

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 18th September, 2017 at 10.00am in Clones Courthouse, McCurtain Street, Clones, Co Monaghan.

Members Present The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seamus Coyle, presided

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

Apologies Cllr Hughie McElvaney

In Attendance Aidge King, Director of Services, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Colin Murphy, Executive Engineer, Seamie Mc Mahon, Staff Officer

Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Seamus Coyle invited Cllr Cathy Bennett to speak. Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed that we congratulate Glaslough on winning gold at the Entente Floral awards ceremony. She commended the Tidy Towns Committee and the staff of Monaghan County Council.

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

1. Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting

The minutes of the July meeting were proposed by Cllr Pat Treanor and seconded by Cllr Sean Gilliland and were approved by all.

2. Correspondence

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 12, item 2.1 of the correspondence regarding a response received from Bank of Ireland in connection with the recent changes made in the branches of Clones and Ballybay. Cllr Seamus Coyle stated that he was disappointed that the bank had not reversed its decision regarding these changes. Cllr Coyle stated that the ATM in Ballybay had not worked over the August Bank Holiday weekend and proposed that:

Ballybay/Clones Municipal District express serious disappointment to Bank of Ireland at the removal of counter services from the Ballybay and Clones Branches and also request Bank of Ireland to put in place proper mechanisms for the monitoring/reporting and repairing 'Out of Service' ATM machines at their branches.

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

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 14 items 2.2 and expressed his disappointment at the response from Minister Shane Ross.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 16 items 2.3 regarding the community enterprise initiative grants. Pat commented on the professionalism of the LEO staff and how they were of great support to small business. He stated that they were running an event on the 28th September entitled a Brexit Specific Mentors Support meeting. Cllr Seamus Coyle stated that this meeting should be well advertised.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 20 item 2.4 regarding street lighting, Cllr Bennett stated she was disappointed that no grant was available. She asked was there and other source of funding available. Mr Kevin McNally stated that there had been significant investment in lighting in the area. Cllr Pat Treanor spoke of one-off lighting needed in some areas. Cllr Treanor stated that a light was need at the top of O Neill Pk – Carn Heights area. Cllr Sean Gilliland asked where the money had been spent. Mr Colin Murphy said in 2017 there has been works at Killeevan, Scotstown, Scotshouse and Rockcorry.

Mr Adge King spoke of the energy saving levels that Monaghan County Council is committed to. Lights are constantly been updated.

Cllr Cathy Bennett welcomed the energy saving initiatives. Cllr Pat Treanor said that money saved from energy saving should be reinvested into further energy saving initiatives. Mr Adge King stated that the savings made would repay the loans taken to cover the capital costs involved in these projects.

Cllr Sean Gilliland recognised how much work had been done with such little resources.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 21 Item 2.5, Clones Family Resource Centre. He congratulated them on their hard work.

3. Communities Facilities Scheme 2017 – Approval of LCDC Recommendations

Mr Kevin McNally spoke on the Communities Facilities Scheme, and a list of applicants was distributed. Mr Mc Nally expressed apologies on behalf of Fintan McPhillips as he could not attend the meeting. Cllr Pat Treanor proposed the list and this was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle. Cllr Pat Treanor questioned why some groups had not received funding and he asked that the LCDC contact them to explain why. Cllr Cathy Bennett asked about training for community groups regarding funding applications. Mr Séamie Mc Mahon stated that the PPN offer assistance.

4. Report from Municipal District Co-ordinator

Mr Kevin McNally gave his report:

Redz Funding, Clones

Linear Park

Contractor has been procured for the construction of the linear park in Clones. Notice of Entry was issued on 12th September 2017 – The Council can access the required lands after the 26th September.

Discussions with the relevant landowners are ongoing regarding level of compensation and required accommodation works. It is programmed that works will commence early in October and be completed in before the end of the year.

Erne Cafe Parking

The Council has secured all the required lands. Tenders for the construction of the car park where opened on 12th September and are currently been assessed – it is envisaged that works will commence in early October and be substantially completed by the end of the year.

Heritage trail

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.

Ulster Bank

Ulster Bank has confirmed that they will commence their mobile banking operations in the Municipal District on the following dates:

Clones

Location: current designated casual trading site (Fermanagh Street Car Park)

Frequency: every Monday from 1.45-3.15pm

Commencing from: 25th September

Ballybay –

Location: Fairgreen car park

Frequency: every Thursday from 2.45-3.15pm

Commencing from 28th September

Ballybay

Last meeting of Ballybay Regeneration committee was held on 12th September – next meeting is scheduled for 10th October.

Ballybay Tidy Towns launched their 3 year plan on Monday 14th August at 7.00pm. Launch was well attended. The efforts of Ballybay Tidy on the improvements that they have made in the town were highlighted.

