

## Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 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, Pat Treanor, Hugh McElvaney & Eva Humphreys

**In Attendance**        Adge King, Director of Services, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Colin Murphy, Executive Engineer, Rory Treanor Assistant Engineer, Seamie Mc Mahon, Staff Officer

Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed all to the meeting and began by offering his sympathies to Cllr Hugh McElvaney on the recent death of his sister Margaret Mc Mahon. All members offered their deepest sympathies to Cllr Hugh McElvaney, Mr Adge King passed on the sympathies of the staff of Monaghan County Council. Cllr Hugh McElvaney thanked all for attending the funeral and for their kind words.

### **1. Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting**

The minutes of the April meeting were proposed by Cllr Pat Treanor and seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and were approved by all.

### **2. Correspondence**

Cllr Seamus Coyle acknowledged the response from Minister Pascal Donoghue but said he was disappointed that plans for flood relief in Ballybay could take up to 10 years to deliver. Cllr Eva Humphreys stated that the flooding risk to Ballybay was very much in Minister Boxer Moran's mind and that works could be carried out a lot sooner. Cllr Sean Gilliland also expressed his disappointment but he wanted to assure the people of Ballybay that the work would be done. Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed that this Municipal District write to the Minister for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief Kevin Boxer Moran TD and the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation Heather Humphreys TD to request that flood relief works be carried out in Ballybay immediately. This was seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all.

Cllr Seamus Coyle stated he was very disappointed with the response from Minister Shane Ross TD following the Municipal Districts invitation to visit the area to see the very poor quality of our roads. Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed that this Municipal District write to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross TD expressing the member's disappointment that he would not visit the area to view the atrocious condition of both the regional and local roads. This was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that emergency funding was now needed to address the roads issue. Cllr Cathy Bennett stated that County Monaghan had the worst roads in Ireland. Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed the extra funding received for roads and agreed that further funding was desired. Cllr Hugh McElvaney spoke about how people are required to do an NCT in order for their cars to be roadworthy but that the roads were not vehicle worthy. Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed the extra money allocated to the County but noted that costs had dramatically increased resulting in fewer roads been repaired. Cllr Hugh McElvaney asked about the tenders for the road resurfacing, Mr Kevin McNally stated there was no update on this issue.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to an email from Mr Sean Slowey regarding the renaming of the Market House. A discussion was had. Both Cllr Pat Treanor and Cllr Cathy Bennett supported the renaming of the Market House to Halla Seamus O'Conghaille. Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that he would like

the building to be called Clones Town Hall. It was agreed that there would be public consultation regarding the name. The executive is to look into options regarding this and revert with proposals for the next Municipal District meeting. In relation to the original iron works on the Market House windows Mr Kevin McNally stated that these would be reinstated onto the building prior to completion of works.

Cllr Pat Treanor welcomed the response from the Government Department regarding St Tiarnachs park Clones. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that this issue needed to be kept on the agenda. Cllr Hugh McElvaney and Cllr Seamus Coyle agreed. Cllr Seamus Coyle stated that funding was need now. Cllr Sean Gilliland stated that Clones was the home of Ulster football and he welcomed the involvement of Minister Heather Humphreys TD to advance this issue.

### **3. Clones Ballybay/ Towns Casual Trading By-Law rates**

Mr Seamus Mc Mahon gave a brief over view of the casual trading charges throughout Monaghan. The executive suggested that €15/day be charged in Ballybay. After a brief debate Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed that the standard charges for Clones and Ballybay should be €5/day. This was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Sean Gilliland and agreed by all.

### **4. Report on Masterplan for Ballybay Town Park**

Mr Rory Treanor gave his report on the proposed works to Ballybay Town Park. The members thanked Mr Rory Treanor for the report and Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed that the members support the plan that had been developed, this was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Sean Gilliland and agreed by all. Cllr Hugh McElvaney asked about funding for the project, Mr Kevin McNally stated that there were different strands of funding available and that the project could be completed in different stages. Mr Rory Treanor stated that Part 8 planning permission will be sought and should be before the councils September meeting.

