

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 24th September 2018 at 4.00pm in The Market House, Clones, Co Monaghan.

Members Present The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Sean Gilliland, presided

The following members were also present: - Cllrs: Cathy Bennett, Seamus Coyle, Pat Treanor & Hugh McElvaney

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

Apologies Cllr Eva Humphreys & Mr Eamonn O Sullivan CE Monaghan County Council

Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed all to the first meeting of Ballybay/Clones Municipal District to be held in the new offices at The Market House, Clones. He congratulated all involved in the refurbishment of the building, he also stated that it was great to see the old offices occupied by Local Link. Cllr Pat Treanor agreed with Cllr Sean Gilliland and added that it was a great statement of intent from the council regarding dereliction in the town of Clones. Cllr Seamus Coyle added that it was an honour to be at the first meeting in the new offices and passed on his thanks to Paul Clifford, Adge King and Kevin Mc Nally. Cllr Cathy Bennett congratulated all involved and wished everyone well who works in the offices. Cllr Hugh McElvaney said this was a great day for Clones and he wished to pass on his thanks to the current Chief Executive and to previous County Managers. Mr Adge King said it was a momentous occasion for the Municipal District and the town, he also thanked the elected members for their support over the last number years. Mr Kevin Mc Nally added that this was a very important day for Clones and that the staff were delighted to be working in the newly refurbished building.

1. Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed the previous minutes, Cllr Cathy Bennett seconded the proposal and they were agreed by all.

2. Correspondence

Page 9 – Cllr Pat Treanor spoke on the letter received from the Dept of Transport, he stated that it did not address the issues which were raised. Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that this Municipal District write to Minister Shane Ross TD urging him to seek a much-increased allocation to road infrastructure for County Monaghan in this year's budget negotiations. This was seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all. Cllr Seamus Coyle added that he was very disappointed by Minister Shane Ross's visit. Cllr Hugh McElvaney added that roads with big rate payors need to be looked after. Mr Kevin McNally stated that this currently happens and noted that the Municipal District prioritises Local Primary roads for resurfacing. Cllr Sean Gilliland felt that Minister Ross was not doing enough for County Monaghan.

3. Request for funding to progress scoping exercise to extend greenway from Smithboro to Clones

Mr McNally gave a report on the proposed scoping work on a green way from Smithboro to Clones. It was noted that the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport published the National Greenway Strategy in July 2018. Greenway funding will be made available by the Department over the coming years, with priority being given to strategic Greenways that meet the Department's 5 main criteria (Strategic, Scenic, Sustainable, Substantially Segregated, offer lots of see and do).

Mr McNally highlighted that Greenway Routes where investment had already been made in design and development by Local Authorities may be given higher priority.

The estimated cost of further advancing the proposed greenway from Smithboro to Clones is €20,000. It is proposed to use this funding to procure a design consultant to advance the design of this section of the greenway.

Mr Kevin McNally requested that this funding from the Municipal District General allocation be assigned to advance this project. This was proposed by Cllr Sean Gilliland and seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

4. Report by Municipal District Coordinator

Mr Kevin McNally gave his report:

- **Clones Town Hall**

I think that I can speak for the other staff of the Municipal District who are all delighted to be working in such a prominent and prestigious building. The cost of renovating the building including fitout and IT equipment is €1.2million. This investment will ensure that the building continues to play a pivotal role in the Clones Ballybay Municipal District for many years to come. The official opening of the building is being planned for the afternoon of Friday 5th October.

We hope to organise an open day and invite the public to visit the renovated building and to inspect the completed works.

Adverts seeking proposals for a name for the building were placed in the local press recently – date for submissions is Friday 12th October.

As discussed at previous Municipal District meetings Cavan Monaghan Rural Transport has leased the former Municipal District offices and has taken possession of the building since end of August 2018. The leasing of this office has coincided with the launch of a new service which runs from Cavan, Scotshouse, Clones, Newbliss, Threemilehouse, to Monaghan.

- **Former Clones Post Office**

Subsequent to a procurement process the Council has awarded the contract for the refurbishment of the former Clones Post office to Rodney Brady Ltd. Works are programmed to commence in the coming days and will be completed by the end of Q1 2019. Separate procurement processes will be run for specialised items of fitout.

- **Clones Renewal Scheme**

Part 8 process has commenced, and it is proposed to bring these projects to the next meeting of Monaghan County Council for their review. Separately tenders are currently being sought for the demolition of the building adjacent to the Paragon bar. This work will complement the work of our colleagues in the Councils Housing Section.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Clones Town Team in organising a very detailed presentation and tour to the Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards assessment committee.

