

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 20th February, 2017 at 11am 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, Seamus Coyle, Sean Gilliland, Hugh McElvaney and Ciara McPhillips

In Attendance Adge King, Director of Services, Mr John McArdle, IS Project Leader, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Roisin Moore, Executive Engineer, Angela Gallagher, Staff Officer

At the outset of the meeting Cllr Pat Treanor referred to a couple of great events for the town which took place in the last week. The visit from the Ireland Rugby Team to the Peace Link and to the rugby grounds in Ballinode. Cllr Treanor also welcomed the funding received from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for the Old Post Office in Clones for conversion to an Arts Studio.

1. Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting

The minutes of the January monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr Sean Gilliland and seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney.

2. Correspondence

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to Item 2.12 of the correspondence regarding letters issued to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Mr Michael Creed, TD by Cavan Monaghan Oireachtas Members and the response received by the Minister and stated that only 5% of claims have been paid out because of the lengthy process which farmers have to go through to receive such a small grant.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to Item 2.13 of the correspondence regarding the North South Interconnector and proposed the following:-

“The Members of Ballybay-Clones Municipal District commend Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD, Brendan Smyth TD and Niamh Smyth TD on their support of a motion in Dail Eireann on Thursday 16th February 2017 demanding the Government implement its commitment in the Programme for Government in relation to better engagement and Community Consultation about energy policy decisions that affect them.

The Members of Ballybay-Clones Municipal District request that constituency’s TD continue to seek:

- The commissioning of an independent expert industry analysis to examine the technical feasibility and cost of undergrounding the North-South Interconnector taking into consideration other European models that do same.

- The evaluation of the potential impacts of both undergrounding and over grounding the North South Interconnector on surrounding area's considering such aspects as it impacts on Local Tourism, Health, Landscape, Agriculture etc.
- The analysis of the real cost to date and estimate future costs of the proposed pylon project.
- Confirmation that no further work is done by Eirgrid or any other agency until this analysis is completed and until full community engagement completed.

We demand an unequivocal commitment from Ministers Denis Naughton TD, Heather Humphrey's TD Regina Doherty TD, Helen McEntee TD, Damien English TD and the Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD that the Dail motion is implemented in full, all works on the North South Interconnector are stopped immediately and they Commission the independent expert industry analysis"

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

Once adopted this notice is to be forwarded immediately to all named persons mentioned, Monaghan County Council, Meath County Council, Cavan County Council, County Monaghan Anti-Pylon Committee, North East Pylon Pressure Campaign.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney congratulated Cllrs Seamus Coyle and PJ O'Hanlon on all their hard work on this issue and stated that an International review will now take place thanks to them.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to Item 2.14 regarding the response received from the Minister for Social Protection Leo Varadkar TD regarding not relocating any department agencies in Ballybay and proposed the following:-

"That Ballybay-Clones Municipal District convenes a meeting with the Oireachtas representatives for Cavan/Monaghan so as for them to explain their engagement with the Minister for Social Protection, their absolute failure to retain 30 plus jobs in Ballybay and their continuing failure to have relocated a department agency to Ballybay. Representatives of Ballybay Chamber of commerce and Ballybay Development Association to be invited."

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

3. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator

Mr Kevin McNally confirmed the following:-

Redz Funding, Clones

- Part 8 Planning has been applied for the Linear Park. Land ownership is being investigated.
- Part 8 Planning has been applied for the redevelopment of the Erne Mineral Cafe site into a carpark. Land acquisition is being progressed.
- A topographical survey is being commissioned and Part 8 planning permission will be applied for in the coming weeks for Clones Industrial Park serviced sites and Monaghan County Council's Machinery Yard. Offers for the purchase of required lands have been tabled to property owners. Discussions are ongoing.
- Signage is being designed for a Clones 'Town Trail', to include heritage sites and places of interest.

