

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 21st October 2019 at 10.00am Ballybay Civic Offices, Ballybay , Co Monaghan.

Members Present The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pat Treanor, presided

The following members were also present: -Cllrs Seamus Coyle and Cllr Richard Truell

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 Hugh McElvaney and Cllr Sean Gilliland

Cllr Pat Treanor welcomed all to the meeting including representatives from the Peace Link.

1. Confirmation of minutes

Cllr Pat Treanor stated that he wished to make an amendment to the minutes regarding an error in the letters of sympathy, this was agreed by all. Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed the minutes, Cllr Richard Truell seconded and was agreed by all.

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that the Peace Link presentation be dealt with first. This was agreed by all.

4. Consideration of presentation from Management of the Peace Link

Ms Deirdriu McQuaid and Mr Fergal Corrigan gave a detailed report on the Peace Link sports facility. All the members present welcomed the report. Cllr Pat Treanor spoke of the importance of the facility to the local community. Cllr Richard Truell congratulated the Peace Link on their success and wished them well going into the future. Cllr Seamus Coyle stated that the cross community element to the Peace Link was of massive importance. Mr Adge King spoke of the importance of Building Relations Through Sport and of the challenges the facility faces. Mr Adge King thanked Mr Kevin McNally for the work he put into the project from day one and to all the elected members including the old Town Council members who supported this. Mr Kevin McNally spoke on the future upgrade of facilities and equipment. Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that this Municipal District make an allocation of €10,000 from the Municipal District allocation towards the development of plans for the Peace Link, this was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle and agreed by all.

2. Correspondence Sent

The correspondence sent was noted by all present.

3. Correspondence Received

Cllr Pat Treanor noted the correspondence from Clones Community Forum, he proposed that the Municipal District provide €100 of funding towards the event. This was seconded by Cllr Richard Truell and agreed by all.

5. Consideration of draft Budget 2020

Mr Kevin McNally presented the draft budget to the members. Mr Kevin McNally stated that a lot of the figures were dependent on Government grants. The members were delighted to see the Municipal District allocation increase. Mr Adge King stated that the budgets which were funded by the Councils

own resources would be considered by the members at the Councils forthcoming budget meeting. The document circulated was noted by all the members present.

6. Municipal District Coordinators Report

Mr Kevin McNally give the following report:

Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership

The first meeting of the Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership is planned for Wednesday 20th November 2019. Venue will be in Clones. The Agenda will issue closer to the date of the meeting.

Ballybay Town Park

The contract for the construction of Ballybay Town Park has been awarded to Sammy Wilkin. It was requirement of the planning permission that an Archaeologist was employed to report on the site prior to the commence of works. These works were completed in early October. Construction works are programmed to commence after completion of the local cost safety improvement scheme at Whyles Hill.

Ballybay regeneration

The next meeting of the Ballybay Regeneration committee is on Thursday next at 6.00pm.

Ballybay Courtyard project

The construction of the access roadway to the site commenced on 6th August 2019. The earthworks to the site and lands recently acquired by the Council have been completed. Kerbing works to the access road have now commenced. It is hoped that the scheme will be completed by the end of November 2019. This project is being funded under the Departments Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

As advised at earlier meetings the Paul Hogarth Company has been appointed to prepare a Masterplan for the Ballybay Courtyard project. The consultant has met with a number of adjoining landowners and is progressing his study. The examination of options to provide access to the properties at Pearse Place has been included in his scope. The Council hopes to receive draft proposal for review by the end of the month.

Ballybay Path works

As advised at earlier meetings the Paul Hogarth Company has been appointed to undertake a feasibility study on the development of a range of paths that have been identified in the Ballybay economic and public realm plan. The programme for this study is 10 weeks. We hope to receive draft proposals by the end of the month.

Clones Municipal District offices

The final snagging for the Municipal District offices has been completed. The contractor is currently preparing a programme to address these issues.

Clones Post office

The Council has received approval from SEUPB to transfer the underspend in the fitout budget to the proposal to refurbish the sheds to the rear of the building. These refurbishment works have commenced and will be completed by the middle of November. Separately the Councils Cultural

Section are in the process of arranging the official opening of the facility. This is planned to occur on 25th November 2019.

Outdoor Depot Teehill

The Councils Management Team has approved the Municipal Districts proposal to construct an outdoor depot on Councils lands at Teehill on the Clones Scotshouse Road. The Municipal District will now procure a design team to advance the project. Relevant staff will be consulted during the design process.

Shorts Yard

The Municipal District earlier received funding for the development of serviced industrial sites on the site of the former halting site in Clones. Due to potential flooding issues it is not possible to proceed with this project at this time. The Department has agreed to reallocate this funding for the preparation of a masterplan for a site in Clones known locally as Shortts Yard and the Farmyard.

This masterplan will identify future potential options for the site and also allow for the refurbishment and repair of buildings located the farmyard.