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

#### **Ballybay**

Mr Rory Treanor give the following update on the Ballybay economic and public realm plan:

Over the past number of weeks the Municipal District has been working closely with the Paul Hogarth Company providing them with all the background information in relation to Ballybay to better inform the Public Realm and Economic Plan for Ballybay.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 the Municipal District organised a series of meetings with all the various departments within the County Council whom have an input into Ballybay such as Housing, Community & Enterprise, Tourism Officer, Heritage Officer, Local Enterprise Office and the Planners to ensure the consultants are kept abreast of what MCC are currently doing/planning in Ballybay.

These series of meetings were then followed by a meeting with Ballybay Regeneration Committee to give the committee an opportunity to meet the consultant and put forward their ideas for the Town. The Meeting was then followed by the Public Consultation event in Ballybay Recreational Centre. There was a decent turnout at the event with approximately 70 people in attendance.

A second meeting was held with the Regeneration Committee on the 9<sup>th</sup> May, later in the evening to give all members an opportunity to provide an input. The Consultants came down early and undertook a walk around the town with some of the members of the Regeneration Committee.

Today the Paul Hogarth Company are holding workshops in the schools in Ballybay to get input from students and teachers. This will conclude the information gathering stage, with the Consultants then going away to prepare draft plans and projects for the town. Draft plans will be present to the client team and regeneration committee in during June/July.

Once approved by the Client Team and Regeneration Committee these will be presented at a second public consultation event. It is envisaged that the full plan will be available September/October 2018.

Mr Kevin McNally updated the members on the following:

#### **Clones Market House**

The works for the refurbishment of the Clones Market House are well progressed. The contractor is reporting a delay in his works arising from various issues on site. It is hoped that the Municipal District will take possession the building in early July with Cavan Monaghan Rural transport occupying the current Municipal District building in August.

#### **Former Clones Post Office**

Council is in the process of procuring a contractor to undertake the required works to refurbish the building; The Council has recently appointed a consultant to review all the possible options available to the Council to manage the facility post completion of works and to recommend the most appropriate one.

#### **Clones Renewal Scheme**

The Councils Housing section have advised of the following progress:

1. Preliminary layout designs are being developed for the various sites
2. Ground Investigation, Topographical Survey & Asbestos Surveys are nearing completion on site.
3. Part 8 Plans and Documents to be prepared when designs have been finalised.

Separately the Municipal District has appointed FJ Coyle and Associates to progress the demolition of the building adjacent to the Paragon bar. This work will complement the work of our colleagues in the Councils Housing Section

#### **Sliabh Beagh**

Tenders were received last week for the development of a brand for the Sliabh Beagh area and also for the design and procurement of way marker signs. These tenders are currently being assessed and it is hoped that this consultant will be appointed in the coming weeks. It is likely that this will be process will take 4 months. Other works proposed for the Sliabh Beagh area include the upgrading of signage and paths.

#### **Canal Stores**

Clones Development Society is processing the Town and Village Renewal project in the Clones Canal Stores. A number of tenders have been issued seeking to procure a consultant to Design an exhibition for Clones lace and website to advertise and sell the lace. Following a procurement process, the committee are in the process of appointing consultants to advance the web and exhibition design aspects of the project.

### **Awards Night**

The Municipal Districts annual wards night is planned for 7.00pm Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018 in the Ballybay Wetlands Centre. Over 90 community groups have been invited to attend the event. This event recognises the efforts made by the Community Groups to enhance and develop their respective areas.

### **Town and Village Renewal**

The Department have recently announced the call for Town and Village Renewal Projects for 2018. Monaghan County Council is seeking expressions of interest from Local Community groups for such projects. The closing date for submission of proposals is 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018.

Mr Colin Murphy gave his report on the following:

### **Roads Programme**

Preparatory Drainage works is complete on the majority of the local roads and on the R189.

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

Doohamlet –This project is currently being procured with a closing date for submissions of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 and a planned start date of the third week of June.

### **Newbliss Town Realm Plan**

The contractor has been appointed and it is hoped that the equipment will be installed by the end of June.

### **Aghabog Footpath.**

The contractor has been appointed and it is hoped works will commence by the end of the May 2018.

