

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday 20th July 2020 at 10.00am The Courthouse, Clones, Co Monaghan.

Members Present The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seamus Coyle, presided

The following members were also present: - Cllrs: Pat Treanor, Richard Truell, Hugh McElvaney, and Sean Gilliland

In Attendance Peadar Mc Guinness A/Director of Service, Kevin McNally Municipal District Co-ordinator, and Seamie Mc Mahon, Staff Officer.

Apologies Mr Adge King Director of Service and Mr Colin Murphy Executive Engineer

The Cathaoirleach Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed all to the meeting and proposed a vote of sympathy to Cllr Hugh McElvaney and the McElvaney and Lennon families on the death of his sister Mary. All elected members expressed their sympathy to Cllr McElvaney. Mr Kevin McNally passed on the sympathies of the executive. Other votes of sympathy were also passed, they were:

- To Brid Rutledge and family on the death of Mary McGuinness
- Sacred Heart Community Tanagh and O Gara family on the death of Br Harry
- The Lavelle family on the death of Kieran
- The Smyth family on the death of Rosella Smyth

Cllr Hugh McElvaney thanked everyone for their sympathies.

1. Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting

Cllr Hughie McElvaney proposed Junes monthly meeting minutes; Cllr Pat Treanor seconded the proposal and it was agreed by all. Cllr Pat Treanor proposed the minutes of the AGM; Cllr Richard Truell seconded and all agreed.

2. Correspondence Sent

Cllr Sean Gilliland asked if there had been any contact with the Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District in relation to the letter sent about a proposed greenway from Ballybay to Castleblayney. Mr Kevin McNally stated that Mr Gareth McMahon was going to discuss this matter with the elected members of Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District at their next monthly meeting.

3. Correspondence Received

In relation to correspondence sent to the Minister of Agriculture after the June monthly meeting, Cllr Seamus Coyle requested that the same correspondence be sent to the new Minister of Agriculture Dara Calleary.

4. Consideration Report on Clones Renewal Scheme, Paul Connolly Monaghan County Council

Mr Paul Connolly gave an update on the Clones Renewal Scheme. The scheme will deliver 24 social housing units at a cost of €6.2million. The members paid tribute to all who were involved in the project. Cllr Pat Treanor asked for confirmation that the bottom floor of the new builds was adaptable to future use as a business. Mr Paul Connolly confirmed this was the case. Cllr Pat Treanor noted that there were numerous other sites within the town that could be considered for a future scheme. Cllr

Pat Treanor encouraged the owners of derelict properties to contact the council and he also encouraged people in need of housing to apply for the County Council waiting list.

Cllr Richard Truell asked about the current housing waiting list within Clones. Mr Paul Connolly stated that he didn't have the figures for the waiting list, but that Clones would have a smaller waiting list than the other towns in the county. Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that it was very positive scheme for Clones town. Cllr Sean Gilliland asked if the council retained a list of those who wish to downsize their allocated social housing. Mr Paul Connolly confirmed that they do. Cllr Pat Treanor spoke of the 1-bedroom dwellings in the scheme, Mr Paul Connolly agreed that while not ideal space constraints meant that 2 out of the 24 units in this scheme would be 1 bedroom.

Cllr Pat Treanor also spoke on the income threshold for council houses and proposed that this Municipal District write to the Minister of Housing Darragh O'Brien TD requesting that the income threshold for social housing be increased to a realistic level. Cllr Seamus Coyle seconded, and all agreed.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked for an update on Church St Ballybay, Mr Paul Connolly hoped that they would be going out to tender in 4 to 5 weeks' time for the construction phase of this project.

5. MD Coordinators Report

Mr Kevin McNally updated the members on the following projects:

Works are nearly completed at the Scotshouse Village Park and the Ballybay Town Park. Official openings will be arranged in due course.

Lennard Arms

Monaghan County Council has recommenced the compulsory acquisition process to acquire the building known as the Lennard Arms in Clones. This process was delayed due to the COVID 19 restrictions. Subject to no objections to the process it is envisaged that the building will be in public ownership by September of this year. The design team for the project are preparing the Part 8 application for the proposed works to the building – this process will commence by the end of July.

