

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 10th April, 2017 at 10am in Clones Courthouse, McCurtain Street, Clones, Co Monaghan.

Members Present The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pat Treanor, presided

The following members were also present:- Cllrs:- Cathy Bennett, Sean Gilliland, Hugh McElvaney

In Attendance Adge King, Director of Services, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Colin Murphy, Executive Engineer, Fiona McEntee, Youth Development Officer, Bernie Bradley Community & Enterprise Officer, Maire Cullinan, Executive Planner/Economic Co-ordinator, Declan McKenna, Assistant Engineer, Rory Treanor, Assistant Engineer, Angela Gallagher, Staff Officer, Niall Quigley, Intern

Hannah McCaughey, Clianna McCarville, Caoimhe McGorman – Monaghan Comhairle nÓg

Apologies Cllrs:- Seamus Coyle and Ciara McPhillips

1. Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting

The minutes of the March monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr Cathy Bennett and seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney.

2. Correspondence

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 15, item 2.4 of the correspondence regarding a response received from Minister Shane Ross in connection with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport not having a grant programme available for public lighting and proposed the following:-

“That the Ballybay-Clones Municipal office writes again to Minister Shane Ross and request that a Grant Programme is provided immediately for the installation of Public Lighting. The Ballybay-Clones Municipal District presently has 26 lighting projects which will cost in excess of €500,000 to complete. In order to complete these projects it will take the Municipal District 50 years as presently only €10,000 is allocated per year to lighting projects.”

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

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 16, item 2.5 of the correspondence regarding a Dáil question raised by Brendan Smith TD in connection with the provision of a new Fire Station in Ballybay and expressed her disappointment that Ballybay is not included in the current 5 year programme as Monaghan County Council had prioritised a fire station project for Castleblayney. Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed the following:-

“That Ballybay-Clones Municipal District writes to Minister Simon Coveney and request that Capital Funding is made available to prioritise a Fire Station in Ballybay. A Fire Station should be considered a necessity and not a value for money issue.”

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

Mr Adge King stated that there may be an issue with the suitability of the site in Ballybay and that this should also be looked at, that the Department provides funding in tranches and that hopefully Ballybay will have funding made available in the next tranche. In the meantime Monaghan County Council needs to find a more suitable site and decide where the best location of a Fire Station in Ballybay should be.

Cllr Sean Gilliland referred to the Fire Station in Ballybay and stated that he had previously made a proposal for the site to be evaluated and if it is not suitable that a more suitable site be sought.

Cllr Sean Gilliland referred to page 14, Item 2.3 of the correspondence regarding a letter received from Minister Michael Creed's Department regarding the TAMS scheme stating that the issues raised in our letter would be brought to the attention of relevant Department Officials and asked that this item remain on the agenda.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney referred to additional correspondence item 2.19 from Ms Sheila Broderick Acting Chief Fire Officer of Monaghan County Council and stated that it is not up to the Elected Members to report faulty fire hydrants to the Fire Section and that he is looking forward to receiving a report from the Fire Section stating that they have inspected all the Fire Hydrants and that they are in working order.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to additional correspondence Item 2.18 a letter received from Ms Renee Stephenson Egan, Operational Services Manager at Cavan General Hospital regarding car parking charges at the Hospital. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that the letter highlights that cancer patients who wish to drive to Cavan General Hospital will receive a waiver on request of the patients who attend the oncology department and stated that this is good news.

3. Presentation on Youth Survey – Ms Fiona McEntee, Mr Niall Quigley & members of Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg

Ms Fiona McEntee introduced the Clones sub-group of Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg Ms Hannah McCaughey, Ms Clianna McCarville, and Ms Caoimhe McGorman to the Elected Members. The members were advised of a number of consultations this group have been involved with including the Local Economic Community Plan, Peace IV Action Plan and Monaghan Peace Campus, Rossmore Park, Suicide Prevention Strategy and suggested pilot routes for Cavan Monaghan Rural Transport Unit.

Ballybay-Clones Municipal District in discussion with Ms Fiona McEntee (Youth Officer, Monaghan County Council) undertook a survey of the students in Largy College Clones to ascertain which services that young people in the area felt were important and wanted the council to deliver.

To facilitate this, the Municipal District Council held discussions with student representatives from Largy College to discuss the design of a survey. A number of draft surveys were worked up before an agreement was reached on the final design. As well as five questions for the students to fill out the survey consisted of an overview of the services that Monaghan County Council deliver and previous projects they were involved in delivering.