This event enabled the Town Team to illustrate all the initiatives that the Community and the business sectors in partnership with local government are delivering in Clones town. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony taking place at The Lyrath Hotel, Kilkenny on November 28th, 2018.

Ballybay

The Paul Hogarth Company has been developing a number of draft proposals for draft projects in respect of the Ballybay Economic and Public Realm plan. In order that we optimised the public consultation process it was agreed in conjunction with Ballybay Regeneration Committee to host a family fun day in the Ballybay Town Park on 31st August.

This event was very well attended, and the Consultants received a large amount of feedback from the general public. This feedback is currently being assessed and a further meeting with the Ballybay Regeneration committee will be arranged shortly.

Bothar na Mullen

Arising from applications submitted by our colleagues in the Housing section over €5 million has been approved to build 31 new social houses in Scotstown in Monaghan.

The funding has been announced as part of the Rebuilding Ireland programme, with the houses planned for the Bothar na Mullen area of the village.

Sliabh Beagh

It is proposed to officially launch the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan in the Sliabh Beagh Hotel this evening. This plan has been formally approved by Fermanagh Omagh District Council and Monaghan County Council. This plan will be the basis for all future funding applications to made for the area.

A focus group meeting was held on 15th August 2018 in respect of the proposed branding for the Sliabh Beagh area and also for the design and procurement of way marker signs. The Consultant has developed proposals, and these will be presented to the focus group next week or so for their feedback.

I wish to acknowledge the efforts of all the staff in dealing with the damage caused by Storm Ali.

- **Funding announcements**

I would like to commend that various community groups that either submitted individual applications or worked with the Municipal District for the recent call for proposals under the Clar and Outdoor recreation schemes.

The Following schemes have received funding

Clar

Swanns Cross	Erection of 2 bus shelters
Rockcorry	Speed Safety Signs and traffic Control at Rockcorry school on the R193
Drum	Provision of Car Parking Facilities and minor road marking upgrade
Scotshouse	Provision of Carparking facilities and upgrade of road markings
Scoil Eanna Ballybay	Construct and upgrade access footpaths and erect pedestrian crossing .
St. Mary's NS, Threemilehouse	Play & recreation areas and equipment for children with the focus on sensory needs
Gransha NS	Provision of Multi Use Games Area
Ballybay Central School	All round Multi-use play area & fence New playground equipment

Outdoor recreation schemes 2018

Clones town trail	Extension to Famine Graveyard	Famine Grave, Clones
Dartrey fairy forest pathway	Develop new looped pathway	Dromore West, Dartrey
Cycleway around the Mulladuff Green Area	Develop a safe Cycleway	Smithborough Village

Mr Colin Murphy gave his report.

Roads Programme

The contractor for the Bitmac Contract has been working in our Municipal District for the last 2 weeks. The roads on the programme currently remaining to be bitmaced are the LP3411 at Cremartin and the LS6110 at Skeagh Bridge. Three of these roads have been surface dressed to date with the remainder to be completed over the next 2 weeks, weather permitting.

Town & Village Renewal Funding

Doohamlet –The contractor has commenced works on the cycle path in Doohamlet. It is anticipated that it will take 6 weeks to complete the works, with a completion date around the end of October.

Aghabog Footpath.

Works is ongoing to the proposed footpath in Aghabog with a proposed completion date of the second week in October.

Footpath extension on the N54

A contractor has been appointed to extend the footpath out as far as the last house at Clonfad bridge on the N54. Works should be commencing here this week.

Hedgecutting.

The contractor is due back on the N54 at the start of October to carry out his second cut on the verges and junctions.

98th Avenue Pedestrian Crossing (LCSI)

The pedestrian Crossing from the Super Value Carpark across to the shop as part of the Low-Cost Improvement Scheme funding was tendered for last week. Tenders will close in two weeks with a projected start date of the middle of October.

Junction with the R183-LP3200-Ballintra Chapel road

The allocation of funding for this junction may have to be moved elsewhere or works at the junction changed. We are in discussions with land owners in relation to works but we don't envisage a positive outcome to these discussions. The owner of the bungalow will not allow any works to be done to his lawn in order to improve forward sight visibility both for road users and himself. The owner of the derelict buildings at the junction is looking for too much money for the buildings to be demolished, in order to improve forward site visibility and the turning circle for vehicles approaching from Doohamlet.

Billy Fox Memorial Park

A contractor (James Oliver Hearty) has been appointed to carry out the upgrading works in the Park. There are few things to be clarified with insurances but once these have been sorted it is hoped to start work with immediate effect with a 4-6-week programme of works.

