

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 18th December 2017 at 11am in Ballybay Civic Offices, Main Street, Ballybay Co Monaghan.

Members Present Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seamus Coyle, presided

The following members were also present:-Cllrs:- Cllr Sean Gilliland, Cathy Bennett, Pat Treanor, Hugh McElvaney and Eva Humphreys

In Attendance Adge King Director of Service, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Colin Murphy, Executive Engineer, Seamie McMahon, Staff Officer,

Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed everyone to the meeting. He offered a vote of congratulations to Minister Heather Humphreys TD on her appointment to the position of Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation. Cllr Seamus Coyle congratulated Latton/Bawn on winning the National Pride of Place title in the category of population 300-1000 and also added that the Ballybay Clones MD recommend to Monaghan County Council that they hold a Civic Reception for the Latton/Bawn community in honour of this great achievement. The votes of congratulations and proposal regarding the request for a Civic Reception were seconded by Cllr Sean Gilliland and agreed by all.

1. Confirmation of minutes of Monthly Meeting

The minutes of the November monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr Pat Treanor and seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett.

2. Correspondence

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to correspondence Item 2.1, from Eir, and spoke about the recent event hosted by Eir regarding broadband rollout in the area. Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that the Municipal District write to Eir and seek clarification on the selection process on the 4500 homes in Monaghan (as part of the 300,000 homes) for provision of broadband service. Cllr Pat Treanor indicated that clarification be sought on why derelict buildings are included in the Clones area while businesses needing broadband are excluded from Eir proposals. This was seconded by Cllr. Sean Gilliland and agreed by all.

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to correspondence 2.3, Cllr Pat Treanor stated he was unhappy with the response and said he would find examples of advertisements in order to forward them to the CCPC.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to correspondence 2.6 and the additional correspondence received from the Department of Rural and Community Development. There was a discussion on whose department dealt with this matter. Cllr Sean Gilliland proposed that the Municipal District write to Michael Ring TD Minister for Rural and Community Development to ask him to consider a funding stream from his department to ease the back log in public lighting projects in this Municipal District and indeed nationally. Cllr Sean Gilliland noted that the funding scheme would be similar to the successful LIS scheme from the Ministers department. This was seconded by Cllr Eva Humphries and agreed by all.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked that the following proposal be included, "That Ballybay Clones Municipal District seek an immediate meeting with Minister Michael Ring to outline the urgency due to health and safety of a specific fund for public lighting and an allocation to the Ballybay Clones Municipal District to allow works on the 31 projects costing €600,000 already submitted. This was seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to correspondence 2.5 and noted that there had been an improvement in cyclist behaviour since ABP had been made aware of the issues.

3. Update by Padraic Smyth Cavan Monaghan Transport Coordination Unit (CMRT)

Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed Mr Padraic Smyth to the meeting. Mr Padraic Smyth state that the new services from Ballybay- Monaghan and Tydavnet –Monaghan will commence on Wednesday 20th December. Mr Padraic Smith distributed timetables to everyone at the meeting.

Cllr Seamus Coyle congratulated Mr Padraic Smyth and his staff for the development of these services. The members praised CMTC for all their hard work and wished them every success. Cllr. Cathy Bennett raised the issue of extending service to Knockatallon. Mr Padraic Smyth stated that this could be developed at a later date. Cllr Eva Humphries asked would there be stops at country roads lanes etc. Mr Padraic Smyth said this may happen on an ad hoc basis.

4. Rapid Funding

Mr Kevin Mc Nally gave an overview of the scheme and detailed the applications that were approved by the LCDC. Cllr Seamus Coyle commented that this was the first time such a scheme was rolled out in Monaghan and he congratulated all successful applicants. Cllr Seamus Coyle and Cllr Sean Gilliland expressed disappointment that Ballybay applications were unsuccessful. Cllr Cathy Bennett noted that rural areas were ineligible to apply for funding. Cllr Pat Treanor asked that the LCDC be requested to give unsuccessful applicants a detailed debrief outlining the reason as to why their applications were unsuccessful. There were no objections made regarding the successful applications.

5. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator

Mr Kevin McNally gave his report:-

Linear Park

Works are well progressed and will be completed early in the New Year

Erne Cafe Parking

Works are well progressed – additional public lighting has been ordered and will be erected in the New Year

Heritage trail

The majority of the signs have been installed – in the New Year additional banners will be erected on Fermanagh Street

Ballybay

Arising from funding received under the Departments Town and Village Renewal Programme the Council has commenced the procurement process for the preparation of a Town Realm plan. Tenders are due to be returned on 15th January 2018.

The Municipal District has also appointed a Consultant to prepare plan for Town Park.

Monaghan (as part of a joint application by LCDC & Children and Young People Services Committee) was awarded €138,400 under the Healthy Ireland Fund (Strand 1) with confirmation being received late last week

As part of this application Ballybay Town has been awarded €15,000 for Outdoor Exercise Equipment in Ballybay Town Park. This scheme will be progressed in the New Year.

