

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

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 10am in Ballybay Civic Offices, Main Street, Ballybay Co Monaghan.

**Members Present** Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seamus Coyle, presided

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

**In Attendance** Adge King, Director of Services, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Colin Murphy, Executive Engineer, Seamus McMahon, Staff Officer, Donna Moran, Graduate Engineer,

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

The minutes of the June monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr Pat Treanor and seconded by Cllr Sean Gilliland.

### **2. Correspondence**

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to correspondence regarding to the Enterprise Ireland Development Fund and noted the various streams of funding that are available. We should assist community groups in applying for this. Cllr. Seamus Coyle agreed with Cllr. Treanor and stated that it was very important to get the message out to community groups that this funding is available.

Cllr. Pat Treanor stated that the local GAA should be contacted regarding this funding.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle requested that the LEO office be contacted and requested to publicise this stream of funding.

Cllr. Pat Treanor discussed the Clones Knitters & Crocheters letter. Cllr. Treanor proposed giving them €200, this was seconded by Cllr. Hughie McElvaney and agreed by all.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle referred to additional correspondence from Killeevan Sarsfields GAA regarding 'O Bearla go Gaeilge'. Cllr Sean Gilliland proposed that the Municipal District would support this initiative. This was seconded by Cllr. Seamus Coyle and agreed by all.

### **3. Mr Kieran Tuite Head of Bank of Ireland Cavan & Monaghan – proposed cashless bank for Ballybay and Clones**

Cllr McElvaney noted that he had a conflict of interest on this matter and excluded himself from the discussions.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle welcomed Mr Kieran Tuite and Mr Barry McGovern (Manager Bank of Ireland Clones). Cllr. Coyle acknowledged Bank of Irelands work in the community. He stated that the news of cashless banks had come as a massive shock. Cllr. Coyle stated while the Municipal District is trying to deal with regeneration of the towns this news could have dramatic effects on this process.

He stated that this will have massive consequences for small business in the area. Cllr. Seamus Coyle called on Bank of Ireland to reverse its decision regarding the 2 branches at Ballybay and Clones.

Mr Kieran Tuite gave a detailed report on what the banks plans are. He stated that the term 'Cashless Banking' was inaccurate. He discussed at how banking has changed. Only 3% of business now done in the bank. Clones and Ballybay will continue to offer cash transactions through machines. Staff will be on hand to help customers. Mr Tuite spoke about 'Cash in Transit' services that can be used for coin. He stated that Bank of Ireland is very proud of its community work and that it had been in Clones for 150 years.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle asked where business can access change or lodge change. Mr Tuite responded saying that notes can be lodged at machines 24 hours a day and that change can be accessed or lodged through 'Cash in Transit' service.

Cllr. Sean Gilliland thanked them for coming to the meeting but stated that this move felt like a 'kick in the teeth' to the local community. He felt that the banks were doing the opposite work to the MD when it came to regeneration. Cllr Gilliland questioned that 'Cash in Transit' service and didn't feel this was viable to small business. Mr Tuite stated that coin service would be available with 25km of effected banks.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett welcomed them to the meeting and questioned them on issues with on line banking for those without broadband. Mr Tuite stated that the bank had no input into the National Broadband Strategy but that they had invested €800 million in their own IT services. Cllr. Bennett queried figures relating to the bank bailout. Mr Tuite stated that the bailout had been paid back in full and that the tax payer made a profit of €1.2 billion.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle felt this was the start of the process of closing the banks in Ballybay – Clones. Mr Tuite stated this was not the case.

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed

That Ballybay-Clones Municipal District write to the CEO of Bank of Ireland Richie Boucher requesting the immediate reversal of the proposal to downgrade the Ballybay and Clones branches to cashless banks.

This was seconded by Cllr Sean Gilliland and agreed by all.

**4. Mr Padraic Smyth Manager Cavan Monaghan Transport Co-Ordination Unit CLG (CMTCU)  
Rural transport plans for the area.**

Cllr. Seamus Coyle welcomed Mr Padraic Smyth to the meeting, and commented on the great work already been done by CMTCU.

Mr Padraic Smyth gave his report. Rural transport services to be rebranded and will be known as Local Link and will be launched at this year's ploughing championship. Mr Smyth highlighted the commuter service in Cavan that carries 1000 passengers a week. The plan is to develop a similar service for Monaghan.