The student representatives, in agreement with the Ballybay Clones Municipal office, held discussions with the teachers in Largy College to inform them of the purpose of the survey. As a result the teaching staff agreed to facilitate a time, during school, for the survey to be carried out.

500 surveys were supplied by the Municipal District and distributed by the student representatives and the teaching staff.

Out of the 500 surveys distributed 214 were completed and returned to the council office. Those students who responded came from 11 towns/villages/town-lands within the Municipal District and 6 from outside the District.

Mr Niall Quigley circulated a document outlining the results of the survey. Some of the issues discussed in more detail were the ideas in relation to a junior cinema club, identifying and mapping possible routes which could be given to Cavan Monaghan Rural Transport Unit and then supporting the youth cafe in clones to promote their facilities further to attract more young people to the cafe.

Councillor Pat Treanor thanked everyone involved in the survey and congratulated the Members of Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg for attending today and providing this feedback to the Elected Members.

4. The Green Ribbon Campaign – Ms Bernie Bradley Community & Enterprise

Ms Bernie Bradley circulated a document to the Elected Members called See Change – The National Mental Health Stigma Reduction Partnership – Action toolkit. Ms Bernie Bradley advised the Members that the Green Campaign is in connection with the Mental Health Campaign which is taking place in May and it is about getting people to talk about Mental Health problems/issues affecting them and removing the stigma attached to it. Ms Bernie Bradley stated that County Monaghan despite having a small population lies in 10th place with suicides in Ireland. Monaghan County Council has signed up to this campaign and is looking for the Municipal District to host an event/initiative to raise awareness on Mental Health Issues and to signpost people on where they can seek help. Ms Bernie Bradley stated that an event is planned to take place in Lough Muckno in May and this year they have a 'Light Up Green' campaign going around the country where prominent building are lighting up green for the month of May.

Councillor Pat Treanor thanked Ms Bernie Bradley for her presentation and asked that the Municipal Office make arrangements to obtain the green ribbons.

Cllr Sean Gilliland stated that he would welcome if the Municipal District could host an event in one or both of the towns and would like a meeting organised as soon as possible to discuss this in more detail.

Ms Bernie Bradley stated that there is a website which is very useful called www.yourmentalhealth.ie/thelittlethings

5. Dereliction in the Municipal District – Ms Maire Cullinan

Ms Maire Cullinan circulated a document to the members outlining the definition of a derelict site and the process the Planning Section needs to go through to place a property on the derelict sites register. Ms Maire Cullinan confirmed that the Planning Section are currently dealing with 15 sites in

Clones, 5 in Ballybay and one in Scotstown. One of the issues dealing with derelict sites is identifying the actual owner/s of the property and sometimes the serving of notices has to start from the beginning of the process again as the property has changed hands.

Cllr Pat Treanor stated that the Planning Section should consider serving the notice on the Site and this action normally brings the owners to the fore. Cllr Pat Treanor asked if it was possible to design new properties with a shop unit at the bottom of the premises to enable a possible retailer to open a business should they wish to do so.

Mr Adge King stated that the only funding available to the Council is for Social Housing and at the moment the Council are only considering 4/5 properties on Fermanagh Street for this type of development.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to the units in Scotstown and asked for clarification on these units. Ms Maire Cullinan stated that there are 4 partially completed units on a 2-3 acre site and that the owners have been asked to demolish the units and tidy up the site. If this is not done, Planning Section will proceed with court action against the owners.

Cllr Cathy Bennett stated that there is funding to build Social Housing. Ms Maire Cullinan stated that the demand for these houses is in the Towns of the County.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to the properties on Main Street in Ballybay and asked if there is a proposal to build car parking in this area? Ms Maire Cullinan stated that they are looking for the partially build property to the rear to be demolished, remove the steel structure and construct an access road. Ms Maire Cullinan confirmed that the Insolvency Services of Ireland are involved with this property.

Cllr Sean Gilliland referred to the financial institutions involved in some of the derelict sites and stated that they need to be contacting the Local Authority as a matter of urgency to dispose of these sites and not to be hanging onto them.

6. Proposed new offices for Ballybay-Clones Municipal District – Mr Declan McKenna

Mr Declan McKenna circulated a document to the Elected Members outlining the proposal for the new offices in the former Library building on the Diamond in Clones. Mr Declan McKenna confirmed the progress which has taken place to date and detailed the key milestones to enable the project to be completed on time for occupation in quarter 2 in 2018.

Cllr Sean Gilliland asked what are the proposals for the existing offices and is there an overall cost for this project?

Mr Kevin McNally stated that the cost is in the region of €800,000 and the County Council has agreed to obtain a loan for this amount and the Council is currently in negotiations with parties who have expressed an interest in the existing offices.