Kilmore East Drainage.

Drainage works to the stream from Kilmore East to Milltown Bridge near Rockcorry took place in August and the landowners have been very complimentary of the works carried out.

River Finn Drainage Works

The contractor commenced drainage works at 8 localised spots along the River Finn from Analore back towards the border at Roslea. These works include the removal of overgrown vegetation, fallen trees and blockages.

Cllr Sean Gilliland thanked Mr Kevin McNally and Mr Colin Murphy for their reports.

Cllr Pat Treanor raised the issue of the naming of the new council offices he asked that the public are encouraged to get involved. Cllr Pat Treanor spoke of his delight that the Local Link had moved into the old council offices. In relation to the Clones Renewal Scheme, Cllr Pat Treanor asked for a timeline for the works. Cllr Pat Treanor also thanked the staff for their work during storm Ali, he also spoke of the great work at Kilmore East and on the river Finn. Cllr Pat Treanor raised the issue of traffic calming throughout Clones and asked regarding a start date for the N54 overlay.

Cllr Cathy Bennett welcomed the €5.2million housing development for Scotstown, she also welcomed the launch of the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan. Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed that this Municipal District write to Failte Ireland requesting funding for the upgrade of roads in the Sliabh Beagh area, this was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Cllr Cathy Bennett welcomed the Clar funding however she felt that some areas within the Municipal District are discriminated against, Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed that this Municipal District write to The Department of Rural and Community Development requesting that Clar funding be available to all areas, this was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Cllr Cathy Bennett also requested that this Municipal District write to Coilte reminding them of their obligation in relation to the cutting of trees. Cllr Cathy Bennett also raised the issue of traffic calming in Sliabh Beagh and in Scotstown.

Cllr Seamus Coyle stated that the family fun day in Ballybay had been a massive success, he also thanked the staff for their work during storm Ali. Cllr Seamus Coyle also welcomed the housing development in Scotstown and congratulated all who received Clár funding and asked when the Town and Village applications were due to be announced.

Cllr Seamus Coyle also asked about the N54 and he stated that the Ballintra Cross is extremely dangerous. Cllr Hugh McElvaney also stated that this cross was extremely dangerous. Cllr Sean Gilliland also agreed with the comments on Ballintra. Cllr Seán Gilliland welcomed the works at Billy Fox Memorial Park, Cllr Sean Gilliland asked whether signs were in place at places where the local link busses stop.

Mr Kevin McNally stated that signs for Local Link had been ordered. Regarding traffic calming Mr Kevin McNally stated that a new policy document was to be presented to the full council at their October meeting. A discussion was had on traffic calming.

5. Notice of Motion

“That Monaghan County Council immediately examine, formulate plans and commence works on a rear entrance/back roadway/access to Pearse Place, Cornamucklaglass, Castleblayney Road, Ballybay, as a back roadway/entrance was previously available to residences of Pearse Place, the unavailability of this rear access is causing great inconvenience/difficulty for residences, impacting greatly on vehicles/cars parking on the very busy Castleblayney Rd., Ballybay and also property valuations etc.” (Cllr Seamus Coyle and Cllr Hugh McElvaney)

Cllr Seamus Coyle spoke on the notice of motion to commence plans for a rear entrance to Pearce Place in Ballybay, this motion was seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all.

"That Ballybay-Clones Municipal District request an immediate meeting with Local, Regional and National Management of Bank of Ireland ,to seek the immediate reinstatement of counter services i.e.-Cash, Coin etc at the Bank of Ireland Branches in Ballybay & Clones, as has happened in Branches in Carrickmacross and Bailieborough, also ATM services are placed on the agenda ,as great inconvenience, loss of business and concern, has been expressed recently at the lengthy "Out of Service" periods in Ballybay, the only on street ATM machine in the town at Bank of Ireland." (Cllr Seamus Coyle).

Cllr Seamus Coyle also spoke on the motion regarding the lack of counter services at Bank of Ireland Ballybay and their failure to keep the ATM operational.

Cllr Seamus Coyle requested that this Municipal District write to Bank of Ireland requesting an immediate meeting with officials to discuss these ongoing issues. This motion was seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all.

6. Questions

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked:

(1) When will Monaghan County Council commence/complete repair works to the roadway, at what is known locally in the Connons area as Nancy's Bridge, as the road is splitting/cracking, and is of serious safety concerns to local residences and the road users of this heavily vehiclerised/pedestrianized route?