Clones and Ballybay Business Hubs

The Council has appointed Venture International to undertake a feasibility study into the provision of business hubs in Ballybay and Clones towns. A number of meetings have been held with the LEO office. The consultants have met with the Clones Town Team and the Ballybay Regeneration Committee on 19th and 26th of September respectively. A draft of the report is expected in early November.

Clones Heritage Projects

7 L Architects have been appointed by the Council undertake a scoping study of buildings in the vicinity of the former Lennard Arms Hotel. A number of options have been developed for the site. As the former Lennard Arms is located adjacent to the Wee Abbey, which is a National monument, it is proposed to hold discussions with the Department Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht representatives to determine how best to progress the project.

Development of Plaza at St Tiarnachs

DBFL Consulting Engineers currently being appointed for a 6-month programme to design the project, take the project through the planning stage and complete tender documents ready for construction. The programme consists of the completing Design Development by Dec 2019. Part 8 planning permission will be sought by March 2020. The preparation of tender documentation will run in parallel to this process.

Ballybay Footpath repairs

Patrick Hamilton has been appointed to undertake footpath repairs in Ballybay. These works are programmed to commence in the coming weeks.

Wi-Fi

The Wifi4EU initiative is an EU led scheme which hopes to develop more digital communities and improve digital access across the European Commission area. Monaghan County Council has launched the first phase of its Wifi4EU scheme and now invites community and voluntary groups to apply for inclusion to receive free public Wi-Fi under the scheme for 2 sections of the County – South and West. The scheme was developed to deliver free public Wi-Fi for public spaces in towns and villages throughout the EU area. The full capital cost for rolling out the complete Wifi4EU programme within the whole county will be up to €120,000, or €30,000 per region. This will be funded by the EU with matched funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development. Monaghan County Council will also be supporting this initiative by undertaking the running costs for the whole Wifi4EU program within the county for three years. The Wifi4EU project will be rolled out by county broadband officer, Mr John McArdle. The first phase of the Wifi4EU call will cover community groups within the

Clones- Ballybay area, together with groups located in the South Monaghan area around Carrickmacross. The Council is now inviting applications from community and voluntary groups within the Clones-Ballybay area and within the South Monaghan area within and around Carrickmacross.

These spaces can include public administration premises, community halls, local authority facilities, playgrounds, tourist locations, sports facilities or other business premises which facilitate public access. Groups will be invited to demonstrate how they can use these new Wi-Fi facilities to benefit the community and how this can be a stepping stone towards building more digital skills within the area. It is expected that high speed broadband must be available at present in the local facility in order to ensure that the public Wi-Fi matches all of the stipulations set out within the Wifi4EU agreement. These broadband Wi-Fi access points *must* operate at a minimum of 30Mb download speed to fulfil the criteria for the Wifi4EU grant. Applications where the broadband speed does not meet this requirement will be excluded. To receive an application form in electronic format, groups are invited to email broadbandofficer@monaghancoco.ie or to download the application form which is available on Monaghan Co. Co. website. For further queries or assistance, please contact John McArdle, Monaghan Broadband Officer on 047-30500.

Clones Town Team

Following on from the excellent presentation given by the Clones Town team as part of the Bank Of Ireland Enterprise awards, Clones Town was one of 10 shortlisted towns to be entered into the Rising star category. This competition has a prize fund of €20,000 for the winning town.

The team give a further presentation to the judges for this competition on 11th October 2019.

The Clones town team have also received €30,000 of funding from the Leader programme for the development of a Heritage and Economic plan for Clones Town. This plan will identify a number of potential projects that the Town Team or Council can seek funding for. This grant requires match funding of €5000 – I recommend that the members agree to provide this funding.

I would like to complement the great work of the Town Team in developing:

- a new website for the town,
- an interactive heritage tour, the first section of which can be viewed on YouTube for the Market House,
- the submission of Clones Town as part of the Bank Of Ireland Enterprising town awards and Rising star categories and also
- for preparing, submitting a successful grant application to Leader for €30,000 for the development of a Heritage and Economic plan for the town.

The key role undertaken by Seamie McMahon in acting as the Town Team secretary must be acknowledged.

I would like to wish the Seamie and the Clones Film festival every success in their upcoming event. The official opening of the film festival is on Thursday 24th October 2019.

Mr Colin Murphy updated the meeting on the following:

Roads Programme

Overlay works are complete on the R162 Shercock – Bawn road, R189 Doohat – Newbliss, R183 Legerhill, Clones and the R183 at Swanns Cross, with the contractor to come back to finish off lining, raising of gullies and installation of cat's eyes.

The Surface Dressing programme is complete for 2019.

Town & Village Renewal Funding

Latton - Works in Latton are substantially complete.

Scotshouse Town Park - A letter of intent was issued to the successful contractor last week with the intention of having them on site 11th November 2019. The programme for the works is 12 weeks.

Kingfisher Trail

The New signage for the Kingfisher trail has been erected and approximately 14km of the route has received a new surface dressing layer.