Clones Regeneration

Last meeting of the Clones town team occurred on 13th December

The Town Team is in the process of preparing a short-term plan for the regeneration of the town.

Clones Market House

Works for the refurbishment of the Clones Market House commenced on 6th November. The contact period is 6 months – with the MD occupying the building in early May 2018.

Former Clones Post Office

Part Eight planning application for the required works has recently been submitted to the Councils planning section. Tenders for the required works will be sought in February 2018. It is programmed that this building will be operational in early 2019

Dereliction in the MD

The Chief Executive has directed that the Councils Housing Section proceed to develop social housing projects for the following properties in Clones (which are now in the ownership of the Council):

- Daveys Butchers,
- Flower Shop and An Bonnan Bui
- Abbey gate house
- Building at Fermanagh Street car park entrance
- 82/83 Fermanagh Street
- 2a Analore Street
- 3 Analore Street

This scheme will be called Clones Renewal Project, is very ambitious, and will be promoted as a pilot project for the County. It has the potential to deliver over 16 additional housing units for the town core.

Angling

County Monaghan has received funding from Inland Fisheries to development the following projects:

- Anny Shore, Lough White, Anny, Co Monaghan Resurfacing of existing access road and car park - Monaghan Co Council (€20,549)
- Lisgillan, White Lake, Cremorne, Co Monaghan - Improvement of access road and car park - Monaghan Co Council (€29,206)

- South Shore, Lough Major, Ballybay, Co Monaghan - Improve access to the fishing stands - Monaghan Co Council (€1,706)
- Knappagh Water, Lacken ,Cortubber. Co Monaghan - Upgrading and providing new fishing infrastructure - Bawn Area Community Group Limited (€15,270)

Mr Colin Murphy gave his report:

The Municipal District roads programme for 2017 is complete except for a small overlay at the roundabout in Ballybay on the Monaghan side of the town. Drainage works on the LP2202 at Analore are well advanced. This is the first road listed on the 2018 programme. The crews are currently patching roads and opening outlets in the run up to the Christmas break.

Low Cost Safety Improvements

- Works are complete at Fairtahy and works are ongoing at Crossduff. Completion of the fence has been put back to the New Year to allow for improvement in ground conditions.
- Works at Greenfield eggs junction are complete except for the relocation of an Eir pole.

Cllr Seamus Coyle complimented Mr Mc Nally and Mr Murphy for their reports and for all the work achieved throughout 2017. He asked that a document to be drawn up showing the work carried out in our MD throughout 2017.

Cllr Pat Treanor stated he was delighted to see progression in the issue of dereliction in Clones Town. He asked on plans for Cinema Site and Lennard Arms. Regarding angling Cllr. Pat Treanor stated that Lough Ooney should be looked at for future development.

Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed the works at Crossduff and at Greenfield eggs. Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed the angling funding and stated how important it is for the Municipal District to advance projects such as these.

Cllr Cathy Bennett commended both reports, and asked for an update on the derelict site on the Bog Road. Cllr Cathy Bennett also looked for an update on parking at Corlatt, she also raised the issue of the salting of the roads.

Mr Kevin McNally commented on the salting of roads and noted is very difficult to salt every road. Currently when weather conditions dictate Monaghan County Council salt 610km of road and if required these are salted twice in particular nights. Mr Colin Murphy stated that the county currently have 8 Lorries carrying out this work. The Municipal District place grit at particular locations to asset farmers and business owners to daily activities.

Regarding parking at Corlatt Mr Colin Murphy said he would review this. A further discussion was had on salting and Mr Colin Murphy stated that the council will do their best to facilitate communities if they are required to.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney welcomed the positive news on dereliction within the Clones Town area. He asked Mr Adge King about funding for this project. Mr Adge King responded that the works on dereliction should have a very positive effect on the town. The Cinema site is been investigated and The Lennard Arms is another problem building. Regarding funding Mr Adge King stated that the Clones project was not cost effective and we will need to meet with the department regarding this.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle asked Mr Adge King about the Mathuna site in Ballybay, Mr King stated this would be part of the Ballybay Realm plan.

Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed the proposed works on dereliction in the MD.

Cllr Seamus Coyle raised the issue of sign for the school in Ballybay, Mr Colin Murphy stated that roads were awaiting the schools instruction, Cllr Seamus Coyle will investigate this further.

6. Questions

Cllr Coyle will ask:

(1).Will Monaghan County Council examine immediately the addition of the Rockcorry Village to Doapey Creamery Road-LP02331/LP02330,to the Inclement Weather Gritting Programme, Winter Service Plan, as this road carries very heavy traffic on a daily basis,H.G.V.s/Agricultural Vehicles/Cars etc,including 4 school buses and is very dangerous during wintery frosty conditions, with a school bus accident occurring on it during slippery conditions, last year, in the interests of all road users safety, in particular the 4 school buses, can its addition to the Winter Service Plan, be prioritised?.