CLAR Funding

- Scotshouse: Proposals are being developed for Scotshouse Park. A public consultation event has been organised for the 20th February. After the community feeds back into the design, details for the 'teen hangout zone' can be developed.
- Ballybay Town Park Playground: A public consultation event was held in relation to accessibility issues around the town park on Thursday 19th January. The items raised will be taken into consideration in commissioning new accessible play equipment for the playground. Next meeting of Ballybay Regeneration Committee is scheduled for 21st February
- Bawn: The Municipal District has met with reps of the Billy Fox memorial park and a list of priorities are to be agreed to allow works to be progressed. A commitment has been given that the Gateway staff will be deployed to the park to undertake some minor maintenance/repair works.
- 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 to Magherarney carpark and are assisting their Engineer to develop and tender the works. The community group has to raise significant match funding to progress this project.
- Knockatallon: Signs and lines are on order for Knockatallon.

Town & Village Renewal Funding

Ballybay

- Works are due to commence in February on an additional 14 parking spaces at the Coachmans entrance to Ballybay Town Park (including 2 parent and child spaces).
- Proposals are being drawn up in consultation with an architect to develop the entrance and parking for Ballybay Town Park at the Mart/Gatehouse.
- Details are being drafted for a heritage trail/information signage in the town.

Rockcorry

- The Contractor is due to return to site to complete footpath works and additional parking at the Crann Mor estate in February.
- The Municipal District has met with Rockcorry Tidy Towns to develop proposals around the planting and landscaping of the village.

Scotstown

- Works are due for completion on the footpath on the Roslea Road in February.
- The Municipal District will meet with Scotstown Tidy Towns to develop proposals for approach road signage and planting.

The Market House

Alastair Coey Architects are developing and costing design options for the Market House. It is programmed that the building will be occupied in March 2018.

Miscellaneous Works

- Doohamlet Construction Ltd has commenced upgrade works on the Old Coach-house to the rear of Ballybay Civic Offices to facilitate Ballybay Men's Shed – these works will be completed by early March
- Play equipment in O Neill Park Clones has been closed off on safety grounds due to a playground audit received from an independent assessor in December 2016. The Municipal District is in the process of seeking quotations to repair the equipment to an acceptable level.

Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership

Paul Hogarth has been appointed to prepare a Master Plan for the Sliabh Beagh region.

Next meeting of the Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership is scheduled for week beginning 6th March 2017.

This meeting will coincide with a public consultation evening – website for Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership will be launched on the evening.

Former Ballybay Health Centre

The Municipal District Office has reached agreement with the HSE for the purchase of the former Ballybay Health Centre for €26,000. Subject to Chief Executive approval this sale can be closed in Quarter 1.

Newbliss office

An architect has been appointed to undertake a Structural / Civil & Conservation Engineering assessment of Monaghan County Council's offices in Newbliss. This review is currently ongoing and should be completed by February. Initial findings are that a number of floor joists are damaged from dry rot. The Municipal District is currently working with the relevant sections of the council to have material removed so as to take weight off the first floors.

Engineers Report

Ms Roisin Moore confirmed the following:-

Roads Programme

2017 roads allocation has been received. Contracts are being prepared for tarmacadam on the local and regional roads programme. In almost all cases where works are travelling past house entrances it is proposed to tarmacadam a 2 metre strip at the entrance only. Where the existing entrance has already been taracadamed by the owner, the Council will plane out a 2m strip and resurface to tie-in with their existing levels.

The 2017 roads programme has been agreed in and based on the agreed road programme, drainage works have commenced/been completed on 4 roads.

National Roads

- An allocation has been received for resurfacing a 600m section in Clones Town.

- The repair of the safety barrier at Gransha National School is being progressed through the Road Design Office/TII.

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.

Bunroe River Integrated Management Study

RPS Ireland Ltd Consulting Engineers has been appointed to undertake an Integrated Management Study of the Bunroe River from Doapey Creamery to the Cavan Border. They are in the process of conducting a walkover survey of the area to identify areas where detailed analysis or investigation is required. Letters were issued to landowners advising that surveyors would be in the area. Any interested parties/groups are invited to make submissions in relation to the study before the 3rd March 2017.