Answer

The Municipal District has recently undertaken repair works to the split in the road at Nancy's Bridge.

(2)Can Monaghan County Council outline its plans for upgrading of footpaths, public lighting etc. and additional safety/traffic control measures on the Roslea Rd. Clones, particularly in the area known locally as the Cannons Lane/River Lane, as this area of the Roslea Rd. Clones, is very heavily vehiclerised/pedestrianized, with two schools/colleges ,cemeteries ,residential/nursing home,O.P.D.s,also the huge volumes of attendees to The Peace Link, St.Tiarnachs Park amenities etc., there are serious concerns locally and by all road users for Road Safety by all Road Users on the Roslea Rd., Clones?.

Answer

A Public Consultation process on proposals to install a one-way system on Cannons Lane took place earlier this summer. In response to this process a number of submissions have been received. The Municipal District are in the process of reviewing these submissions and once this review has been

completed will be in a position to establish what works may be required at this location. Any works will be subject to the availability of funding.

(3) Arising from a previous meeting of the Municipal District and the recommendations of the members for a process to commence to suitable name the O.P.D. residences on the Roslea Road, Clones, can Monaghan County Council outline the procedures for public/member consultations and adopting of a suitable name/recognizable symbol for the estate, with an appropriate local connection/theme?

Answer

The Ballybay Clones Municipal District are currently liaising with the Councils Housing section regarding the process to rename the housing estate known as the OPDs Clonekeencole Clones. It is proposed to commence the consultation process regarding proposed name for the estate in the coming weeks.

(4) Will Monaghan County Council immediately investigate and commence works on a raised crossing/ramp on the R188-7, Rockcorry-Cootehill Rd., Rockcorry, at the pedestrian crossing, at Boyher/Crann Mor. Estates, as it is currently very dangerous for pedestrians/school children crossing as H.G.V.s/vehicles approach at speed, placing pedestrians, children and all road users at great danger on the Rockcorry-Cootehill R188-7 road?

Answer

Subsequent to preparation of submissions for safety improvements at this location the Municipal District received funding under the Low-Cost Accident Reduction scheme to provide a push button type pedestrian crossing to facilitate pedestrians. The Municipal District are currently monitoring the performance of these works. The Councils Roads Section are presently preparing a policy regarding traffic calming measures to be implemented on various classification of roads in the County. This policy will advise of possible future works (if any) that maybe suitable for this location. This policy will be presented to the Council for consideration in the coming months. The concerns raised regarding speed of vehicles approaching the crossing will be relayed to An Gardaí Síochána.

(5) Will Monaghan County Council immediately carry out repairs on the sections of the footpaths at the Boyher Housing Estates, Rockcorry, as sections are currently in a very dangerous condition, which could/will cause serious injury to residences, particularly elderly persons?

Answer

The Municipal District will review this location to determine what measures are required to address the issue.

7. Matters arising from previous minutes

Page 2 – Cllr Pat Treanor asked that this MD write to Vincent McCarville to congratulate him on the success of the McCarville reunion, this was seconded by Cllr Sean Gilliland and agreed by all.

8. Chief Executive Orders

Chief Executive orders BCMD 40/18 to 45/18 were noted by the members

9. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Teresa McGuirk and the McKenna family on the death of Johnny McKenna
- The Gunn Family on the death of Michael Gunn

Members extended a vote of congratulations to the following:

- Aaron Mulligan on his selection to the minor football team of the year
- Drumhowan Community on their presentation in the Pride of Place competition
- Christopher Rice on been awarded young GAA volunteer of the year
- The Wylie brothers, Rory Beggan and Nial Kierans on their all-star nominations
- Management and committee of Drumkill Day-care Centre and Alzheimer's society for celebrating 25 and 20 years of service

10. A.O.B.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked that Mr Francis McCarron from Monaghan Integrated Development be included in the next agenda in order for him to give a presentation. Mr Kevin McNally stated that as requested by Mr McCarron this would be added to Novembers agenda. Cllr Seamus Coyle also raised the issue of a recent power surge at Cul Brannan in Ballybay which damaged electrical goods in at least 10 properties. Cllr Seamus Coyle requested that this Municipal District write to ESB Networks requesting an immediate investigation in to why this happened and to fully compensate the households effected by this. This was seconded by Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Cllr Sean Gilliland wished to pass on his congratulations to Mr Rory Treanor for the work he had done for the Ballybay fun day, Mr Kevin McNally stated that Mr Rory Treanor had done excellent work in relation to this event.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled October 15th at 10.00am.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date

15/10/2018