

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 19th February 2018 at 10.30am in Ballybay Civic Offices, Ballybay, Co Monaghan.

Members Present The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seamus Coyle, presided

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

Apologies Cllr Hughie McElvaney, Cllr Eva Humphreys and Cllr Sean Gilliland

In Attendance Adge King, Director of Services, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Colin Murphy, Executive Engineer, Seamie Mc Mahon, Staff Officer and John McEntegart Head of LEO

Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Mr John McEntegart giving the members a tour of the facilities available at the Ballybay Enterprise centre. Cllr Seamus Coyle requested that the meeting commence at point 3 on the agenda; Update from Mr John McEntegart. This was agreed by all

3. Update on Future Proposals for Ballybay Enterprise Centre and Ballybay Development Association John McEntegart Head of Local Enterprise Office.

Mr John McEntegart informed the Municipal District that additional funding had been secured and that the Local Enterprise Office is now in a position to employ a manager for the Ballybay Enterprise Centre. The manager would promote the centre as a food hub. Mr John McEntegart noted the following:

- The Wetlands Centre requires a lot of repair work and it is planned to promote this facility further when this is done.
- A section of Birch Court is currently occupied by Monaghan Integrated Development, there is a further unit available to rent,
- Birch Court also contains 4 apartments that require renovation and will be available to rent when this work is completed. The Local Enterprise Office is currently working with an approved housing body to progress this project.
- Youth Work Ireland are currently investigating renting the Annex at the rear of the Birch Court building. This building will be available for community use.

Cllr Seamus Coyle thanked the Monaghan County Enterprise Fund for their interest in developing Ballybay Town.

Cllr Cathy Bennett thanked Mr John McEntegart for the update; she stated she was very impressed with the facilities at the Enterprise Centre. Cllr Cathy Bennett stated she would like to see Cavan Monaghan Education Training Board getting more involved in the Wetland Centre. Cllr Cathy Bennett highlighted the need to provide a footpath from the town to the Wetlands.

Cllr Pat Treanor thanked Mr John McEntegart for the update and spoke of the importance of the Monaghan County Enterprise Fund.

Mr Adge King spoke of how the plans by the Monaghan County Enterprise Fund fit in with the Economic Development plans of the Local Authority.

Mr Kevin Mc Nelly stated that the Municipal District was fully committed to helping the Monaghan County Enterprise Fund.

1. Conformation of Minutes

The minutes of the January monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr Pat Treanor and seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett.

2. Correspondence

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to page 6 and suggested that Clones Community Forum apply for funding through The Community and Environment Funding Scheme 2018, Cllr Seamus Coyle agreed with this and suggested that all community groups should be made aware of this funding.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 7 and thanked Mr Padraic Smyth for his reply she also encouraged locals to use the new service. Cllr Cathy Bennett stated she would carry out a survey regarding extending the service to Knockatallon. Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed that this Municipal District write to the Minister for Community and locals affairs, Michael Ring and the rural local link and ask them to extend the Tydavnet and Scotstown bus to Knockatallon. This transport scheme should provide a quality community based public transport across all of rural Ireland.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 9 and to her disappointment at the response from the Northern and Western Regional Assembly regarding the lack of rail network in Monaghan, she felt that this should be kept on the agenda. Cllr Seamus Coyle stated that he felt Monaghan had been forgotten in the new Project Ireland 2040 plan. Cllr Pat Treanor did welcome the fact that the Ulster Canal was included and suggested that the plan be discussed in more detail at a later date.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the additional correspondence and welcomed the news that broadband would be in highlighted areas by September. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that he is currently carrying out a survey on broadband speeds in the area; he will forward his findings to the Monaghan County Council broadband officer Mr John McArdle.

4. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator

Mr Kevin McNally updated the members on the following:

Redz Funding, Clones

Linear Park

Works are well progressed and are substantially completed. Works outstanding consist of minor painting and accommodation works to the Canal Stores.

Erne Cafe Parking

Works are well progressed – additional public lighting has been ordered and will be erected shortly.

Heritage trail

This project is now completed.