Speed limits

The Speed Limit Committee has agreed proposed speed limit changes (discussed with the members at the Roads Committee meeting on Monday 16th January). It is planned to publish the draft speed limit bye-laws for public consultation on local and regional roads in February 2017. Monaghan County Council is awaiting feedback from the TII's consulting engineers in relation to comments made on National Road Speed Limits.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred Caravetragh Road and referred to the recent lobbying which he had received and stated that this road needs to be done. Ms Roisin Moore stated that the Council had men on that road on the same day that a petition was received and they carried out patching work to the road. Cllr Hugh McElvaney referred to the Risk Assessment which was carried out and asked if this is now a requirement. Mr Kevin McNally stated that the risk assessment was carried out by an individual privately and that this is not a requirement by the Council.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the derelict properties in Fermanagh Street and stated that more than 50% of the properties are vacant and suggested that the owners of these properties should come forward to the Council with any plans they have. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that identifying the owners is proving difficult.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to the public consultation which took place in the Wetlands to discuss future development of Ballybay Town Park and stated that it was well organised and the Municipal District could learn from this.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to the funding being made available for the car park in Magherarney and welcomed this and the co-operation between the Community and the Municipal District.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to works taking place in Rockcorry and stated that there seems to be an issue with the paving stones on the main street as weeds are growing through them and asked if the Municipal District would look at this. Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that this would be dealt with.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to the public toilets in Ballybay and stated that there are ongoing complaints regarding the cleanliness of the toilets and the cubicles having no toilet roll available. Mr Kevin McNally stated that he would investigate the complaints.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney referred to work on the Market House stating that he is looking forward to seeing the drawings/plans of the new offices and asked if there is a budget set aside for this. Mr

Kevin McNally stated that funding has been set aside in the budget to progress these plans and an agreement has been made to allow the Council to draw down a loan for this development.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney referred to the Low Cost Safety measure for Scotch Corner and welcomed the news that Mr John McKernan from the Roads Section of Monaghan County Council is going to request additional funding from the Department for this.

Cllr Seamus Coyle expressed his disappointment with the Roads Funding and stated that Minister Shane Ross TD is unaware of the crisis facing the Local Authorities and less roads are likely to be done due to rising costs. Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed the following:-

“That Ballybay-Clones Municipal District expresses its total disappointment at the 2017 Roads Allocation for road restoration across the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District with current repairs costs of 14.6 million in view of the poor condition of roads, we invite the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross TD, to visit roads in the Municipal District.”

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

Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed the Roads Allocation and the small increase from last year. Cllr Gilliland stated that the funding received is never enough but at least it is heading in the right direction and since the discontinuation of stone and spray, the new system in place ensures that the roads are lasting longer.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to the new footpath in Scotstown and asked if a D-Rail fence was being installed and if this was the case who is responsible for maintaining it. Ms Roisin Moore confirmed that a fence is being erected and the owners of the land will be responsible for maintaining the fence on their land.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to the signs and lines for Knockatallon and asked if a ramp could be installed in the village. Ms Roisin Moore stated that once the signs and lines have been installed this can be reviewed again to see if the issue with speeding through the village is still an issue.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to the Master Plan being developed for the Sliagh Beagh Area and welcomed the public consultation which is due to take place in early March and recommended that everyone who has an interest in this area should attend.

Cllr Cathy Bennett welcomed the funding which has become available under the Low Cost Safety Initiative for Greenfield Eggs.

Cllr Pat Treanor stated that Monaghan County Council’s Community and Environment Funding scheme is now available with a closing date of Friday 3rd March 2017 and encouraged everyone to send it to all the Community Groups and organisations within the Municipal District.

4. WiFi in Ballybay Clones

Mr John McArdle outlined the following wi-fi proposals for Clones and Ballybay Towns:-

Clones

- ▶ 3 Wifi points
- ▶ 2 phone connections with broadband

Ballybay

- ▶ 2 Wifi points
- ▶ 1 phone connections with broadband

Free internet usage for up to 1 hour per day

- ▶ Registration Process via sign in, Facebook, Twitter
- ▶ Each access point can take up to 500 users
- ▶ Internet usage is filtered and monitored to block access to inappropriate sites
- ▶ Weekly reports to monitor usage & develop information about user demographics
- ▶ Purple Wifi management to allow/ block
- ▶ Ability to create and advertise specific Wifi events
- ▶ Further scope for expansion

Installation Steps & Costs

- ▶ Built using Existing platform installed by Monaghan Co. Co. IT section in 2016
- ▶ Wifi infrastructure based on Co. Co. buildings and lighting poles
- ▶ Requires some retrofitting of street lighting & electricity in cabinets
- ▶ Phonelines ordered & pre-qualified for broadband
- ▶ Routers to be ordered & configured
- ▶ External supplier to arrive on site to complete the installation
- ▶ Advertising & Promotion