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked if the Municipal District have sought funding from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs? Mr Kevin McNally stated that they had not applied to this department as they had received funding to refurbish the old Post Office on the Diamond and

was not sure if they would qualify for funding, however he would check this out and revert back to the Members.

7. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator

Mr Kevin McNally circulated a document to the Elected Members outlining the Clar 2017 Funding Scheme and confirmed the following:-

The 2017 Clar programme has four measures with an allocation of €4.25m for local authorities nationally:

1. Support/Community Safety Measures - €2m
2. Play Areas - €0.75m
3. Targeted Community Infrastructure Needs - €1.5m
4. First Response Support Measure - €0.75m

However, there are a number of changes to the Clar programme in 2017.

Measure 4 applicants must apply directly to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

Clar applications are to be approved by the Local Community Development Committee, for submission to the Department.

A maximum of 20 applications under measures 1 to 3 may be submitted to the Department by each LCDC

Grants are limited to between 85% and 90% of the costs and a minimum local contribution of 5% is sought from successful schools/communities.

The deadline for receipt of applications to the Local Community Development Committee for Measures 1, 2 and 3 is 27 April 2017.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that the Clar map is too small and could the members be provided with a larger version of the map. Mr Colin Murphy agreed to do this.

Mr Kevin McNally stated that if the Members have any suggestions/proposals can they submit them into the office as soon as possible.

Mr Kevin McNally confirmed the following:

Redz Funding, Clones

- Linear Park - A decision on the Part 8 was brought to the April Council meeting and planning was granted. A Compulsory Purchase Order is currently being prepared to progress the project. A topographical survey has being carried out and advanced design work on the project has begun.

- Part 8 Planning has been applied for the redevelopment of the Erne Cafe site into a car park. The closing date for submissions for the Part 8 Planning for is the 30th March. Land acquisition is being progressed.
- A topographical survey has been completed and land acquisition negotiations are ongoing for Clones Industrial Park serviced sites and Monaghan County Council's Machinery Yard. Part 8 planning permission will be applied for upon successful acquisition of land.
- Signage is being designed for a Clones 'Town Trail', to include heritage sites and places of interest. The Tourism officer is assisting the Municipal District with this process.

CLAR 2016 Funding

- Scotshouse Teen Hangout. Design work for the teen hangout is currently been undertaken with a view to going to tender in the next few weeks. A tree survey was also carried out by an arborist to recommend required works. Following the recommendations on the tree survey we intend to employ a tree surgeon to carry out these works. Design for public lighting using existing ducting is being progressed also.
- Ballybay Town Park Playground: A consultant in Playpark design has prepared a detailed report and costings to create a more inclusive playpark. Our disability officer, Bernie Bradley is currently reviewing the report and will make recommendations with a view to going to tender in the coming weeks.
- Bawn: Our GSS and Foreman met with reps from the park and the Gateway staff has been deployed to the park to undertake some minor maintenance/repair works. Our Engineer is reviewing the committee's proposals for works to establish what is feasible with the small budget available.
- Magherarney: The carpark at this location is being led by a community group. The CLAR funding will be allocated to this project as a grant towards the works. The Municipal District has met with Magherarney Development Association in relation carpark and is assisting their Engineer to develop and tender the works.
- Knockatallon: Signs are on order for Knockatallon. Lining work is complete.

Town & Village Renewal Funding

Ballybay

- Works have been completed on 14 parking spaces at the Coachmans entrance to Ballybay Town Park (including 2 parent and child spaces). Just needs to be lined. Repair works were also undertaken on the footpath within the town park adjacent Basketball Court.
- A design has been prepared in consultation with an Architect to develop the entrance to the town park at Ballybay Part. These options are being costed and are planned for construction in Q2/3 2017.
- Quotations have been received for fencing along the Riverdale and from Lough Mor Avenue to the school. Tender for erection of this fencing will be published in the coming week.
- Details are being drafted for a heritage trail/information signage in the town.

Rockcorry

- Footpath Works are almost complete. The Contractor will then construct the additional parking at the Crann Mor estate (expected completion time 1 week). Public lighting works

on Monaghan Road to commence after this out as far as St Mary's hall. Once the civil works are complete the lighting on the Cootehill, Monaghan Road, and pedestrian crossing will be made live.

- The Municipal District has met with Rockcorry Tidy Towns to develop proposals around the planting and landscaping of the village. (Polytunnel).

Scotstown

- Civil Works are complete except for the erection of a number of bollards (8)
- The Municipal District has met with Scotstown Tidy Towns to develop proposals for approach road re signage and planting.