Clones Regeneration

Further to our last meeting the MD was sought nominations from the various sectors within Clones Towns to participate on the proposed Town Team for Clones.

This team is being established in accordance with 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.

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

Contractor for the refurbishment of the Clones Market house has been received and assessed. It is proposed that this contract will be awarded by the end of the week with works to commence in early October. The contact period is 6 months – with the MD occupying the building in early May.

Former Clones Post Office

Design Team being led by Keys and Monaghan have been awarded the contract for design team services for the refurbishment of the Former Clones Post Office.

Once draft proposals are prepared a meeting will be held with the projects steering committee to review same. It is programmed that this building will be operational in early 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
6. Majority of the lands known locally as the O Mahoney site in Ballybay
7. An Bonnan Bui – Agreement reach with owners for purchase

Contract for painting the buildings on Fermanagh Street and the Health Centre has been awarded to John McManus – this work is ongoing. Meeting was held on 12th September with the Councils Housing Section with the view to progress these projects as social housing units. Applications are will be prepared to the Department to seek funding to advance these projects.

The Council proposes to appoint a consultant in later this year to prepare a master plan for the development of the O Mahoney site in Ballybay.

This site offers potential to provide more car parking spaces in Ballybay and potential for additional housing in the area.

Knockatallon

- ☐ Advertise consultation process 14th September
- ☐ Consultation to last 3 weeks with a public information event organised for 2 weeks into consultation (27th September in Sliabh Beagh Hotel)
- ☐ Information events to take place in Coonian and The Knocks
- ☐ 3 set of boards to be placed at Knockatallon, Coonian and The Knocks.

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. This meeting is provisionally scheduled for Friday 22nd September

Cllr Seamus Coyle thanked Mr Kevin McNally for his report and complimented him on the meeting held with housing regarding dereliction. Cllr Coyle also wished to congratulate Mr Billy Flynn on the formation of the Tidy Town Plan for Ballybay.

Cllr Pat Treanor thanked Mr Mc Nally for his hard work. Cllr Treanor spoke on the works needed to be carried out on the derelict properties and that the minister stated in 2016 that there would be no issue regarding finance of such projects.

Cllr Cathy Bennett commended all staff of the MD for their hard work. Cllr Bennett stated that she was delighted to see progress with the Sliabh Beagh master plan.

Cllr Sean Gilliland thanked all the staff for their hard work and was delighted to see progression regarding the issue of dereliction. Cllr Gilliland welcomed the Town Team initiative.

Mr Adge King spoke of the various plans we have for each derelict site.

Cllr Pat Treanor asked about the Cinema site and about the possibility of putting murals on the hoarding. Mr McNally said he would look into this.

Mr McNally invited Mr Colin Murphy to give his 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. Overlay Works on the R183 Newtownbutler Road are due to commence this week, with the contractor also working on a number of patch repairs in the town. A separate contractor has been appointed to carryout footpath/kerbing works on the R212 Scotshouse road in advance of Gibson carrying out an overlay here. The kerbs have to be raised out as far as ABP because there is wire mesh in the road and the timing of this works has to correspond with when the overlay is taking place.

We still have a number of roads left to surface dress and the timing of this is weather dependant. These include the R183 from the Drumhowan/Ballintra turn to Doohamlet, the LT21111 Caravetra Road, and sections of the LT62801 Knocks, Scotshouse and LS6012 Drumslavog – McPhillips Cross.

National Roads

The second Verge cut has taken place on the full length of the N54 in our MD.

Works on replacement of the Skeagh Bridge Structure on the N54 are now substantially complete and the route is now open on traffic lights. The expected full completion date is There has been extensive damage done to the verges and edge of the road on the LP2160 from Sweeneys Cross to the N54. A request for funding for repairs has been made to Roads Section with supplementary photographs. Roads section were meeting with TII last Thursday but the MD haven't heard the outcome of this meeting.

Low Cost Safety Improvements

- An allocation of €40,000 has been received for the R181 Fairtahy & Crossduff. Works has begun at Fairtahy and will move to Crossduff when Fairtahy is complete.
- An allocation of €25,000 has been received for the Greenfield Eggs. Works commenced on this on Friday of last week

CLAR Funding

- Scotshouse Teen Hangout. Works are substantially complete on this job. The teen hangout was delivered and installed late last week. Path leading to teen hangout will be surfaced to complete the works.
- Ballybay Town Park Playground: The new Play park Equipment (Kompan) has been installed but there are a number of issues outstanding which the company have agreed to resolve with immediate effect.
- Bawn: Billy Fox Memorial Park.- Works is complete on the car park and bellmouth entrance.
- Magherarney: Works on the car park are substantially complete. Car park is now surfaced and lined. There is a delay in drawdown of funding because of a Tax Clearance Certificate issue but this is in hand.