Capital and Installation costs

- ▶ Clones € 11,000
- ▶ Ballybay € 7,500
- ▶ Additional Shared Costs: Hoist
- ▶ Annual Running Costs: €3,000-4,000

Ongoing costs

- ▶ Phone line rental
- ▶ Broadband package
- ▶ Maintenance on wifi equipment & routers
- ▶ Annual Software licensing for Purple Wifi
- ▶ Hoists where applicable
- ▶ Monaghan Co. Co. IT staff

Cllr Pat Treanor thanked Mr John McArdle for his presentation and stated that Wi-Fi brings people into the Town. Cllr Pat Treanor asked if the Wi-Fi would be connected into the Fibre Loop which is available. Mr John McArdle stated that this would not be the case and that as far as he is aware no business has connected into the Fibre Loop as costs are prohibitive.

Cllr Sean Gilliland referred to the Wi-Fi connection in Ballybay and asked if it would reach as far as the Riverdale Hotel and is it within the remit to include another Wi-Fi spot to include the hotel. Mr John McArdle stated that it would not reach as far as the hotel and that he would look at the level of usage in the towns and this would add towards any case the Council could make to extend the network. Mr John McArdle also stated that to include another Wi-Fi connection in Ballybay would incur additional phone lines, broadband router and would increase the costs.

Mr John McArdle also stated that an EU Initiative is due to be rolled out soon called Wi-Fi for EU and within this programme the Municipal District could see if they could apply to extend the existing proposed Wi-Fi.

Mr Kevin McNally stated that the funding for Wi-Fi would need to come out of the 2017 Municipal District Allocation and would cost approximately €20,000.

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that the Wi-Fi for Ballybay & Clones Town proceed, this was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle and agreed by all.

5. Matters Arising

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to page 5 of the previous minutes, paragraph 3 regarding correspondence issued to Monaghan County Council and expressed her disappointment that the Council have yet to respond to this issue which has been ongoing since October. Cllr Ciara McPhillips stated that she would like this brought to the Chief Executive's attention that responses are slow to be issued from the Council.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to page 5 of the previous minutes regarding a collision meeting with An Garda Síochána and asked if a collision meeting had taken place. Ms Roisin Moore stated that a collision meeting has not taken place yet.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 2 of the previous minutes regarding the checking of Fire Hydrants and stated that she was looking for a schedule of inspections to be provided. Mr Kevin McNally stated that at the previous meeting the Acting Chief Fire Officer, Ms Sheila Broderick confirmed that inspections do take place but is not aware if there is a programme available, however this would be requested from the Fire Section.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 7 of the previous minutes, question 4 regarding providing additional bring banks to Ballybay and asked if this could be considered.

Mr Kevin McNally stated that this request has been brought to the Environment Section's attention, however he would write to them again with this request. Mr Aidge King stated that the Environment Section has funding available for this type of request and the Municipal District would follow this up with them.

Cllr Sean Gilliland referred to page 2 of the previous minutes regarding the new Fire Station for Ballybay and asked if there was any progress with this? Mr Kevin McNally stated that the Municipal District and the Fire Section have been working with a particular landowner who had an alternative site for a combined Fire/Municipal District facility. Following an evaluation of costs, it was deemed that the site was no longer suitable. The Chief Executive has requested that an evaluation of proposed site of the new Fire Station for Ballybay (on the Ballybay Cootehill Road) be undertaken for the purposes of a combined Fire/Municipal District facility.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 4 of the previous minutes regarding play equipment in O'Neill Park being closed off and asked if this was still the case. Ms Roisin Moore stated that the tenders have been received and are being analysed. Ms Roisin Moore noted that the Municipal District is looking to carry out various works to playgrounds including O'Neill park and has combined all works into a single contract in order to obtain value for money.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to work being carried out the Men's Shed in Ballybay and asked when this would be available? Mr Kevin McNally stated that there is a lead in time for the doors and windows and the property is likely to be available in early March. Ms Roisin Moore confirmed that the contractor is currently on site.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 6, 1s paragraph of the previous minutes regarding dereliction and asked for an update on this. Mr Kevin McNally stated that there are 5 owners involved with the Erne Cafe and the Council is very close to purchasing this site by the end of the month. The Council is also purchasing Davy's Butchers and again the Council hopes to have this completed by the end of the month. The Planning Section is currently issuing notices on various other properties including the Flower Shop on Fermanagh Street and it is hoped to CPO this site.