Knockatallon Development Association

A meeting took place with the Elected Members and Knockatallon Development Association and a list of requests was received by the Municipal District and these are currently receiving attention.

Famine Archway

A ceremony will take place at the Famine Archway on Friday 19th May 2017 at 12pm. Minister Heather Humphrey's will attend this event which also includes the launch of the book A Time of Desolation: Poor Law Union 1845-1851. Invites will be issued in the next couple of weeks.

Ballybay Regeneration Meeting

The next meeting of Ballybay Regeneration committee will take place on Tuesday 11th April 2017 at 6pm in Ballybay Civic Offices.

Clones Regeneration Meeting

An email was circulated regarding the proposed date of the next Clones Regeneration Meeting, as a number of members of this committee cannot attend on Monday 24th April at 7.15 it was proposed to reorganise another meeting for the beginning of May. This was agreed by the Members.

Engineers Report

Mr Colin Murphy confirmed the following:-

Roads Programme

14 roads (3 Regional) are on the roads programme for 2017, which will see 23 km of roads restored and improved. Preparatory Drainage is complete on 6 of these roads and the gangs are currently working on 4 others. The closing date for receipt of bitmac tenders was last Friday and it is anticipated that the successful contractor will be on site in the middle of May. It will be at the contractor's discretion which Municipal District they start in.

Patch repairs are complete on the Bog Road, Scotstown and Kilmore East, Ballinode. A localised slump in the road has been repaired on the LS7410 at Cornanagh, following an accident there.

Our Craftsman and his gang have carried out significant repair works in all the playparks located throughout the Municipal District. A small number of repairs have been identified that require

specialised works and these have been tendered for. Works on O'Neill Park playpark is now complete and has reopened.

National Roads

- It is proposed to resurface the N54 through Clones Town from Applegreen to Cara Street based on Scrim and Skid Resistance Testing. Design works are underway, with a view to undertaking the works in Summer 2017.
- The repair of the safety barrier at Gransha National School is being progressed through the Road Design Office/TII. Road Design has informed the MD that works will not be carried out for at least another month.

Low Cost Safety Improvements

- An allocation of €40,000 has been received for the R181 Fairtahy (Crossduff).
- An allocation of €25,000 has been received for the Greenfield Eggs.

Speed limits

Monaghan County Council is awaiting feedback from the TII's consulting engineers in relation to comments made on National Road Speed Limits.

Miscellaneous Works

- Doohamlet Construction Ltd has completed works on the Old Coach-house to the rear of Ballybay Civic Offices to facilitate Ballybay Men's Shed. A short-term lease is in place for the men's shed and they are to take occupancy of the building in April 2017.
- Our Engineer has met with the Swanns Cross committee in relation to the provision of a bus shelter. There are concerns with safety on this road but preliminary design is under way.
- Clones Castle – Tenders have been received for a structural assessment of the walls of the castle. This has been forwarded to the Heritage Officer for her recommendations.
- Mullinary Lough jetty replacement design ongoing, tenders currently out for replacement of jetty. Discussions are ongoing with landowners and stakeholders

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the works proposed on the N54 and was disappointed to note that the TII are stopping the works short and that they should be completing this work as far as the border. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that they should not spend the money unless they are going to do the job properly and that it doesn't make sense to stop this work at the Protestant Hall when its the residents who live past this road who are complaining about the noise and could they not take it down as far as the last property on that road?

Mr Colin Murphy stated that the Roads Section have asked the TII to reconsider this and is awaiting a response from them.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the Linear Park which runs beside the Ulster Canal and stated that work has been given the go ahead at Derrykerrib from Lough Erne to Castle Saunderson and that the Council should remain in touch with Waterways Ireland regarding the progress being made on the Ulster Canal.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the proposed Industrial Park in Clones and stated that the County Council has agreed to apply for a loan to provided Industrial Parks within the County. Mr Kevin McNally stated that the Municipal District would be applying for some of this funding to progress the site in Clones.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to the Lislanley to Cremartin Road and stated that this road is in very poor condition and can it be added to the 2017 programme. Mr Colin Murphy stated that this road is on the 2018 Roads Programme.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney referred to the Cremartin Road and stated that only part of this road is within our Municipal District and asked how much would be in the Monaghan Municipal District?