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.
- Works at the Ballybay Mart Entrance are nearing completion and should be finished by the end of the month. There was a saving in the contract cost and this combined with a contribution from Environment section for the Bring banks is enabling us to install the curved picnic area as planned. 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. Signs should be delivered by the start of October.

Rockcorry

- All works are complete. We are just awaiting public lighting to be made live by ESB.

Scotstown

- Civil Works are complete, just waiting on ESB to come back to make live the lighting columns.
- Works in conjunction with Scotstown Tidy Towns are also complete bar erection of 1 sign and installation of a number of litter bins.

Miscellaneous Works

- Bairds Shore Access Lane –Access road has been surfaced and works here are now complete.
- Mullinary Lough jetty is now in place and in use. We are awaiting a break in the weather to surface dress the car park.
- River Finn, we were given the go ahead from fisheries last week to carry out the proposed works on the River Finn. The contractor has been notified that this works must be complete by 30th September and is to get back to us this week with a start date.

Cllr Pat Treanor raised the issue of gullies on the Scotshouse Rd and proposed the following:
That Ballybay/Clones MD writes to Irish water and appeal that they reconsider their decision and replace pipes at Teehill, Clones.

This was seconded by Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

Cllr Sean Gilliland thanked Mr Murphy for his report he hoped that there would be compensation from TII regarding the issues at Sweeneys Cross. Cllr Gilliland stated that the people of Ballybay were delighted with the work at Ballybay Mart. He welcomed the works at Baird Shore and The River Finn.

Cllr Cathy Bennett stated that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) must pay for damage to the road at Sweeney's Cross. Cllr Bennett urged that the safety works at Greenfield Eggs be done sooner rather than later. Cllr Bennett raised the issue of community groups not getting payments due to issues with Tax Clearance Certs etc. A discussion was had regarding corporate governance and the problems it can cause. Mr Adge King and Mr Kevin McNally stated that Monaghan County Council will do everything they can to enable groups get their money quicker.

Cllr Seamus Coyle raised the issue of Magherarney Car Par lights been connected to MCC lights. Mr McNally stated that this is under review. Cllr Coyle also asked about Ballybay Play Park. Mr McNally stated that the issues should be resolved by the end of the week.

Cllr Pat Treanor stated that the free WiFi in Clones and Ballybay needs to be advertised better. Mr McNally stated that signage had been ordered. A discussion was had on WiFi, Mr Adge King stated that the free WiFi in Clones could be rolled out further through LED lighting. John Mc Ardle to be asked to attend the November meeting.

Cllr Treanor raised the issue regarding grass cutting in estates - Mr McNally stated that this would be addressed.

5. Matter arising from previous minutes

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Cllr Gilliland proposed that

The Ballybay/Clones Municipal District write to Padraic Smyth manager of (CMTCU) regarding the urgency of a transport system from Ballybay to Monaghan to facilitate students from the area who have secured further education places in Monaghan.

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

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Cllr Pat Treanor asked about the topographical study at the site for proposed industrial pk. Mr McNally stated that we still need agreement from land owner and that a further meeting is to be scheduled.

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A discussion was had regarding the North South Interconnector. Issue to be discussed further with members of the Oireachtas.

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked about broadband speed in the towns and villages, Cllr Bennett asked that we write to Eircom and request speeds for the MD area.

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A discussion was had regarding By-Laws for Jet Skies. Mr Mc Nally stated that we can only pass by-laws when we own the lake/property.

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked about speed ramps in Scotstown and Knockatallon. Mr Mc Nally stated that there was no funding available for these works at the moment but that the issue would be reviewed.

6. Chief executive Orders

Chief Executive Orders 57/17 to 64/17 were noted by the members.

7. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

The members extended a vote of congratulations to the following:

- Glasough Tidy Towns on winning gold at Entente Florale
- Latton O Rahilly GAA on winning the 2017 Monaghan GAA under 21 Division 2 Championship
- Latton Ladies on winning the 2017 Monaghan Intermediate Championship.
- The Latton/Bawn Pride of Place Committee on their excellent work

Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- The Askin Family on the death of Gary Askin
- Marcella Carey (staff member) on the death of her Father in Law Seamus Carey

8. A.O.B.

A discussion was had regarding the meeting with the Oireachtas members, an agenda was agreed

1. Presentation on the Area
2. Ulster Canal
3. Infrastructural Issues
 - I. Broadband
 - II. Roads
 - III. Lighting
4. Dereliction/Regeneration
5. Employment/Investment proposals
6. Brexit
7. North South Interconnector

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled October 16th.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date