### **Bridge Repairs.**

Bridge repairs have been completed on five bridges that were damaged in the last six months. These bridges were at Annalore, Newbliss on the R189, on the L2140 at Gransha Beg beside Makerals, on the LT21801 at Cooldaragh and on the LT21511 at Carnowen, beside the old dump in Magherarney.

### **Larger Scale Drainage Works**

A contractor has been appointed to carry out drainage works at three locations in the Municipal District that have been causing problems. These are on the LT21511 at Carnowen (Laurance Boylans road), on the R184 at the junction with the LS7400 in the townland of Legacurry and Cordoolagh (Evyln and George), and in Ballybay beside the crèche on the R183.

### **Billy Fox Memorial Park**

Tender documents are currently being prepared for the works at Billy Fox Park and it is planned to go to tender at the beginning of June. The majority of the work will consist of upgrading the paths, installing a viewing point at the waterfall, installing a small band stand type structure and fencing sections of the park. A few outstanding issues have to be clarified with Coilte in relation to the type of fencing and the roof finish to the band stand structure. .

Cllr Seamus Coyle thanked everyone for their reports. Regarding bridge repairs Cllr Seamus Coyle asked about the bridge at Drum, Mr Colin Murphy stated that this would be repaired.

Cllr Pat Treanor welcomed the continued work on the Clones Renewal Scheme and the bridge repairs. Regarding the Town and Village scheme Cllr Pat Treanor asked what projects can be

included, he also asked for an update on the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan. Regarding Town and Village scheme Mr Kevin McNally stated that projects should have an economic value and be sustainable; he stated that in relation to the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan the Council were still waiting on Fermanagh Omagh District Council to sign off on the draft document. Mr Kevin McNally stated that the surveys for the Clones Renewal Scheme were almost complete; Mr Adge King stated that construction works could begin in Q1 of 2019.

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked for clarification on the €130,000 spend at Sliabh Beagh, she also raised the issue of the Town & Village scheme in relation to Hollywood lake. Cllr Cathy Bennett spoke of the Ballybay Masterplan and how it was identified that there was no community building in Ballybay and reiterated the importance of building a path to the Wetlands Centre. Mr Kevin McNally stated that the money spend on Sliabh Beagh would go to the development of a brand for the area and on way markers and signage. Regarding Hollywood lake Mr Kevin McNally stated that no one from the committee had been in contact; this would be followed up on.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney welcomed the progress with the Clones Renewal scheme and the recent bridge repairs. Cllr Hugh McElvaney spoke on the approach roads in Ballybay been in very bad condition he also mentioned the Bog road in Scotstown, Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated in the interest of public safety this need to be addressed immediately.

Cllr Sean Gilliland asked for a start date for the works at Doohamlet, he also welcomed the Ballybay Town Realm plan. Cllr Sean Gilliland stated that road markings had become very poor in Ballybay and that there was a very bad dip in the road at Lough Mourne which was damaging cars and school buses. This needs to be addressed immediately. Mr Colin Murphy stated that work in Doohamlet would begin in 3 weeks.

## **6. Questions**

### **Cllr Bennett asked:**

1. Can the Ballybay Clones MD please examine safety measures at Knockatallon cross? Presently a dangerous open verge on the bank is inevitably going to cause a fatal accident

**Answer:** The Municipal District will review this location to determine if suitable safety measures are required to address the issue.

2. Can the Ballybay Clones MD please erect signage in the Knockatallon and Sliabh Beagh areas? Currently the area is lacking this much needed signage.

**Answer:** The Municipal District will examine the Knockatallon and Sliabh Beagh areas to establish if additional signage is required in the area.

3. In relation to ongoing works on Car parks at Corlatt housing estate Knockatallon. Can I please have an update?

**Answer:** The Municipal District proposed to seek tenders for the additional car parking spaces at Corlatt by the week ending 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

4. In relation to land that Monaghan County Council acquired on the Smithboro Road out of Scotstown. Can this Council please outline plans for it? Are services sites planned for this location? Will these sites then be made available for the public to purchase?

**Answer:** Monaghan County Council housing section are continuing to explore a number of options for the Unfinished Housing Development in Scotstown however no definitive plans for it have been agreed.

5. In relation to the findings of the consultation plan for Ballybay. May I please have a summary of the findings that were discussed at the recent meeting which I attended in Ballybay?

