

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 20th May 2019 at 14.00pm The Diamond, Clones , Co Monaghan.

Members Present The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Sean Gilliland, presided

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

In Attendance Kevin McNally Municipal District Co-ordinator, Colin Murphy Executive Engineer, Gabriel Hurson AE, and Seamie Mc Mahon, Staff Officer.

Apologies Adge King, Director of Services,

Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed all to the meeting, he noted that Mr Finbarr Daly was unable to attend today's meeting and that his report 'Choose Clones' would be included at a later meeting.

1. Consideration of report on scoping study for proposed Clones Smithboro Greenway

Cllr Sean Gilliland invited Ciaran Reilly and Sean Fitsimmons from Clondillon Civil Consulting to give their report on the proposed greenway from Smithboro to Clones. The report identified possible routes for a greenway and identified various problems that would be encountered. Mr Gabriel Hurson stated that further funding would be required to bring this to stage 3. Cllr Pat Treanor spoke of the importance of keeping the public informed.

2. Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting

Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed the previous minutes; Cllr Seamus Coyle seconded the proposal and were agreed by all.

3. Correspondence Sent

The correspondence sent was noted by all present.

4. Correspondence Received

Cllr Pat Treanor spoke on correspondence relating to broadband, he stated there was nothing new in the letter. Cllr Pat Treanor added that there was a lack of detail in the new broadband plan and that the people wanted to know when they will have broadband. Cllr Seamus Coyle agreed with this and stated that he was disappointed with the Ministers response. Cllr Seamus Coyle added that the correspondence from Irish Water and from the Valuation office was a disgrace and that both showed a complete lack of respect for the elected members. Cllr Pat Treanor agreed and stated that businesses were under pressure due to increased rates. Cllr Sean Gilliland stated that he welcomed the new broadband plan and said that the maximum cost would be €3b. Cllr Cathy Bennett disagreed with this and also added that Irish Water should be abolished.

Cllr Seamus Coyle spoke on the additional correspondence from Mary Duffy and the Thursday Club, he proposed that this MD allocate €200 to them, this was seconded by Cllr Sean Gilliland and agreed by all. Cllr Sean Gilliland added that in correspondence to them they should be advised to apply for the Community Grants Scheme in 2020.

5. Municipal District Coordinators Report

Mr Kevin McNally gave his report:

Former Clones Post Office

Works to the refurbishment of the building are completed. The certificate for substantial completion has been issued to the contractor. The fitout aspect of the project is well advanced and should be completed shortly. We are now in the process of preparing the necessary terms and conditions to enable the various studios to be leased to artists – this process is ongoing.

Sliabh Beagh

The iconic sign proposed for a site in the vicinity of the penal cross in Knockatallon is nearly completed. A tracking device is currently being installed in it to defer its theft. Contact for the construction of the base that the sign will be erected on and the installation of path to allow people to access the sign has been awarded. The Municipal District has also purchased an easement over the lands required for the access path and base.

Ballybay Town Park

A landscape architect has been appointed to prepare tender documents for the delivery of the scheme. It is envisaged that tenders for the construction aspect will be sought in early June with construction to commence in September.

Ballybay Courtyard project

Part Eight Planning application for works to the Ballybay Courtyard project was approved by the Council at its May meeting. These works consist of the development of an access roadway to the site and the provision of a temporary carpark. A letter of intent has been issued to the preferred contractor for the construction of the access roadway and it is programmed that works will commence in June. Letter of intent has been issued to consultant to prepare a Masterplan

Clones Renewal Scheme

Contractor has been asked to submit insurance documents and construction guarantee bond for checking, which is a requirement prior to appointment. When it has been confirmed that insurance documents and construction guarantee bond are compliant then the Contractor will be appointed, it is hoped that this will happen shortly.

Scotstown

Stage 2 approval has been received and Part 8 Planning recently submitted. Tender documents are currently being prepared. It is hoped that subject to approval of stage 3 application that works will commence in 2020.

Mr McNally noted that the Council is seeking Expressions of Interest for Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019. An outline of the 2019 scheme and the Expression of Interest application form can be obtained from the Community Development Section of the Monaghan County Council. All interested Town/Village Groups/Community Groups/Development Associations should complete the Expression of Interest form and return by post or email to the Community Development Section, Monaghan County Council, County Offices, before 24th May 2019.

It was also noted that Monaghan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) had announced the launch of the Community Enhancement Programme for 2019.