Mr Smyth spoke of the various routes that are planned. Possible routes include;

- Ballybay to Monaghan (taking in Combi Lift and Monaghan Institute)
- Scotstown/Ballinode to Monaghan (taking in Combi Lift and Monaghan Institute)
- Clones-Smithboro-Threemilehouse to Monaghan (taking in Combi Lift and Monaghan Institute)

It would be hoped that there would be 2 services in the morning and 2 in the evening.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle commented that the report gave some positive news. Cllr Coyle asked whether or not the Ballybay route would drop people at the hospital and bus station. Mr Smyth said routes were not finalised but it is envisaged that they would.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett welcomed this report and stated it was a great initiative that was very important for the region. Cllr Bennett asked about the price of the service. Mr Smyth stated that this was set by the Department of Transport, he gave examples of prices on the Cavan routes. €3 one way or €25/for a weekly ticket.

Cllr. Sean Gilliland welcomed the report and said that the new service will enhance business in the town. Better public transport will lead to more people living in the area. Cllr. Gilliland asked if the bus could stop at places of high employment. Mr Smyth stated that this was possible.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle stated that this was very welcome and it was very much needed. Services had been lost to Monaghan town and local people had no access to them. Cllr. Stated that the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District would help the CMTCU anyway it could. Cllr. Seamus Coyle thanked Mr Padraic Smyth for attending the meeting.

## **5. Ballybay Clones Municipal District –Community Development Projects**

Mr Kevin McNally noted that Mr Nial Quigley had undertaken a review of community groups within the Municipal District. The purpose of this review was to document the names of the groups and seek to identify their plans and projects for the coming years. The review also sought to highlight possible Council projects that could be implemented and seek to identify possible synergies. Mr McNally noted that the document was a live document – additional projects would be added to it as they were developed.

Mr Nial Quigley gave a detailed review of the document entitled “Works and Project Plans 2017”. He noted that there are 15 different towns and villages included in it. He thanked the engineers for their help preparing it.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle thanked Mr Quigley for the excellent report and thanked him for all his work during his time at the council.

Cllr Cathy Bennett thanked Mr Quigley for his great work while working for the council.

Mr Adge King also thanked Nial for the report and for his hard work throughout his time in the Council.

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

Mr Kevin McNally updated the members on the following issues:

### **Redz Funding, Clones**

- No objections have been received regarding the CPO which was published on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017. A topographical survey has being carried out and design work on the project is programmed to be completed by 21<sup>st</sup> July. Contractor to be procured by end of August – works to commence end of September
- Part 8 Planning permission was approved for the redevelopment of the Erne Cafe site into a car park during. Discussions with the legal representatives of the various landowners are ongoing. Few issues remain to be resolved. MD hopeful of securing purchase of property by end of August. Asbestos survey on building to be undertaken in August. Design work on scheme completed. Subject to purchasing property – construction work to commence in September.
- 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.
- Contractor for the proposed Heritage trail signage in Clones and Ballybay has been appointed. Design is currently being finalised. As part of the project it is proposed to replace existing banners on Fermanagh Street

### **Ballybay Town**

Next meeting of Ballybay Regeneration committee is on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

Ballybay Men's Shed are having an opening of their facility in Ballybay on 28<sup>th</sup> July. All members are invited. Ballybay Tidy Towns are launching their 3 year plan on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00pm.

### **Clones Regeneration**

Last meeting of the Clones Regeneration committee was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

The Department of Jobs Enterprise and Development have published a document entitle A Framework for Town Centre Renewal – this document recommends developing town teams in order to drive and foster town centre development.

Town Team for Clones will be composed of representatives from the 4 key sectors in the town i.e.

- Business
- Voluntary
- Community
- Council

Initial meeting with representatives from business sector is being organised for Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July to seek 3-4 representatives from the business sector to contribute to the town team. Representatives from the other sector will be sought – it is planned to have the first meeting of the Clones Town

Team in September. The purpose of the town team will be to develop a 5 year plan for the town. It is envisaged that the team will be community led and assisted by the Municipal District.

### **Clones Market House**

Tenders documents for the construction work will be issued by week ending 21<sup>st</sup> July.

It is intended that contractor will be appointed by September 2017 –with works expected to take 6 months approx.

### **Former Clones Post Office**

In order to advance this project a studio stakeholder committee has been established.

Procurement for design team has commenced with tenders to be returned by 19<sup>th</sup> July. It is programmed to have design team appointed by mid August 2017.

The building should be operational by Q1 2019.

