

## Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 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**        Aidge King, Director of Services, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Colin Murphy, Executive Engineer, Martin Taylor Assistant Engineer, Seamie Mc Mahon, Staff Officer

Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed Mr Martin Taylor Assistant Engineer to the Ballybay Clones Municipal District. Cllr Coyle thanked all the staff of Monaghan County Council for their work during the recent storm and paid special tribute to the outdoor staff for all their efforts to ensure that the County's key roads were accessible. Cllr Coyle acknowledged the role of the local media in getting the message regarding storm updates to the general public.

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

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

### **2. Correspondence & previously answered questions**

Cllr Cathy Bennett thanked the MD staff for writing to Minister Michael Ring regarding the extension of the Local Link services to Knockatallon.

Cllr Pat Treanor welcomed the Stage 1 Approval letters for the Clones Renewal Scheme from the Dept of Housing, Planning and Local Government. Cllr Pat Treanor asked about the time line involved and would there be an opportunity to see the plans before a final decision was made. Mr Kevin McNally stated that it was hoped that works would be completed by Q4 2019. Mr Kevin McNally also stated that draft plans would be made available once to hand.

Cllr Seamus Coyle spoke on correspondence from the OPW and proposed that the Ballybay Clones Municipal District requests that the Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform Paschal Donohoe TD to immediately expedite the approval of the OPW flood risks management plans for the town of Ballybay. This was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

#### **• Previously answered questions**

**Cllr Coyle asked:**

**(1).**Can Monaghan County Council examine immediately, what works can be carried out to address the regular flooding on the Ballybay to Monaghan Road (R162), outside Ballybay, at what is known locally as "Hanratty's", just past the turn off for Tullycorbet, as over the past number of months, flooding has occurred at this location frequently, and causes great danger and inconveniences to traffic and all road users?.

**Answer:**

The Municipal District is currently in the process of preparing an application for funding under the OPW Minor Flood Works Scheme for works to address flooding on the R162 at area that is known locally as Hanratty's. Works to address this issue are dependent on available funding.

**(2).**Will Monaghan County Council, examine what additional safety measures can be put in place at St.Mary's National School,Rockcorry(R193-2),as this is a very dangerous location for pupils, parents and staff, entering and exiting the School on a very busy road, with H.G.V.s etc?.

**Answer:**

The Municipal District installed temporary delineator signage at the junction between the R188 and the R193 on a trial basis to narrow the junction and slow traffic down entering the R193 towards the school. This has been successful and it is the Municipal District's intention to install a kerb build out to make this realignment of the junction permanent.

The Municipal District proposes to seek funding under the recently announced CLAR programme for traffic calming measures that this location. Works to address this issue are dependent on available funding.

**(3).**What plans have Monaghan County Council to address the serious flooding issues, on the Killeevan to Magherarney Road(LP02151/LP02150),in the area of Boughel Cross, as great inconvenience has been caused to motorists, using this road over recent months, with a number of vehicles, seriously damaged as a result of the flooding?

**Answer:**

The Municipal District have investigated this and determined that a culvert crossing under a private lane at the junction with the local road was blocked and also undersized to take the flow of water. The Municipal District is working with the landowner concerned to address this issue.

**(4).**Will Monaghan County Council examine what additional safety measures i.e. ramps/cushions, can be put in place on the Ballybay Road, Newbliss,(R183-7)as locals are very concerned for the safety of children and pedestrians on this roadway?

**Answer:**

The Municipal District will review this location to determine suitable measures to address the issue of speeding at this location. Any works will be subject to compliance with the Councils policy on traffic calming measures (which are currently being prepared) and the availability of funding.

**(5).**While very appreciative of the extension of the Public Lighting on the Monaghan Road, Rockcorry, when can locals expect the installation of additional public lighting in the area of Teapot Row and St.Mary's GAA Club Facilities?.

**Answer:**

There currently is lighting along the footpath in the vicinity of Teapot Row and St Marys GAA. The Municipal District will arrange for this area to be inspected to determine adequacy of the existing lighting.

**Cllr Gilliland asked:**

(1). Can the Ballybay/Clones MD confirm when the works on the roundabout at the Castleblayney and Main St and Monaghan Rd Junction will be completed?

**Answer:**

In order to undertake these works it is likely that the Castleblayney road from Ballybay will require to be closed temporarily. It is therefore most likely that the work will be carried out the week after Easter when the schools are off. This will be confirmed following the meeting with the contractor which is scheduled for week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

(2). Can The Ballybay/Clones MD give a progress report on the survey conducted on the pedestrian crossing on the Main St Ballybay

**Answer:**

The Municipal District has received the Road Safety Audit report from the consultants. The report includes recommendations to improve the safety of the crossing. The recommendations include items such as removal of parking bays each side of the crossing to improve sight lines, upgrade of road markings and provision of additional signage. These will be costed up and presented at the April meeting for the member's consideration.