Monaghan County Council currently treats 610km of public road as part of its normal winter service plan which have been designated priority 1 and 2 routes. The priority routes account for 24% of the county's entire road network and are treated every time a risk of ice formation is forecast and in some instants 2 treatments maybe required in a single night due to the changeable nature of weather conditions. The remaining 76% (1,930km) of the roads network is designated as priority 3 routes and are not treated as part of the normal winter service; however, they may receive some treatment during certain very severe or prolonged weather events depending on local circumstances and the availability of resources.

The Rockcorry Village to Dopey Creamery Road, LP 2330/2331 is designated as a priority 3 route and therefore not treated as part of the normal winter service plan. Monaghan County Council Roads section receives many requests annually to extend the existing winter maintenance programme which is already operating at capacity in terms of financial and operational resources due to the considerable demands to keep priority 1 and where possible priority 2 routes passable. Consequently, it is not feasible to extend the winter gritting priority routes to include the LP 2330/2331 at present.

(2).Can Monaghan County Council immediately prioritise the Roslea Road(LP02110),Clones Town for safety improvement works, i.e. Traffic Calming Measures, additional Public Lighting, Repairs to Footpaths etc, also can the County Council examine Traffic Control Measurers on what is known locally as the Cannons Lane, passing the rear of the Gerry Arthurs Stand, St.Tiarnachs Park onto the Roslea Rd as this is very highly populated area with a number of housing estates, schools, graveyard, nursing home etc, with very heavy traffic and pedestrian use, increased greatly recently by traffic accessing the Peace Link Facilities, particularly using the Cannons Lane, as there are great concern by local residences, can this be an immediate priority of this Council?.

The Municipal District will examine both the Roslea Road LP2110 out of Clones and Cannons Lane, with a view to establishing what works may be required to be carried out to improve safety.

(3).As there is still great unhappiness and concern locally and by road users of the Ramps on the Castleblayney Rd, Ballybay, can this Council examine their structure etc?

The Municipal District will examine the structure of the ramps on the Castleblayney road out of Ballybay.

(4).Can Monaghan County Council carry out design and costings for a Public Lighting Scheme on the Keady/Cremartin Road,Ballybay(LP03403),as there are a large number of houses extending out this road, with many pedestrians using it on a daily basis?.

The estimated cost of bringing 8no lighting columns out the Keady/Cremartin road in Ballybay a distance of circa 240m is €22,034. There are currently 13 towns/villages/locations where streetlights have been requested – the overall programme has an estimated cost of over €600,000. The Municipal District has written to the Minister for Rural and Community Development with this programme, requesting the establishment of a specific national fund for public lighting projects. The Municipal District receives an annual allocation for public lighting from the County Council of approximately €11,000.

7. Matters arising from previous minutes

Page 5:- Cllr Seamus Coyle raised the issue of the pedestrian crossing in Ballybay. He stated that it was dangerous and that already there had been some near misses. Cllr Sean Gilliland agreed with Cllr Coyle and stated that he felt that parking close to the crossing was the problem. Mr Colin Murphy stated that a road safety audit was to be carried out at Wylies Hill and that the pedestrian crossing would be included. Cllr Hugh McElvaney felt that lights would be the answer to this problem. Cllr Sean Gilliland also raised the issue of the loading bay at Lynchs, signs are needed here as illegal parking is causing serious traffic disruption.

Page 7:- Cllr Cathy Bennett brought up the issue of Barratoppy cross and the prospect of a 4 way stop.

8. Chief Executive orders

Chief Executive Orders 65/17 to 75/17 were noted by the members

9. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

The members extended a vote of congratulations to the following

- Latton/Bawn on winning Pride of Place
- Minister Heather Humphries on her new ministerial role

Members extended a vote of Sympathy to the following

- Stirrat Family and Mark Hall on the death of Liam Stirrat
- Cllr. P. J. O Hanlon on the death of his brother in law Vincent Shields
- The Moyna Family on the death of Mackie Moyna
- The Family of Fr Joe McCluskey

10. AOB

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that we write to the Minister of Transport Shane Ross and to the RSA to register a complaint about the waiting time for a driving test appointment, and demand that he urgently appoints more testers to deal with this issue. This was seconded by Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

Cllr Cathy Bennett raised an issue about Scotstown Village Health Centre and the rumours of its closer, she has spoken to Cathal Hand who has stated this is not the case. Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed that the Ballybay Clones MD request conformation from the HSE of the continuation of a full service at the centre, this motion also to be sent to Monaghan County Council. This was seconded by Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Cllr Seamus Coyle Proposed that the Ballybay Clones MD write to all Cavan/Monaghan Oireachtas members and the Northern and Western Regional Assembly to ensure that the final version of the National Planning Framework gives clarity to a positive Discrimination to the border counties and to small towns in these areas and that the growth and development of Monaghan is intrinsically linked to their respective locations adjacent to the Eastern Corridor and the greater Dublin area and ensure that rural housing for rural dwellers is facilitated and that the re-opening of the Ulster Canal is a key infrastructural project for the Central Border Area and an All Ireland Economy.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 15th.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date 15th January 2018