Organisations eligible for funding include:

- Locally based community and voluntary groups in disadvantaged areas,

- Not-for-profit organisations, and
- Government Departments and State Agencies.
- Projects or elements of project of a capital nature may be funded.
- Deadline for receipt of applications is Thursday 30th May 2019 at 5pm

Mr Colin Murphy gave his report:

Roads Programme

Tenders for the Bitmac Contract have been assessed and Roadstone Contracts have been appointed. The start date for the works is Tuesday 4th June and the contractor will be starting works in the Ballybay-Clones MD. The order in which the roads will be completed is as follows:

The LP4007 at Lacken Bridge, LP3403 Ballybay to Cremartin Road, LP4020 Corvally Church Road, LS 8103 in Laragh, LS6210 Doohat to Drunanan, , the LT80001 Drumhonnion Rd and the LS6300 and LS6301 at Doohat Hall and Kilmore West.

Regional Roads will be completed once all the local roads are completed in all the MDs. The surface dressing programme commenced in our MD on the 13th May and the staff are currently working their way through the roads programme for surface dressing.

Town & Village Renewal Funding

Latton - Tender for the works were received last week and are currently been assessed. Following the appointment of the successful tenderer the proposed start date for works in mid-June.

Scotshouse - A landscape Architect has been appointed to help finalise the design of the Park. Part 8 planning has been obtained for the park.

Clonkeencole

Works are complete to upgrading access and parking in Clonkeencole. Outstanding works are the energising of the extra lights that were installed.

Outdoor Recreation

Extension of footpath out to Famine Memorial Graveyard

Eir have undertaken the required works on the Scotshouse road and the contractor has returned to complete the works. It is hoped that this scheme will be completed in June.

Ballybay Wetlands Footpath

The footpath has gone out to tender and we are currently in negotiations with the landowners regarding the required land easement.

Kingfisher Trail

New signage for the Kingfisher trail has been tendered for and a new surface dressing layer will be installed on two of the roads on the route by the end of the month.

Cannons Lane

Works are substantially complete; fence posts are up and rails will be erected soon. Section of lane should be surface dressed before the end of the month.

Bunnoe River

Tenders for the Bunnoe river closed last Friday and will be assessed this week with a view to works commencing mid-June.

The members thanked Mr Kevin Mc Nally and Mr Colin Murphy for their reports.

Cllr Pat Treanor asked that Artists be kept informed of what is going on with the new Arts Studios. Cllr Pat Treanor also asked had contractors been appointed to the Clones Renewal Scheme.

Mr Kevin Mc Nally stated that the Artists had been consulted at all stages of the works to the Post Office. He added that contractors were due to be appointed to the Clones Renewal Scheme in the next few weeks.

Cllr Richard Truell asked for an update on the Newbliss Courthouse and also raised the issue of no public water system between Annalore Bridge and Killeevan village. Mr Kevin McNally stated that Newbliss Courthouse was awaiting funding and that water connections were no longer in the remit of Monaghan County Council.

Cllr Pat Treanor raised the issue of the condition L20313 at Derryarrit Scotstown, a petition from residents was handed in. All the members agreed that this road was in very bad need of repair.

Cllr Cathy Bennett spoke of her delight of the funding received for the housing in Scotstown but added her concerns regarding childcare facilities in the area. Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed that the new housing development at Bothar Na Mullan have a child care facility included in their plans. This was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney welcomed the progression of the Clones Renewal Scheme and commencement of works to the Bunnoe River. Cllr Richard Truell paid tribute to Minister Heather Humphreys regarding the securing of monies for the Bunnoe Project and asked that a tributary of the river be included. Mr Colin Murphy said he would investigate this.

A discussion was had on the levels of vacant housing within our towns and villages. Mr Kevin McNally stated that an audit had been carried out and that vacancy levels were high. Regarding the development at Enaigh Alta Lissegeron Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that this MD write to Oaklee Housing asking them for a timeline for their plans for this area which received planning approval last year.

6. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Page 1 :-Cllr Cathy Bennett asked what funding applications have been made by Hollywood. Mr Kevin Mc Nally stated that the Monaghan MD have made an application for works to the playground to the value of €30k

Page 3:- Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that Scotshouse had expressed an interest in been a candidate for Pride of Place, he wished them well in the competition, Cllr Pat Treanor added his support and spoke of the great community spirit in the area.

Page 3:- Cllr Sean Gilliland spoke about excess water lying adjacent to Ballybay Pk. Mr Colin Murphy undertook to investigate this. Cllr Sean Gilliland also congratulated all involved in the Muladuff Cycle track.

