacing works.*

#### **Ongoing works in the MD**

- *Road Relining works in the Municipal District carried out by Highway markings (Works being carried out include additional markings in Newbliss village; Markings on the R183 Newbliss Ballybay road at Drumate and Aghdrumkeen; the renewal of markings on the R183 at Annalore bridge in Killeevan; additional markings on the R188 on the approach to Cotehill near Abbotts; markings on the approaches to Kilmore GAA.*
- *Commencement of hedge and verge trimming works on the N54 and all regional roads in the MD. Under this program all junctions on the National and regional roads within the district are due to be cut.*
- *Drainage works on the R179 regional road, the LS5000 and LS5001 at Knockatallan, and the LT70011 Drumlodd to Lisnalong road are due for completion within the next week.*

#### **Works scheduled to start in MD.**

- *Macadam resurfacing works on the following roads under the County and Regional Road RI Programs:  
LT70011 – Drumlodd to Lisnalong road  
LS5000 – Derrynahesco Road  
LS5001 – Derrynahesco road.  
LS7300 – Cornahoe to Creevagh road  
R181 – Doora to Shantonagh road  
R190 at Anny  
R179 at Greenans cross.*

**NOTE:** *Dates as to when the resurfacing contractors are scheduled to carry out these works have yet to be confirmed by the Roads Section of Monaghan. Envisaged though that works will be commencing in mid-August.*

- *Drainage and resurfacing works on the following county roads  
The LS6130 Lecklevra-Drumullagh Road and the adjacent LT61603 Dyan road.  
Completion of drainage and resurfacing works on the LS7020 Money road.*
- *Also proposed to carry out repairs on a number of county roads in the MD which are independent of the roads program. These include the following:  
The LT22401 – Drumnaveale road (Scotshouse)  
LT62801/2 – Knox lane (Scotshouse)  
LT40441 – Wards Clinc road (Lough Egish)  
LP4210 – Tossy Cross to Drumlane road.(Lough Egish)  
R183 – Clones Newbliss road at Glear.  
LT21111- Carrivetra road (Clones)  
LS6011 – Drummans Rd(Scotstown)  
LT56011 – Lisnashannagh Rd (Corcaghan)  
LT10042 – Cornacreeve Road (Knockatallan),  
LT2311 – Church of Ireland road(Aghabog)*

### **Clones/Ballybay Regeneration committee**

Mr Kevin McNally advised that the next meeting of the Clones Regeneration committee is scheduled for next Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 and it is hoped to progress the procurement of a consultant to develop proposals for the regeneration of Fermanagh Street and adjoining area.

Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that the last meeting of Ballybay Regeneration Committee was held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015. During this meeting, a number of issues were raised, in particular the condition of the footpaths in the town. The Municipal District intends to undertake a programme of repair works in the coming months.

### **Bank of Ireland ATM**

Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that the Bank of Ireland has submitted a planning application for the provision of an ATM machine at the bank on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015. It is hoped that this machine will be installed once planning approval has been received.

### **GAA**

Mr Kevin McNally advised that the Municipal District had a very positive meeting with representatives of Clones and Monaghan GAA on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015. During the meeting, both Clones and Monaghan GAA confirmed their commitment to ensuring the redevelopment of St Tiernach's Park. The Municipal District has also confirmed its commitment to work with the GAA to assist where possible with the proposed redevelopment. Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that the Municipal District have undertaken to arrange a meeting with relevant technical staff of the Council and the GAA design consultants and this office is currently awaiting GAA availability.

### **Smithboro Playground**

Mr Kevin McNally stated that subsequent to the placing of adverts on the Governments Tender portal – Etenders, 6 submissions were received and these are currently been reviewed and it is hoped to be in a position to award contract by the end of week, with works to commence in August. The Department are providing a grant of €20,000 and a further €30,000 is committed from the General Municipal District allocation.

### **Courthouse Acoustics**

Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that contracts for the improvement of the acoustics in the Courthouse has been awarded to Francis McGuigan Builders and it is hoped that works will commence in early August 2015

### **Community Support Grants**

Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that 39 applications totalling €260,000 were received for a budget of €15,000. Mr McNally confirmed that the members have agreed to increase the fund to €19,000. The Municipal District will now contact each applicant and confirm arrangements for release of funding.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that he was pleased that the Municipal District office have decided to carry out additional works on roads as patching pot holes on a regular basis is not resolving the problems in the longer term and that the council is spending its money more wisely. Cllr Hugh McElvaney also confirmed that landowners and farmers also have to take more responsibility by removing excess water from the roads and cutting their hedges. Cllr Hugh McElvaney recommended that the Municipal District no longer patch roads and that the Members can provide the Municipal Office with a list of roads which requires more work than patching.

Mr Kevin McNally stated that there has been no change of policy in relation to carrying out remedial works on the roads. He stated where a stretch of road is peppered with pot holes that it would be common practice to overlay these roads rather than to continue to fill in each pothole individually.

Mr Kieran Duffy advised the Members that carrying out larger works on roads is seasonal and cannot be carried out during the winter period therefore the Council will continue to patch pot holes during the winter months.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips asked if the Municipal District could tender earlier to prevent some of the junctions becoming overgrown as they then become a danger to the public.

Mr Duffy stated that the Municipal District took a different approach to the hedge cutting this year by preparing a map identifying all the junctions on the regional and national roads which should enable this work to be carried out more efficiently.

Cllr Pat Treanor stated that co-operation of the landowners is paramount to prevent water on the road and for them to cut their hedges.