Cllr Hugh McElvaney referred to the Clar Map and asked that this map be increased in size as it is his intention of proposing a resolution to have all the areas in the County to benefit from Clar Funding.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney referred to recent works which have taken place in Rockcorry and asked that a ramp be installed at this location. Mr Colin Murphy stated that this matter will be investigated and he will revert back to the Members on this once review is completed.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney referred to the speeding review being carried out by consultants on behalf of the TII at Gransha School and stated that road user/residents have to be well informed of the changes proposed and that consultation has to take place.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the Town & Village renewal scheme and stated that other Local Authorities are coming up with projects which include the creation of jobs and asked if this could be consider by the Municipal District. Mr Kevin McNally stated that this could be considered.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to a meeting which took place last week with Knockatallon Development Association and they would like the Council to consider installing ramps outside the Sliabh Beagh Hotel to slow down the traffic as children are running across the road from the hotel to the astro turf pitches and they are concerned there is going to be an accident. Mr Kevin McNally stated that ramps are not a solution in all cases; however he would look at this again.

Cllr Sean Gilliland asked if it is feasible for the Municipal District to carry out a study to see if speeding is an issue at this location. Mr Colin Murphy stated that a speed review will be carried out at this location to see if speeding is an issue.

Cllr Pat Treanor stated that ramps are still required on the Newtownbutler Road which he has requested previously and a petition was recently submitted from residents in McCurtain Street looking for ramps. Cllr Pat Treanor said he was not sure if An Garda Shiochana should be contacted in relation to enforcement action.

8. Matters Arising

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 4 of the previous minutes regarding the installation of Wifi in Clones Town and Ballybay Town and asked how this is progressing and stated that the WIFI4EU project has been launched which will allow WIFI to be made available in rural Ireland. Mr Kevin McNally stated that Mr John McArdle is currently working on this and proposes to have the Wifi operational by April.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 4 of the previous minutes regarding the Paul Hogarth Company Consultants who have been employed by Ballybay-Clones Municipal District and Fermanagh & Omagh District Council to draft a Masterplan for the Sliabh Beagh Area. Cllr Cathy Bennett wanted to highlight the issue of illegal dumping in the Sliabh Beagh Area and would like the culprits to be named and shamed. Cllr Cathy Bennett also suggested that the mobile CCTV unit be placed in this location to enable the culprits of illegal dumping to be caught and also wished to congratulate local volunteers who called out to the area last Saturday to clear up the mess.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney also wished to encourage people to report illegal dumping.

Cllr Sean Gilliland referred to page 5 of the previous minutes regarding water lying on the Regional Road and wished to thank the Council for dealing with this issue and that it has now been resolved.

Cllr Sean Gilliland referred to page 6 of the previous minutes regarding the Low Cost Safety measures at Crossduff and asked how this is progressing? Mr Colin Murphy confirmed that there are still some land easements to be resolved with the landowners before work can commence.

9. Questions

Cllr Ciara McPhillips asked:-

1. Is the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District aware of problems with large amounts of water running on the road at Drumcoofoster, Knockatallon? Is any action planned to repair the issue?

Reply: The Ballybay-Clones Municipal District is aware of this problem. The issue is a blocked gully grating which when cleared will resolve the issue – this work was completed week ending 7th April 2017.

2. When is it envisaged that works will commence on the footpath between Latnamard National School and the Carn Resource Centre, Aghabog, such works being agreed and included in our budget and plan for 2017?

Reply: It is envisaged that works will commence on the footpath between Latnamard National School and the Carn Resource Centre, Aghabog in Quarter 3 of this year.

3. Has the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District received any further information from Transport Infrastructure Ireland or Monaghan County Council Roads Department regarding proposed works at Gransha National School, along the N54?

Reply: The National Road Speed Limit review process is ongoing. At Gransha National School on the N54, a periodic speed limit has been proposed by the TII and subsequently agreed by Monaghan County Council. This review process is not complete and therefore any forthcoming proposals have yet to be agreed / finalised.

Also contact has been made with the Principal of Gransha National School by the Roads Section of Monaghan County Council. These proposals were discussed and a positive response was received.

It is hoped that once this National Road Speed Limit Review process is complete, the periodic speed limit will be implemented at this location on the N54

10. Chief Executive Orders

Chief Executive Order No's BCMD 16/17 - 21/17 were noted by the Members

11. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

There were no votes of congratulation or sympathy.

12. AOB

Cllr Sean Gilliland referred to the Oireachtas meeting which took place in Ballybay Wetlands Centre on Friday 24th April and apologised for not being able to attend.

Cllr Sean Gilliland referred to the unveiling of a plaque to Johnny Clerkin on Lackan Bridge which took place on Saturday 8th April 2017 and wished to thank all the staff and the Community for organising the event which was attended by 80-100 people.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date 15th May 2017