Page 4:- Cllr Richard Truell raised the issue of traffic calming at Largy College, Mr Colin Murphy stated that this area was been looked at as a pilot project for traffic calming by the roads section.

Page 5:- Cllr Seamus Coyle raised the issue of the Alders estate, Mr Colin Murphy stated that an application for the council to take in charge had now been lodged.

Page 6:- Cllr Pat Treanor asked for an update on the possibility of employing a Business Coordinator, Mr Kevin McNally stated that a business case was being developed but that an appointment would be subject to funding.

7. Questions

Cllr Seamus Coyle will ask:

(1).Will Monaghan County Council immediately undertake the Repainting of the Houses/Walls etc at the An Clos and An Cluin estates, Drumchonion ,Bawn as the paint work is peeling off, leaving it unsightly for residences?

Answer: Monaghan County Council have not been informed previously of this issue in the two estates by the residents. An assessment will be made of the condition of the houses/walls in the estates referred to by the Technical section (Housing). If it is deemed that works are required then they will be placed on the planned maintenance programme in 2020 or 2021, in conjunction with all other works, subject to funding.

(2).Can Monaghan County Council give a full update on the proposals for a new Fire Station for Ballybay, as the current facilities are totally unsuitable for a modern-day fire service?

Answer: Monaghan County Council have been investigating alternate sites for a new Fire Station in Ballybay Town. This process is on-going, and it is hoped to secure an alternative option to form a funding application to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government for their consideration.

(3).The Junction known locally as Creevagh Cross on the Ballybay to Monaghan Road (R162-LS02380-LT25023) is extremely dangerous ,can Monaghan County Council immediately examine what safety improvement works can be carried out and make application for the necessary funding?

Answer: The Municipal District will review this location to determine if additional safety measures are required. Any proposed works will be subject to available funding.

(4).Will Monaghan County Council immediately examine what Traffic Calming Measures can be put in place in Rockcorry, in the area of the Crèche/Newbliss Road (LP62331)/Dartry Court Estate, as it is a very busy area on a dangerous corner, located on the Monaghan to Cootehill Regional Road(R188),particularly as parents collect and drop off children to the Crèche?

Answer: The Municipal District will review this location in respect of traffic safety. Any proposed works will be subject to available funding.

(5).Will Monaghan County Council immediately have design and costings completed for the extension of the Public Lighting Scheme to the end of the Footpath on the Newtownbutler

Road, Clones (R183), as the with the footpath in place, many are walking, leaving it very dangerous, particularly on dark winter evenings?

Answer: The Municipal District have carried out a review of all proposed locations for new public lighting within the Municipal District area and have prioritised these locations. This included 33 sites consisting of 193 no new lighting columns. It is the intention of the Municipal District to install lighting as per the prioritised site list and subject to funding being available.

Cllr Sean Gilliland will ask:

(1) When will this Md carry out necessary repair works and safety works on the Mulladubh Bridge and the Lurgahamela Bridge

Answer: Quotations have been received for repairs to the Mulladuff bridge and a contractor will be appointed imminently to commence work on the bridge repairs. The Municipal District will examine the Lurgahamela bridge to determine what repairs are required.

(2) Can this Md confirm that the following roads will be Bitmac resurfaced and when this will take place Drumhonnion Road, Latton, Corvalley Road At Corvalley Church road, Laragh Village Road, Old Keady Road, Ballybay, Doohat Road, Lackin Bridge to Shantonagh Road, Ballybay to Shercock Road Bawn and Latton

Answer: The Municipal District can confirm that the following roads will receive a bitmac surface. These works are due to commence the week beginning 20th May

LP4007	Lackan Bridge - 3 Roads	(Part)
LP3403	Knocknamaddy - Cornanure -3 Roads	Knocknamaddy -3 Roads - Cremartin Rd from Ballybay(Part)
LP4020	Corvalley	To Carrickamore Quarries road.
LS8103	Laragh - Beagh - 4 Roads	Laragh - 3 Roads East (Laragh Chapel Road)
LS6210	Drunanan - Doohat -	Drunanan - Doohat -
LT80001	Drumhonnion Road Bawn	(Shercock off the R162)
R162	Shercock	Bawn and Edaforan

(3) Can this MD Give an Update on the O Mahoney Site in Ballybay

Answer: Monaghan County Council has received notice of funding for this site under the Departments Rural Regeneration Programme. A design team is currently being procured to develop a masterplan for the site. This appointment will be made in the coming weeks and will be completed by September. Separately the Municipal District has procured a contractor to resurface the access road to this site. These works will be commencing shortly and should be completed by September 2019.