**3. Report by Municipal District Coordinator**

Mr Kevin McNally complimented the outdoor staff of the Municipal District in responding to the recent storm event and acknowledged that the outdoor staff ensured that the County's main roads were kept passable.

Mr McNally confirmed that the Municipal District is liaising with the Minsters office to rearrange the official opening of the:

- Linear Park
- Fitzpatrick Square Car park
- Heritage trail

It is envisaged that this event would occur in April.

Mr McNally updated the meeting on the following:

**Ballybay**

The Council is in the process of appointing a consultant to prepare a town realm plan for Ballybay. A delay in the appointment process occurred due to the requirement to reschedule meetings due to the recent snow event. It is hoped to commence the public consultation process for the preparation of the plan in April.

The Municipal District has also appointed a Consultant to prepare plan for Town Park – public consultation event was held on 13<sup>th</sup> March in the Ballybay Wetlands Centre. Further consultation is planned in the coming weeks.

Ballybay Town has been awarded €15,000 for Outdoor Exercise Equipment in Ballybay Town Park under the Healthy Ireland Fund. This equipment has been procured and is currently in the process of being installed.

Last meeting with Ballybay Regeneration committee was on 20<sup>th</sup> March last. Arising from this meeting the MD has agreed to further work with the Councils Environment section to address the serious dog fouling issue in the Town Park.

**Clones Regeneration**

Next meeting of the Clones town team is planned for April 12<sup>th</sup>. The Town Team have prepared a short to medium term plan for the regeneration of the town. Seamie McMahon will give an overview of the plan later on in the meeting.

**Clones Market House**

Works for the refurbishment of the Clones Market House commenced on 6<sup>th</sup> November. The contact period is 6 months and works are well progressed – it is hoped that the Municipal District will occupy the building in early June.

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

Tenders for the required works will be sought shortly. It is programmed that this building will be operational in early 2019

#### **Update on the Clones Renewal Project**

- Stage 1 approval has been obtained from the Department
- Ground Investigation, Topographical Survey & Asbestos Surveys tenders have been returned evaluated and contract has been awarded to Causeway Geotech Ltd.
- Contractor advised Topographical Survey and Asbestos Survey to begin sometime next week but this is to be confirmed. Ground Investigations / Boreholes to begin after Easter.
- Consultancy Services Tenders received this week and require assessment for Suitability, Quality and Price. Monaghan County Council queries on tender submissions will have to be addressed before recommendation, award and appointment

#### **Sliabh Beagh**

The Municipal District has scoped the extent of works required on the existing paths and is in the process of preparing a brief to procure a branding consultant. It is hoped to commence this procurement process after Easter.

#### **Canal Stores**

Clones Development Society is progressing 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.

#### **Tidy towns**

The Municipal District is currently working with Ballybay Clones and Newbliss tidy towns groups and has agreed to purchase additional planters for the area. These units will be a great asset for the towns and when planted will bring colour to the areas. The 2018 grass cutting contract has been awarded to Paul Loughran. These works have commenced.

#### **Hollywood AGM**

A number of staff from the Municipal District attended the recent AGM for Hollywood Park. The Municipal District is committed to working with the committee to advance their proposals to improve the park facilities. There are a number of funding opportunities available to the committee to apply to such as Leader, CLAR and Town and Village Renewal. The committee have been advised to prepare a master plan for the area which will assist in the preparation of any funding submissions.

Mr McNally noted that the Councils LEO section were organising training for businesses on the upcoming implementation of GDPR legalisation. This training was planned for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 5.30 in the Ballybay Wetlands Centre and all businesses were encouraged to attend it.

Mr McNally highlighted to the members that the Department had recently announced the 2018 Clar programme. Submissions were required to be submitted to the Council by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Mr Colin Murphy updated the members on the following:

### **Roads Programme**

The MD has completed our measure of all the roads on our roads programme and quantities have been submitted to Roads Section for tender. As in previous years this is being tendered on a county wide basis. Tenders were put up on etenders last week with the closing date for submissions being Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018. These will be opened the first week of April with a proposed start date of 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The contractor will be starting in the Monaghan MD first before moving into the Ballybay Clones MD, hopefully around the mid/end of May. Drainage works are complete on the LP2022 at Annalore, the LT21521 at Kileevan and the LS6150 at Genagh (John Graham). The gangs are currently working on the LS6110 Skeagh Bridge to Killydonnelly road, the LS6211 at Crossbane (David Keatons) and the LS7401 Caranagh (Paddy McMahons).