Ballybay

Arising from funding received under the Departments Town and Village Renewal Programme the Council received tenders on 15th January 2018 for the preparation of Town Realm plan – these tenders have been assessed – we hope to be in a position to appoint the successful tenderer shortly.

The Municipal District has also appointed a Consultant to prepare plan for Town Park – public consultation in respect of this will be arranged in the coming weeks.

As advised at our last meeting Monaghan was awarded €138,400 under the Healthy Ireland Fund (Strand 1). As part of this application, Ballybay Town has been awarded €15,000 for Outdoor Exercise Equipment in Ballybay Town Park. This equipment has been procured and will be installed by end of March 2018.

Clones Regeneration

Last meeting of the Clones town team was on Thursday. The Town Team are in the process of preparing a short-term plan for the regeneration of the town and will be launching it at its next meeting.

Clones Market House

Works for the refurbishment of the Clones Market House commenced on 6th November 2017. The contact period is 6 months. It is envisaged that the Municipal District will take possession of the building in early May. Allowing for fitout, the Municipal District will occupy the building in early June.

Former Clones Post Office

Part Eight planning application for the required works has recently been submitted to the Councils planning section. Tenders for the required works will be sought in February 2018. It is programmed that this building will be operational in early 2019

Dereliction in the MD

I welcome the recent announcement by the Department of an allocation of €3.7million towards the Clones Renewal Scheme. This scheme consists of the development of a number of houses units on six long term derelict sites in Clones Town.

These are:

- Daveys Butchers,
- Flower Shop and An Bionnian Bui
- Abbey gate house
- Building at Fermanagh Street car park entrance
- 82/83 Fermanagh Street
- 2a Analore Street
- 1 Analore Street

This scheme is a very ambitious and will be promoted as a pilot project for the County

The scheme was initiated by the former Clones Regeneration Committee and I would like to compliment the members of this committee and the Clones Town Team for working to ensure that this allocation was made to the town.

Mr Colin Murphy EE updated the members on the following:

Roads Programme

The contractor (Gibsons) has completed resurfacing works on the roundabout in Ballybay at the junction with the Monaghan road; however this material has failed the Councils quality tests and will have to be re-laid.

Operations have been restricted over the last month because of the inclement weather and the winter maintenance operations. The crews have been patching roads and opening outlets on various roads since our last meeting

All councillors present expressed their delight at the funding that has been made available for the Clones Town Renewal Scheme. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that the Lennard Arms and the Cinema site must not be forgotten about. Cllr Pat Treanor spoke on the condition of the roads and how the public were not happy, Cllr Seamus Coyle stated that are roads network is at crises point.

Mr Colin Murphy stated that in order to bring the roads network up to standard within the Municipal District it would cost approx €34million. Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed that the Ballybay Clones Municipal District write to Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross TD inviting him to visit the area to view for himself the crises condition of the local and national roads and to provide funds required to bring the roads to an accessible standard an estimated €34million. This was seconded by Cllr. Pat Treanor and agreed by all. Mr Kevin McNally spoke of the issue of water draining on to roads and how this was also a major factor in the deterioration of the roads. The Municipal District is currently contacting landowners regarding this issue.

Cllr Cathy Bennett welcomed the work in the towns of Ballybay and Clones however she felt that the northern part of the MD was been ignored. Cllr Cathy Bennett asked about the derelict properties at Bough Scotstown and Hollywood Lake. Mr Kevin McNally stated that the Sliabh Beagh master plan was almost complete and that the procurement of a branding consultant for the area had begun, he also spoke of the difficulties with the site at Bough due to lack of services. Mr Kevin McNally stated that the Municipal District had contacted the committee at Hollywood and that we were waiting of confirmation of the AGM.