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed the following:-

“That Monaghan County Council undertake a publicity campaign of the responsibilities and penalties of landowners, with hedgerows along roadside for hedge trimming and ensuring that water etc is not allowed to exit on to roadways in a manner respectful to all road users ensuring safety for all citizens.”

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all.

## **6. Questions**

### **Cllr Cathy Bennett asked**

1. In relation to a footpath on the Roslea Road out of Scotstown and a footpath at Corlatt, Knockatallon. Is there any new updates or any progress with either?

Reply A meeting has been arranged with the landowner on the Roslea road in order to secure the lands required to progress construction of the footpath. It is intended to progress these works by September 2015.

2. Have the sign posts at Cremartin been erected as yet? The signs for Cremartin have arrived at the council stores within the last week.

Reply The delay in erecting the signage is due to the fact that when the ordered signage was delivered at the depot it was damaged and the supplier was subsequently requested to provide new signage. New signage has subsequently been delivered and due to be erected before the end of July 2015.

3. Is there any further progress on the traffic calming measures at Kilmore football field, Scotstown?

Reply Highway Markings have been recently been appointed to carry out lining works on a number of locations in the Municipal District including areas on the approach to the Kilmore facility. Highway Markings to be on site in the Municipal District during the week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015.



4. Have road repairs taken place yet on the Roslea road out of Scotstown, on the Drummons Road and on the bog road?

Reply Patching works have been carried out on the Bog road and Roslea road. Preparatory works are being carried out on the LS-6011 Drummans road and it is proposed to carry out repairs on sections of this road during August 2015.

5. Has anything been done to improve the condition of the road at Tossy Cross?

Reply A contractor has been appointed to commence repairs on a number of roads in the Municipal District including on the R183 at Glear and on the LP4210 at Tossy Cross. Works are due to commence on Thursday 16/07/2015.

## **7. Notices of Motion**

Cllr. Cathy Bennett proposes the following:-

“That Ballybay-Clones MD write to Ann Phelan TD, The Minister of State for Rural Economic Development and Rural Transport, requesting that Bus Eireann service the town of Ballybay. That Ballybay Town is incorporated on the route to Castleblayney and on to Dublin and that two buses at 9am are maintained to facilitate people in Castleblayney. Presently the residents of Ballybay have no means of public transport to and from the town. This has lead to Ballybay town being under populated. The town of Ballybay needs to be economically regenerated and availability of public bus services could only enhance the popularity of the town. Presently Ballybay town has many vacant properties which could all be utilised if public buses services operated within the town.”

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

Cllr. Cathy Bennett proposes the following:-

“That Ballybay-Clones MD write to Ann Phelan TD, the Minister of State for Rural Economic Development and Rural Transport and the Minister for Transport and Sport Paschal Donohoe, TD, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport requesting that an evaluation of Bus Eireann services and timetables in County Monaghan is carried out. Presently buses do not run on time and do not follow the scheduled timetables that have been set out. Buses are scheduled to run from Monaghan town to Dublin airport at 3.15am, but this timetable is unreliable and not adhered to.”

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

## **8. Chief Executive Orders**

Chief Executive Order Nos. BCMD 26/15 – BCMD 34/15 were noted by the Members.

Cllr Pat Treanor asked if additional information can be provided in the future to enable the members to know what job each Chief Executive Order refers to.

## **9. Draft Poling Scheme for the Ballybay-Clones Electoral Area – Carmel Thornton**

Ms Carmel Thornton advised the Members that the County Council is obliged to provide a Polling Scheme every 10 years it is noted since the establishment of the Municipal Districts this is an ideal time to look at the Area's to see if they need to be amended. Ms Carmel Thornton asked the Members to contact her directly if they are aware of voters who are not happy being asked to vote in a particular polling station and would like to be changed to one closer to their home. Ms Carmel Thornton confirmed that this is a Reserve Function of the County Council and that requests for changes should be made now.

Ms Carmel Thornton also confirmed that she may discuss this with Mr Paul Treanor in IT to ensure that voters are attending the correct polling station and also stated that public consultation to take place to enable members of the public to request changes. This will be done through advertising in the newspaper and through the Public Participation Networks, the Council then has 5 weeks to complete this process.

## **10. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy**

The members extended a Vote of Congratulations to the following:-

Monaghan GAA, team, management, players and the County Board on Winning the 2015 Ulster Senior Football Championship.

The members extended a Vote of Sympathy to the following:-

Joe O'Reilly T.D. on the death of his mother Susan.

## **11. AOB**

Cllr Eugene Bannigan expressed concerns regarding a suspicious vehicle driving around the area and when approached by Gardai claimed they were from Eirgrid, however Eirgrid have denied this.

Cllr Eugene Bannigan advised the members that the Clones Regeneration Committee meeting is due to take place at 7pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 in Clones Library, however he has asked if the members could attend at 6.15pm to discuss other matters.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips expressed concerns regarding the poor condition of the public toilets in Ballybay and asked if these could be rectified. Mr McNally confirmed that the toilets were in a poor condition and stated the toilets would be cleaned and repaired.

Cllr Pat Treanor raised issues regarding speeding at Ard Cluain Estate, Clones, Newbliss Village, Clones & Scotshouse Road, in Clones and speeding on the Newtownbutler Road and proposed that these issues be looked at along with the Gardai. Mr Kevin McNally stated that any issues regarding

speeding should be raised with the JPC as it is an issue with enforcement. At the Member's request, Mr Kevin McNally agreed to organise a meeting with the local Gardai.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed that the Municipal District organise a meeting with the O'Neill park residents group to ensure that issues are being dealt with. Mr McNally confirmed that this can be arranged.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator

Date 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015