Mr Kevin McNally stated that the HSE have agreed to sell the former health clinic in Ballybay and this is currently with solicitors. On the site on the Main Street adjacent to Liam Smyths a number of notices have been issued by the Planning Section. The Council are also working with the owners of derelict sites on Patrick Street and Church Street. The Council is also meeting with the Planning Section bi-monthly to deal with dereliction.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to the derelict properties on the Bog Road and asked what is happening with these houses? Mr Kevin McNally stated that Planning Section have issued notices with a view to placing these properties on the derelict sites register.

6. Questions

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked:-

1. Will Monaghan County Council give immediate prioritisation to the restoration/resurfacing of the L22414 road, past St. Alphonsus Church, National School and Community Centre, Connons, as it is currently in very poor condition, with potholes, broken surface and flooding, major problems, on this very busy route, the main corridor, through the Connons to Scotshouse?

Reply: The roads programme has already been agreed for 2017, however this road will be included on a list for consideration for future road programmes.

2. What plans have Monaghan County Council for the erection of additional public lighting, adjacent to the Church, School and Community Centre in the Connons?

Reply: This location is on a programme for public lighting for the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones. 4 streetlights are proposed to cover this area, with an estimated cost of €12,000. There are currently 17 towns/villages where streetlights have been requested – the overall programme has an estimated cost of over €600,000.

3. Can Monaghan County Council immediately prioritise Safety Improvement Works on the Roslea Rd. Smithborough-L6100, as this is a very heavily pedestrianised/vehicular route, with Smithborough Presbyterian Church and Eire Og G.A.A. grounds, Pairc an Iarnoid located on this road?

Reply: In 2017 Low Cost Safety Improvement funding was secured for 2 locations in the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones; R181 Crossduff (Lough Egish) and junction near Greenfield Foods, Scotstown. Funding is not currently available for this location, however this location will be added to a list of proposed locations for future works.

4. Can Monaghan Council place on the Public Lighting Schemes List, a public lighting on the R162-Ballybay-Shercock Rd. (Riverdale to the Power House) and detailed plans/estimated costings prepared on this approach road to Ballybay?

Reply: This location is on a programme for public lighting for the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones. 17 streetlights are required to cover this area, with an estimated cost of almost €30,000. There are currently 17 towns/villages where streetlights have been requested – the overall programme has an estimated cost of over €600,000.

5. Will Monaghan County Council carry out complete restoration and resurfacing works at Loch Mor Ave., Ballybay and Lisdrumclave Estate, Latton?

Reply: The Municipal Districts roads programme has already been agreed for 2017; however these roads will be included on a list for consideration for future road programmes.

7. Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle:-

1. That the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District seek an immediate meeting with Bus Eireann/Cavan-Monaghan Rural Transport and Private Bus Transport providers to request a full and proper public bus transport services to/from Ballybay to all major local and national centres/hospitals etc.

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

2. That Ballybay/Clones Municipal District demand from the government and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed T.D. an absolute guarantee that all of County Monaghan, will remain an Area of Natural Constraint (A.N.C.) severely handicapped, to maximize the benefits Monaghan farmers receive, with increased payments, due to the very difficult farming conditions of Monaghan land.

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

8. Chief Executive Orders

Chief Executive Order No's BCMD 01/17 - 05/17 were noted by the Members

9. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

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

Fintan and Barry Keenan Main Street, Scotstown on the death of Kathleen Keenan
Seamus O'Brien former Engineer Monaghan County Council on the death of his mother Bridget O'Brien (nee McDonnell) formerly of Newbliss
Cllr Hugh McElvaney, the McFadden and McElvaney families on the death of Fran McFadden, Rockcorry
The McCourt Family, Annyalla on the death of Frank McCourt former member of the outdoor staff of Monaghan County Council

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

Cllr Sean Gilliland and his wife Annie on the birth of their daughter, Grace.

10. AOB

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date 20th March 2017