5. Questions

Cllr Bennett asked:

(1) I was delighted to note the large scale resurfacing works which have been completed last year in the vicinity of Cremartin/McVicars Crossroads and congratulate your office on an excellent job. As you are aware I have highlighted the condition of this road on several occasions and was delighted to see a high quality, medium - long term solution in place for this portion of the road. It has proven to be of huge benefit to residents and road users in the area and has a major impact on the quality of their life. There is another particularly bad stretch of the same road at Corlealackagh which I brought to your attention at the same time and while it has been patched numerous times it is currently in a very poor condition. It has deteriorated significantly in recent months due to ongoing use and bad weather. Can you please advise when this section of the road is to be resurfaced?

Answer:

The section of road in poor condition on the LP3411 in the town land of Corlealackagh is on the 2018 roads programme and will be completed in quarter 3 this year, subject to approval at the February Municipal District meeting.

(2) I must also bring to your attention a section of road which has deteriorated considerably in recent months and that is on the main Ballybay - Keady road just outside Ballybay after the turn off to Keady at the townlands of Knocknamaddy and Dunmaurice. This road has considerable traffic and the road surface is of a very poor quality. I would urge this road receive essential repairs at the earliest opportunity and can you please advise when this section is to be resurfaced?

Answer:

The Municipal District will arrange to have remedial repair work carried out to the LP3403.

(3) In relation to speed control measures and the recent survey carried out to monitor speed. It was found that traffic travelled at accessible speeds in the following areas. Can cushioned ramps now be placed in these areas to control speeding traffic?

- Entering Scotstown on the Knockatallon side
- Entering Scotstown on the Monaghan side
- Outside the Sliabh Beagh Hotel, Knockatallon.

Answer:

Monaghan County Council, Roads Section is currently in the process of preparing a traffic calming policy and until this policy has been developed we have been advised not to install any new traffic calming measures.

(4) Can flood prevention measures please be investigated at Sheskin, Knockatallon please?

Answer:

The Municipal District will investigate what flood prevention measures can be put in place at Sheskin, Knockatallon

(5) Can the Ballybay-Clones Md please outline to me the works that were done at the Sliabh Beagh hotel? Are there additional traffic speed control measures to be implemented there? How much was spend on these measures?

Answer:

Traffic calming gateway speed limit signs were erected on either side of the Sliabh Beagh Hotel. A Clar allocation of €7,000 was spent on this works. Currently, there is no additional speed control measures proposed to be implemented at this location.

Cllr Eva Humphreys asked:

(6) What plans have Monaghan County Council to review the current Roads Program for 2018 given the considerable damage that has been caused to roads throughout the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District due to the inclement weather conditions?

Answer:

Ballybay Clones Municipal District has reviewed the roads programme for 2018 and it is being presented at the February meeting for final approval.

6. Notice of Motion

Motion was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all. Cllr Seamus Coyle added the new Local Link service was excellent and commended all involved.

7. Matters arising from previous minutes

Page 3:- Cllr Pat Treanor noted what Mr Colin Murphy had stated previously regarding the further deterioration of the road network.

8. Chief Executive Orders

Chief Executive Orders BCMD 01/18 – 09/18 were noted by the members

9. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

Members extended a vote of congratulations to the following:

- Monaghan County GAA Panels (Men and Women) on winning their perspective National League games against Kerry on 18/02/18
- Ballybay Community College management and team on winning the Danske Bank Pat King Cup

Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- The Sheerin family on the death of their mother Helen
- The Sherry family on the death Pat

10. A.O.B.

Mr Kevin McNally referred to correspondence received from Minister for Rural and Community Development Michael Ring TD, the correspondence referred to the schedule of announcements of various projects throughout 2018. It was agreed that this email to be circulated to the members.

Cllr Pat Treanor spoke on the GAA in Clones and proposed the this Municipal District establish a partnership committee involving Monaghan County Council, St Tiarnachs GAA club, Monaghan GAA County Board and The Ulster Council to advocate for funding for the maintenance and refurbishment of St. Tiarnachs park. This was seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

Cllr Seamus Coyle complimented the staff of the Municipal District on the Annual Report 2017 and asked could it be circulated to the Ballybay Regeneration Committee, Clones Town Team and to all MEPs and Oireachtas members

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled March 20th at 10.00am.

Signed _____

Cathaorleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date

20/03/2018