**Answer:** The programme for the Ballybay Public Realm and Economic Plan is as follows: The inception meeting occurred on 12<sup>th</sup> April. This was followed by the first Public Consultation Event on the 30<sup>th</sup> April. The consultants then met with the Ballybay Regeneration Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> May where a site walk about and meeting took place. School workshops are scheduled to take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> May. A Draft Plan detailing proposed projects will be available for to the Client team during June/July. The second public Consultation event will then be undertaken. It is envisaged that the final report will be available September/October 2018.

**Cllr. Coyle asked:**

1. Will Monaghan County Council immediately examine and install additional warning signage for the Ramps on the Clones Road, Newbliss (R183-6), as motorists; particularly in dark/wet conditions are currently unable to see Ramp warning signage?

**Answer:** The Municipal District will review this location to determine if there are sufficient warning signs in advance of the ramps on the Clones road out of Newbliss.

2. Will Monaghan County Council examine what additional safety measures can be put in place on the Monaghan Road, Rockcorry (R188-6), in the area of St. Mary's Hall, i.e. installation of Ramps/Pillows, as this a highly pedestrianised area, with a large number of children, walking/cycling to events in St. Marys Hall and in this general area?

**Answer:** The Municipal District will review this location to determine if additional safety measures are required. Any works will be subject to compliance with the Councils policy on traffic calming measures (which is currently being prepared) and the availability of funding.

3. Will Monaghan County Council immediately examine and install safety measurers/crash barriers on a very dangerous stretch of roadway, in the townlands of Tiredigan/Killcoughill (LT61602), Greenans Cross, Aghabog, as it is currently very dangerous, as the road verge has subsided/collapsed?

**Answer:** The Municipal District will review this location to determine if suitable safety measures are required to address the issue.

4. Will Monaghan County Council immediately have "NO DUMPING" signs erected on what is known locally as The Bog Road (LT40221), Bawn, as there is a lot of dumping on this roadway, as highlighted recently by a very well organised and successful, spring clean up of the Bawn area, also could the installation of CCTV, be considered for this location?

**Answer:** There is currently a No Dumping sign erected on the LT40221 in the vicinity of the carpark to the lake. The request for CCTV has been forwarded to the Environment section who have said they will consider this location for inclusion into their CCTV placement programme.

5. Will Monaghan County Council immediately have Ballybay Town-Main Street, resurfaced, as it is currently in a very poor condition?

**Answer:** The 2018 Roads programme has already been agreed by the members. The resurfacing of Ballybay Town Main Street will be included on a list for future programmes subject to availability of funding. The Municipal District will continue to undertake repairs to the surface when required.

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

**Page 1:-** Cllr Seamus Coyle asked for an update regarding Ballybay pedestrian crossing, Mr Rory Treanor stated that works would begin in June and that 2 parking spaces would be lost in order to carry out the necessary works. Cllr Sean Gilliland stated he was delighted to see the works advancing.

**Page 5:-** Cllr Pat Treanor raised the issue of MANS figures in Clones, there are currently only 5 connections and the reason for this is the cost. Cllr Pat Treanor said the issue of broadband needs to be kept on the agenda.

**Page 5:-** Cllr Sean Gilliland raised the issue of site distance at Skea bridge, Mr Colin Murphy stated he was happy that it was in line with regulations.

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

Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- The Mc Mahon and McElvaney families on the death of Margaret Mc Mahon
- Kathleen Hannon and family on the death of Mick
- The Traynor family on the death of Gerard Austin
- James Sheerin and family on the death of Jimmy
- The Alford family on the death of Alan
- Shiela Mc Mahon and family on the death of Pat
- The family of Katrina Coleman Ó Riodeáin

## **9. A.O.B.**

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked that a schedule be circulated to the councillors for the official openings on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2018. He also raised the issue of Ballybay Fire station. Mr Kevin McNally stated that due to potential flooding issues other sites are now been considered, Cllr Seamus Coyle said that the current facilities were inadequate and that a new station was needed. The members agreed to extend the Gaeltacht grants available to Largy College to Ballybay Community College.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled June 14<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator *Date*

*14/06/2018*