(4) Can this MD carry out a safety review at Lisduff Cross Known Locally as Tossey Cross with a view to the vision splays and the dip in the road at the Ballybay site of the cross and the road surface on the approach from the Castleblayney side

Answer: The Municipal District will review this location to determine if additional safety measures are required. Any proposed works will be subject to available funding.

Cllr Richard Truell will ask:

Q 1: I request that Monaghan County Council investigate and put a plan together for the realignment of the R189 Greenan's Cross Roads as this is a very dangerous road crossing for all roads leading up to the junction.

Answer: The Municipal District have received funding under the Specific Improvement Grant to carry out improvement works on the R189. It is the intention of the Municipal District to begin these works at Greenan's Cross to improve the horizontal and vertical alignment of the road at this location.

Q2: I request that Monaghan County Council examine the disrepair of the Tanderagee Bridge on the LP 2130.

Answer: Repairs to this bridge will be carried out following completion of the Surface Dressing Programme.

8. Notice of Motion

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed that this MD write to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Catherine Zappone and the Government asking them to immediately implement the Mercier Report recommendations on Childcare Workers Wages, as some childcare workers have not had a pay increase since 2004 and also urge all workers in the sector to join the unions SIPTU/IMPACT unions to allow them to seek a Sectoral Pay Order from Government “.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked that this motion be forwarded to Monaghan County Council. This was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Cllr Sean Gilliland proposed that Monaghan Co Council call on the Dept of Finance , public expenditure and reform and its Minister Pascal Donohoe, to Re - Open the framework for Road Making Materials under supply gov .i.e. to all suppliers in the industry as many of them were not made aware of it in 2017 due to lack of communications between the industry and the Department that year.

Cllr Sean Gilliland also requested that this be forwarded to Monaghan County Council. This was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

9. Chief Executive Orders

Chief Executive orders BCMD 21/19 to 24/19 were noted by the members.

10. Votes of Congratulations and Sympathy

Members extended a vote of Congratulations to the following:

- To Largy College on their debate team winning the Concern All Ireland Final
- To Largy College YSI on winning silver at the YSI national awards
- To Aoife Bannigan on her 3rd place in the World Irish Dancing Championships

Members extended a vote of Sympathy to the following:

- The McPhillips family on the death of Tom
- The Slowey family on the death of Loretta
- The Gibson family on the death of Paudge
- The Leonard and Quigley families on the death of Catherine

11. A.O.B.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked if it was good practice to use Round Up on our roads before works commenced. Mr Colin Murphy stated it was used as per specifications. Cllr Pat Treanor added that the Councils Climate Change policy was going to public consultation and that all interest groups should take part in this.

Cllr Seamus Coyle raised the issue of home help hours in Co. Monaghan and proposed that this MD request that Ministers Simon Harris, Heather Humphreys, The Government and the HSE immediately provide additional funding for the provision of Home Help hours in County Monaghan as there is currently a crisis in this area with severe hardships and suffering being caused to those in need of this service. The motion was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Cllr Sean Gilliland stated as this was the last meeting of the Council he wished to pass on his thanks to the staff of the MD, to Eamonn O Sullivan CE and to Adge King DOS. Cllr Sean Gilliland paid tribute to all the elected members including former Cllrs Ciara McPhillips Eva Humphreys and Eugene Bannigan, he also thanked Cllr Cathy Bennet for all her work in the MD and wished her well in the election for the Monaghan MD. Cllr Sean Gilliland also thanked the media for their continued coverage of the issues in the area.

Cllr Pat Treanor added a tribute to the Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland and his colleague Cllr Cathy Bennett. Cllr Richard Truell paid tribute to those who had held his seat before him.

Cllr Seamus Coyle concurred with all that was said and wished all his colleagues well. Cllr Seamus Coyle also took a moment to remember former Cllr Owen Bannigan RIP.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney added that there had been great success stories in the MD over the last 5 years.

Cllr Cathy Bennett thanked everyone for their comments and wished all well.

Mr Kevin McNally on behalf of the staff thanked the elected members and spoke of some of the achievements of the last 5 years. He wished all who were seeking election the very best of luck.

That concluded the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled June 17th at 10.00pm.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date
17/06/2019