### **Dereliction in the MD**

In conjunction with Maire Cullinan in the planning section we are beginning to see progress from our efforts to address the dereliction problem in Clones and Ballybay

The following properties are now in Council ownership:

1. The Flower Shop Fermanagh Street
  2. Marian House Analore Street
  3. 2 Annalore Street, Clones
  4. Former Health Centre Ballybay
  5. Former Daveys butchers Fermanagh Street
- An Bonnan Bui – Agreement reach with owners for purchase

### **Properties being addressed via the Derelict Sites process**

- 5 Patrick Street, Ballybay – Section 22 served on 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Landowner has since complied with measures notice – building painted and new windows installed
- 12 Church Street, Ballybay – Section 8(7) issued on 24<sup>th</sup> February. *Objections have been received from reputed landowner*
- Cinema Site, Clones
- 82 Fermanagh Street
- 83 Fermanagh St
- Boyle Sports – section 8(2) served on 7<sup>th</sup> March (Section 8(2) re-served on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017 – representations can be accepted up until 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017)
- Lennard Arms – Section 8(2) served on 27<sup>th</sup> February (Section 8(7) and 11 Measures Notices to be served). Discussions with bank – they are now proposing to reconstitute the company with the view to appointing receiver and seeking to maximise return by disposing of building. This process is ongoing.
- 1 Annalore Street, Clones – served on 27<sup>th</sup> February (Section 8(7) and 11 Measures Notices served on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017 – owners have until end of July 2017 to carry out works)

- Abbey Gatehouse, Clones - served on 25<sup>th</sup> January (Section 8(7) and 11 Measures Notices served on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017 – owners have until end of July 2017 to carry out works)

We will be working with our colleagues in the Councils housing section to develop this project as social housing. Meetings are planned for early September

### **Latton and Bawn**

Latton and Bawn are representing County Monaghan in the Pride of Place 2017 competition. Judging day is on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July at 11.30.

### **Meeting with MEPs**

As was agreed at our last meeting the MD is seeking to organise meeting between the Ballybay Clones MD, the Oireachtas members for the Cavan Monaghan constituency and the relevant MEPs from the Midlands, North, West constituency – purpose of meeting is to discuss the issues facing the Ballybay Clones MD particularly those of unemployment, dereliction, lack of investment in infrastructure, BREXIT etc.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle complimented Mr Kevin McNally on his report.

Mr Adge King spoke on the Linear Park. He is very confident that this project will be delivered. He also spoke on the Town Team and how the council will support communities once they have the ideas. He stated that Town Teams will have a bigger role in the development of the towns and that Monaghan County Council will support them.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle stated that it is important that we support such community groups as they can have difficulty accessing streams of funding.

Cllr Pat Treanor welcomed the formation of a Town Team and commented that they have been proven to be successful .He spoke of the importance of community groups have support. He also welcomed the progress regarding dereliction.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett welcomed the Town Team but questioned why villages were not included in this. Mr Kevin Mc Nally stated that villages are supported through the tidy towns he also stated that Town Teams may be rolled out further.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett also commented on the lack of progression regarding dereliction in the villages. Cllr. Cathy Bennett requested that the MD follow up the issue of dereliction in Scotstown and seek possible funding for works at Hollywood lake.

Cllr. Hughie McElvaney stated that he was delighted with the Town Team and the progress made regarding dereliction in the towns.

Mr Adge King agreed with Cllr. Bennett regarding the issue of villages and he reiterated the point of the importance of having strong community groups in these villages.

Cllr. Sean Gilliland also welcomed the formation of a Town Team and agreed that villages need to be included. He also welcomed the progression of dereliction.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle spoke on the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, he spoke of the disappointment felt in Doohamlet regarding this. He stated that although some ideas may not be financially viable they are still important. He said that the community in Doohamlet do not feel supported by Monaghan County Council.

Mr Adge King stated that Monaghan County Council need to be very careful regarding applications. Groups need to be advised whether or not a project is viable for funding.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked about 5 Patrick St Ballybay, Mr Kevin McNally said that planning were to review the completed works. Cllr Seamus Coyle spoke about about Latton and Bawn Pride of Place, he wished them well and said everyone was invited.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett asked about the development of Broadband services in the Municipal District. Mr Seamie McMahon noted that Mr John McArdle would be invited to the next meeting to give an update on this issue.

Cllr Seamus Coyle spoke on the meeting with Oireachtas members and asked that an agenda be drawn up. The following items are to be included:

- Ulster Canal
- Broadband
- North South Interconnector
- Housing
- Regeneration of Town & Village
- Roads
- Water Hardness

Agenda to be circulated to the members in the advoce of the meeting for comment.