### **National Roads**

A commitment has been given by TII for an overlay on the N54 from Applegreen to the border at Clonfad Bridge for a distance of approximately 1500m. Roads section are progressing this design which will also involve sections of road requiring strengthening. Roads Section hopes to be in a position to have these works carried out in August.

The MD is currently producing tender documents for verge cutting on the N54 and the Regional Road junctions. This will be put up on supplygov website at the beginning of April.

### **Bunnoe River Integrated Management Study**

The consultants RPS have produced an Options Report following their study of the Bunnoe River and Catchment area. They have developed 4 different Options, costed these out and made their recommendation on which option would have the most benefit to the objectives of the study. This will be discussed further in the in-committee meeting later.

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

Doohamlet Village – Design work on this project is continuing. It is hoped to be able to go to tender by the middle of May and have a contractor in place by the start of June.

Newbliss Town Realm Plan, -Following a number of community meetings it was agreed that €20,000 of the allocation would be spent on upgrading the Play park. These works include the removal of the existing slide and replacing it with a multi-play area, net tunnel, double tower, ladder, fireman's pole, spring see saw, multi spinner carousel and new slide. This will be tendered for this week, with probably a six week lead in period for installation of equipment.

### **Outdoor Rural Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2017**

The MD has met with representatives of Bawn Development Association at Billy Fox Memorial Park to discuss the park development and the recently awarded Outdoor Rural Recreation funding. In addition to the awarded Outdoor Rural Recreation funding, the Development Association has received Leader Funding. It is important that there is no overlap between the two sources of funding.

The primary focus of the Councils funding will be providing:

- Drainage and surfacing of the pedestrian section of the access paths throughout the park including basic modifications of gradients ,
- New wheelchair assessable gates at three points to access lane and to forest path,
- Provision of improved safety barriers/fencing at dangerous river embankments,
- Thinning and/or cleaning of riverside growth and trees to expand river views and the Installation of Park information display boards and signage.

The total funding provided under this grant is €60,800 and this must be match funded by the Municipal District by €15,200.

### **National Strategy for Angling Development (NSAD) Funding**

Funding was approved conditionally on receipt of some further documentation and signing of the funding agreements. The deadline for the return of the funding agreements and information is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and the projects need to be complete along with the funding claimed by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The necessary documentation was returned along with the signed agreements on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

Approved funding is as follows:

- Anny Shore, White Lake - €20,549, (€5,479.95 match funding) Resurfacing of existing access road and car park
- Lisgillan, White Lake - €29,206.00, (€7,788.76 match funding) Improve existing access road and car park
- Lough Major, South Shore - €1,705.90 upgrading of paths (€454.91 match funding)

This equates to 75% of the funding sought - it is recommended that the 25% match funding is provided from the Municipal District general allocation.

### **Aghabog Footpath.**

Mr Murphy noted that this project had not progressed due to an issue with one land owner being not being available to meet on a number of occasions. It was noted that a further meeting was organised again for 27<sup>th</sup> March. If meeting was cancelled again, Mr Murphy recommended to the members that they consider reallocating this funding to other projects.

Cllr Seamus Coyle thanked Mr Kevin McNally and Mr Colin Murphy for their reports. Cllr Coyle spoke on the situation regarding Aghabog footpath and hoped that the situation could be resolved. Regarding GDPR training for businesses, Cllr Coyle asked that the media would publicise this event. Mr Kevin McNally stated that the new rules regarding data protection will have a massive impact on how the County Council operates. Cllr Pat Treanor acknowledged the importance of data protection but hoped that the new rules wouldn't interfere with the work of councillors.

Cllr Seamus Coyle also spoke on CLAR funding and of the importance of the public been made aware of the submission dates. Cllr Cathy Bennett stated that she was annoyed that communities in Scotstown are unable to apply for this funding as they were not located in the CLAR area. Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed that this MD write to the department and ask them to review the CLAR boundaries to include all areas. This was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle and agreed by all.

Cllr Seamus Coyle highlighted the situation regarding the Municipal Districts roads and used the L6700 as an example of how the roads network is at crises levels. Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed that this MD write to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross inviting him to visit the MD to view the crises situation in the condition of the roads many of which are now inaccessible. This was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Cllr Pat Treanor welcomed Mr Martin Taylor to the Municipal District and thanked the staff for their hard work during the storm. Cllr Pat Treanor welcomed the update on the Clones Renewal Scheme, sought an update regarding works to the river Finn and queried if it would be possible to get a footpath on the N54 at Clonboy.

Mr Colin Murphy stated that there was a budget for drainage works on the Finn, he stated that he would investigate the possibility of a footpath at Clonboy.