Bunnoe River

Works on the Bunnoe river are substantially complete. When finished a total distance of 11.4km of the river will have been cleaned with a further 2.7km downstream of Doohat cleared of blockages.

Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes

Work has commenced in Smithboro with anti-skid installed outside the GAA grounds last week. The contractor is due to move into the village on 4th November to complete works both in Smithboro and Magherarney. The contractor will also complete works at Cloghan GAA Grounds on the week beginning 18th November when a road closure will be in place for the week.

Specific Improvement Grant - Greenans Cross Works

Works under the specific improvement grant at Greenans Cross commenced last week and it is anticipated that the road will be closed fully from today for 3-4 weeks to allow for the regrading and realigning of the junction.

Drainage Works on Regional Roads

Two of the MD gangs have commenced opening outlets on the R180 Ballybay to Carrickmacross road and on the R181 Lough Egish to Castleblayney Road. Once these are complete it is planned to continue this work on the remaining regional roads.

Mr Colin Murphy stated that there was money left in the budget to carry our works on the Roslea rd Clones, Cllr Pat Treanor proposed this, Cllr Seamus Coyle seconded and was agreed by all.

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

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that Monaghan County Council provide Clones Town Team with €5,000 match funding for their Leader project, this was seconded by Cllr Richard Truell and agreed by all. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that he was disappointed that high speed broadband was needed in an area to roll out a new scheme.

Cllr Seamus Coyle raised the issue of public toilets in Ballybay Park, Mr Colin Murphy stated there were no plans for extra toilet facilities and that the current facilities were regularly vandalised.

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed that this MD write to the Procurement Officer Mr Rory Treanor to thank him for all his hard work while Assistant Engineer in the Municipal District, Cllr Richard Truell seconded and was agreed by all.

Cllr Richard Truell welcomed works at Greenans Cross and asked for an update on Newbliss Courthouse. Mr Adge King stated that the Council were still liaising with funders regarding this project.

Cllr Pat Treanor spoke on the Anti-Social behaviour in Ballybay and felt that community CCTV may be the answer, this to be discussed at the next Ballybay Regeneration meeting.

7. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Page 1 :-Cllr Seamus Coyle raised the issue of Home Help and proposed that this Municipal District write to all members of the Oireachtas in the Cavan Monaghan constituency to assist in expediting a meeting with the Minister of Health Simon Harris TD, the HSE to have the crisis/emergency situation in relation to Home Help Hours dealt with.

8. Questions

Cllr Richard Truell asked

1. I request that Monaghan County Council issue a response on any proposals that are in place to purchase/upgrade the “derelict” properties on the Monaghan Road into Rockcorry Village, also known as “Tea Pot Row” and “Widows Row” out the Ballybay Road. Is there any update on any discussions that has taken place to acquire these “derelict” buildings?

Answer

The Council does not have any plans to acquire the buildings in Rockcorry known as the Tea Pot Row or the Widows Row. The owner of Tea Pot Row, which is a protected structure, has recently had pre planning discussions with the Planning Authority.

2. I request that Monaghan County Council issue a response on any proposals that are in place to purchase/upgrade the “derelict” filling station in Newbliss Village next door to the old courthouse. Is there any update on any discussions that has taken place to acquire this “derelict” building?

Answer

The Council has no current plans to acquire the former filling station in Newbliss but is happy to assist the owners in identifying sources of funding that will address the dereliction issue.

3. Can Monaghan County Council examine the drainage on the L2290 Drum Road as part of it has been flooded for the past two weeks and has made it impassible for cars.

Answer

The Ballybay Clones Municipal District will examine the L2290 to determine if any measures can be put in place to prevent the road from flooding. Any identified measures will be subject to available funding.

4. Can Monaghan County Council examine the drainage on the L6320 Edrigole Road as part of it has been flooded for the past two weeks and has made it impassible for cars.

Answer

Ballybay – Clones Md will examine the L6320 to determine if any measures can be put in place to prevent the road from flooding. Any identified measures will be subject to available funding.

5. Can Monaghan County Council add the L2380 Rockcorry to Newbliss Road to the list of roads to be salted as this road is extremely busy with school buses, lorries and cars.

Answer

Monaghan County Council are currently treating over 610km of road on each call out during the Winter period. This 610km is split over 8 routes with 8 gritters deployed per call out. At present the winter maintenance operation is at full capacity and cannot include any additional routes. The Council receives a limited budget from TII and DTTAS for these works with the balance taken from own resources. At present the programme can't be extended given existing budgetary restraints.

9. CE Orders

CE orders 78/19 to 87/19 were noted by the members

10. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

Members extended a vote of Sympathy to the following:

- The Irwin and Wilkin Family on the death of Joy Irwin
- The West family on the death of Mary West
- The Hanratty family on the death of Una Hanratty
- The Finnegan Family on the death of Hugh

11. A.O.B.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked that the Ballybay Fire Station be included on next months agenda.

That concluded the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled November 18th at 10.00pm.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date

18/11/2019