Mr Colin Murphy gave the engineers report

### **Roads Programme**

Gibson Brothers have substantially completed work on the Bitmac Contract in our MD. Bitmac overlays are complete on all our local roads, with seven of them surface dressed.

Bitmac patch repairs are also complete on the LP4013 Ouvry (182m after LT 40222) and on the LS8011 Ummerfree (55m over to Wards Cross) with further patches to be completed on the—LT21111 Caravetra (350m), LT62801 Knocks, Scotshouse (120m), LS6012 Drumlavog – McPhillips Cross (200m), We also hope to carry out a number of patch repairs on a number of roads in Clones town subject to funding

Overlay Works on the Regional Roads are currently planned to be commence the first week of August and prior to closure of N54.

### **National Roads**

Verge cutting has taken place on the full length of the N54 in our MD. The contractor has now moved to complete verge cutting at the junctions on our Regional Road network.

Glas Civil Engineering has been appointed by Monaghan County Council to replace the Skeagh Bridge Structure on the N54. A road closure was advertised in last week's paper from 8<sup>th</sup> August to the 8<sup>th</sup> September.

The advertised diversion route is as follows. Westbound traffic will be diverted at the traffic lights in Monaghan and sent to Cavan, via Cootehill. Any traffic not caught in Monaghan will be diverted onto the R187 Roslea road as far as Sweeny's cross and the up the Bog road into Smithboro.

Northbound traffic to be diverted in Clones and sent to Monaghan via Newbliss and Swanns Cross. Any traffic not caught in Clones to be diverted in Smithboro and sent in the local road past Grove

farm and onto the R187 Regional Road where it could continue onto Monaghan. Traffic lights to be placed at Annalore bridge for the duration of the closure to eliminate two way traffic on the bridge at all times.

### **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. Declan has met with the land owner

### **CLAR Funding**

- Scotshouse Teen Hangout. ( Basketball Court, surrounding Fence and shelter) Contractor (Pat Denning) is working away on the teen hangout. The ground has been prepared for surfacing and fencing work is beginning today. Works to be completed by the end of July.
- Ballybay Town Park Playground: Contract has been awarded for the Play Park Equipment (Kompan) and manufacture of some of the specialised parts has begun. Anticipated completion is end of July.
- Bawn: Billy Fox Memorial Park.- Works is complete on the car park and bellmouth entrance.
- Magherarney: Works to commence on the car park on 24<sup>th</sup> July and planned to be completed by the end of August. They have also reduced the overall scope of the works to bring it in under budget.

### **Town & Village Renewal Funding**

#### **Ballybay**

- Works at the Ballybay Mart Entrance are nearing completion and should be finished by the end of the month. Fencing at the Riverdale and from Lough Mor Avenue to the Secondary School is erected. Contractor has been appointed for the Heritage Signage in Clones and Ballybay. A design template has been agreed and we are currently assessing different images to include on the signs.

#### **Rockcorry**

- All works are complete. We are just awaiting public lighting to be made live by ESB. Polly tunnel ordered and will be erected adjacent to the Mushroom houses behind Coyle's service station for use by the tidy Towns.

#### **Scotstown**

- Civil Works are complete, just waiting on ESB to come back to make live the lighting columns.
- The Municipal District has met with Scotstown Tidy Towns to develop proposals for the village. These proposals have been tendered for and will be completed shortly.

### **Miscellaneous Works**

- Bairds Shore Access Lane –Access road has been surfaced and works here are now complete.
- Clones Castle – FJ Coyle’s and Associates have been appointed to carry out a structural assessment of the walls of the castle. Consultant to liaise with Heritage Officer on this.
- Mullinary Lough jetty is now in place and in use. Final works to be complete by the end of July. Boat house is being boarded up, washed and painted in the next two weeks.
- River Finn, A meeting occurred with fisheries to discuss the small drainage works due to commence on the River Finn on July 17. IFI have proposed protection measures that far exceed our available budget for this project. We are currently working with them to come up with more cost effective measures to enable us to carry out the proposed works at 5 locations. (3 foot pipe flumes for length of 100m circa €15,000 for one location)
- We have tendered for painting of a number of building exteriors in the MD. These include the Health Centre in Ballybay, MD offices in Clones, Davy’s butchers, An Bonan Bui and the flower shop next door. Tenders due on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July.
- Magherarney Bridge – work has commenced on the reconstruction of the canal bridge in Magerarney. This bridge was in a very dangerous condition and had to be knocked and rebuild for safety reasons. The parapet wall on Selloo bridge has also been rebuilt.