Cllr Cathy Bennett thanked the staff for their hard work during the storm, she also thanked staff for attending the recent Hollywood Park AGM. Cllr Cathy Bennett asked if Scotstown can apply for Town and Village funding. Mr Kevin McNally stated that if there are proposed projects then applications should be made.

Cllr Pat Treanor raised the issue of applying for public lighting under Clar. Mr Colin Murphy stated that Mr Martin Taylor is currently reviewing the public lighting list.

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked if a footpath to the Ballybay wetland could be funded under CLAR.

Cllr Sean Gilliland thanked staff for their work during the storm, agreed with all the comments regarding the roads and welcomed the announcement of CLAR funding. Cllr Sean Gilliland stated that he believed that the roads budget had increased and he hoped that this would lead to additional roads been put on the programme. Cllr Sean Gilliland stated he was delighted to see works progressing at Doohamlet and Billy Fox Memorial Pk. Cllr Sean Gilliland Stated that he was confident that the flooding issues in Ballybay were going to be addressed.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney thanked staff for their work during the storm, he agreed with the other members regarding the state of the roads. Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated the road at Cremartin that is on this year's programme will need to be done sooner than Q3. Mr Colin Murphy stated that they would try to prioritise it. Cllr Hugh McElvaney asked for clarification regarding whom makes Clar applications. Mr Kevin McNally stated that community groups make the application to the Council Community and Enterprise Section and that the MD is available to assist if required. Cllr Hugh McElvaney raised the issue of Low Cost Safety works, and noted that Hanrattys cross was very dangerous and needed to be looked at.

Mr Colin Murphy stated that there was funding under the Department Low Cost Accident scheme for 2 projects this year, 1 at 98 Avenue, Clones and 1 at Ballintra junction. Mr Murphy noted that he would review this location with the view to identifying a solution.

#### **4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

**Page 2:-**Cllr Pat Treanor raised the issue of Broadband and spoke of the recent survey he carried out. Details of the survey are to be passed on to Mr John McArdle.

**Page 3:-** Cllr Pat Treanor asked for an update on the offices in Clones and Mr Kevin McNally said this would be addressed in committee.

**Page 4:-** Cllr Cathy Bennett asked about the derelict properties on the Bog Road Scotstown and about improved safety works at The Sliabh Beagh Hotel. Cllr Sean Gilliland stated that it was good to see works been carried out at the roundabout in Ballybay he also stated that the pedestrian crossing in Ballybay needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

**Page 6:-** Cllr Pat Treanor raised the issue of St Tiarnachs Park and proposed that this MD write to Ministers Shane Ross and Heather Humphries requesting that they support the funding applications for the refurbishment of St Tiarnachs Park Clones.

Mr Kevin McNally stated that the housing section were actively dealing with the derelict on the Bog Rd. He stated that traffic calming measures at the Sliabh Beagh could be funded under Clar. Regarding the issue of the roundabout in Ballybay Mr Kevin Mc Nally stated that this was an issue with the contractor and not council staff.

Mr Kevin McNally also stated that meetings had taken place with St Tiarnachs GAA and further meetings were planned. Cllr Seamus Coyle stated that new road routes to St Tiarnachs Park were included in the proposed development plan.

**5. Chief Executive orders**

Chief executive Orders BCMD/10 –BCMD/12 were noted

**6. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy**

Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

Alison Mackle on the death of her mother Pauline

The Evans Family on the death of Mollie

Macartan & Philomena Carroll on the death of their mother Agnes

Mark Johnson and Angela Graham on the death of their father Joshua

The Clerkin Family on the death of Malachy

Members extended a vote of congratulations to the following

Gavin Coyle on winning 3 in a row U21 All Ireland Handball titles for the Bawn Handball Club

**7. A.O.B.**

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked that the Chief Fire Officer give the members a tour of the site for the new fire station in Ballybay before the April MD meeting and reminded everyone that that Draft Development Plan is now available for public viewing. It was agreed that all would meet prior to the April Municipal District meeting at 10.00am at the site of the proposed Ballybay Fire station.

Cllr Seamus Coyle spoke of the fodder crises in the county and he proposed that this MD write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Michael Creed TD requesting immediate financial aid for Monaghan farmers who are experiencing fodder/feed shortages and financial hardships due to the early housing of animals in Autumn 2017 With the continued poor weather conditions and poor ground conditions animals are expected to be housed for a number of more weeks thus resulting in further expenditure and economic hardship for farmers. This was seconded by Cllr Sean Gilliland and agreed by all. It was also agreed to forward this letter to Monaghan County Council.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled April 16<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator *Date*

*16/03/2018*