Cllr. Pat Treanor ask had everything been done to reduce the amount of time that the N54 would be closed for. Mr Colin Murphy stated that 5 weeks is a worst case scenario and he felt it could be open sooner. Cllr Treanor raised concerns about traffic on the road by Grove Farm. Mr Murphy felt this would not be an issue as it would be mainly local traffic using this road.

Cllr Treanor asked that the new tourism signs be circulated to the members before been signed off.

Cllr. Sean Gilliland asked about the lifting of rubbish that is now visible after verge cutting on the regional roads. Mr Murphy stated that this was not part of the tender and was up to community groups to do this. Monaghan County Council would offer support to any group undertaking this.

Cllr. Gilliland welcomed the work at Ballybay Mart and said it had given a new image to the town. He also welcomed the work at Baird Shore. Cllr. Gilliland asked about a survey on the roads that will be used as part of the detour when the N54 is closed. He asked whether or not the TII would pay for repairs that would be needed due to the detour. Mr Murphy stated that the TII would not give any money towards this. Cllr Gilliland requested that Monaghan County Council write to the TII regarding this issue.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett asked regarding safety works at Greenfield Eggs. Mr Murphy stated that preliminary works had been carried out. Cllr. Cathy Bennett sought clarification on recently awarded Clar funding for Knockatallon. Mr Murphy noted that details of this funding had yet to be received.

Cllr. Bennett also raised the issue of speed restrictions in Scotstown village.

Cllr Pat Treanor raised issues regarding the river Finn. Ms Donna Treanor said that this is ongoing and they are currently looking at a more cost effective approach. Cllr. Treanor also raised the issue of the N54 from Apple Green to the border. He asked that we make sure this job is not forgotten about.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle asked about excess money available for roads. Mr Colin Murphy said we will know this once the regional roads are done. Cllr. Coyle also mentioned the overall report on the state of the regional roads within the area.

Ms Donna Moran gave a detailed report on speeding on the regional roads in the Ballybay – Clones Municipal District.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett asked if ramps would be an ideal solution for all locations. Ms Moran stated that ramps cannot be used in all places.

Cllr. Sean Gilliland complimented Ms Moran on the detailed report. He stated that he found the report very alarming. Cllr Gilliland stated that these are motorway speeds and that this report needs to be highlighted. Cllr. Gilliland proposed that this report be sent to the Chief Superintendent.

That the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District write to the Chief Superintendant and the Seargent of the Traffic Core in Monaghan Garda Station attaching the report highlighting the alarming speeds recorded at schools and in built up areas in the Municipal District. We the Municipal District are to ask them for help in assistance where possible to help us in decreasing speed in these areas.

This was seconded by Cllr. Seamus Coyle and agreed by all.

Cllr. Gilliland complimented the staff on the great work done on the R183 to reduce speed.

Cllr. Pat Treanor thanked Ms Donna Moran for the detailed report. He stated that communities have been lobbying for a long time for speed restrictions. The R183 at Newbliss have shown that ramps do work. He asked that projects be completed asap.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett complimented Ms Moran on the report and found the figures to be atrocious. Cllr. Seamus Coyle thanked Ms Moran and stated that he found the report very alarming. Cllr. Coyle commented on the speed around schools and described it as reckless.

## **7. Matters arising from previous minutes**

Cllr Seamus Coyle acknowledged the great work that Gateway Staff had done and asked whether or not they could be reemployed. Mr Kevin McNally stated that the Gateway scheme would not be renewed.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle raised the issue of the junction at Tonneyglasson Cross Doohamlet (page 7). Mr Colin Murphy stated that the hedge in question was on private property and that the owner would need to be contacted.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle asked that we write a letter to the Ulster Council congratulating them on another successful Ulster Final

#### **8. Chief Executive orders**

Chief Executive Orders 47/17 to 56/17 were noted by the members

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

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

- Mairead Ní Threiner on getting first place at the Galway Film Fleadh for Best Short Documentary
- St Tiarnachs G.A.A. club on their preparations to ensure a successful Ulster Final
- Border Communities against Brexit on winning the European Citizens Award
- Monaghan Country Festival Committee on their hard work in organising another successful festival.

Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following :-

- The McGuirk Family and Cathal Flynn on the death of Margo McGuirk
- Martin and Grainne McAviney on the death of Martins mother Sally

This meeting is scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator

Date 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017