Clones Business Hub

Craftstudio architects are have been appointed and are currently preparing sketch plans for this project. It is hoped to have preliminary sketches in September.

Teehill Outdoor depot

Craftstudio architects are have been appointed and are currently preparing sketch plans for this project. It is hoped to have preliminary sketches in September.

Farmers yard project Clones

Tenders have been received and are currently being assessed. We hope to award this contract in August with works commencing soon after.

Clones Historic towns initiative

Ministerial consent is being obtained for the proposed works under the Clones Historic town initiative.

The proposed works are as follows:

- Carry out remedial works at the graveyard boundary wall immediately to the north of the Round Tower where the wall is failing,
- Rebuild stone pillars and steps,

- Commission a bat and bird survey to characterise the species present within the graveyard and Round Tower with a view to safeguarding any protected species or their habitats;
- Lighting up of Round Tower and Wee Abbey in line with National Monument Service
- Remove the leaded granite slab adjacent to the House-shaped Shrine
- Removal of granite flagstones and replace with aggregate at the House-shaped Shrine
- Removal of inappropriate signage and installation of new signage in line with other signage around other Clones historic sites
- Repair of gates by Blacksmith
- Place blacksmith made handrails and fencing on site
- Vegetation clearance
- Removal of fencing
- Landscaping

The Council has employed the services of a Conservation Architect, Archaeologist and Conservation Engineer to advise on the project. Any proposed works will be subject to appropriate expert advice and consents.

Meeting with Ballybay regeneration

The Municipal District is proposing to arrange a meeting with the Ballybay Regeneration committee for early August – this is subject to obtaining a suitable venue and will be in compliance with Governments COVID 19 guidelines.

Ballybay Courtyard

The Part 8 planning process has commenced for works to the proposed carpark off Ballybay Main street. Detailed design works have commenced, and tenders will be issued in September.

Lough Egish Footpath

Works to be proposed footpath from the Community Centre to the Church are programmed to commence in August.

Scotshouse Town and Village

Works are ongoing to the Scotshouse Town and Village renewal project. Orders have been placed for additional public lighting. A number of ESB poles located near the Community Centre will be relocated. Quotations are currently being sought for other works such as wall repair, fence and hedge replacement.

Ballybay

As part of the 2019 Town and Village renewal project lights have been installed on the Monaghan Ballybay road. The Council is currently investigating options to improve the approach on the Cootehill Road to the town and enhance the entrance to the town park.

Roads Programme

TH Moore have completed the bitmac overlays on the LP4044, LP4043 & LP4011 in Shantonagh and the LP4013 and LP4021 at Connollys Mushrooms. They are due back to the Municipal District on 27th July, where they will complete the overlays on the Bog Road and the Roslea Road into Clones at the border. The R183 Regional road from Newbliss to Killeevan, R212 in Scotshouse Village and the R181 Castleblayney to Lough Egish roads will be overlaid in late August/early September.

Surface Dressing is complete on 4 roads in the Municipal District. The plant will be returning to the Municipal District on the 27th July where it will recommence work for 1 week, surface dressing roads

Municipal District before the plant closes down for 2 weeks annual leave. It will again return to the Municipal District on 17th August to complete the Surface Dressing Programme.

Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes

Works have been completed the low-cost safety scheme works at Killeevan school and it is planned to recommence works on the other schemes at the end of the month. These are located at the Tullycorbet/Clontibret turn on the Ballybay Monaghan Road and the LP39002/R190 Cootehill road out of Ballybay at Balladian.

Municipal District Localised Patch repairs

The Contractor S Wilkin and Sons commenced work last week on repairing localised hollows/dips at approximately 20 different locations spread throughout the Municipal District. It anticipated that this work will take circa 3 weeks to complete.

Clones Footpath repairs

The contractor S Wilkin and Sons plans to commence works to the repairs of the footpaths in Clones Town once they have completed the repairs to the hollows/dips on the roads network in the Municipal District.

Proposed Improvement works to the R181

Monaghan County Council intends to carry road improvement works on the R181 at two locations Drummillard - Shantonagh and Bellatrain – Lisnadarragh. The R181 is a Strategic Non-National road which links the towns of Castleblayney in County Monaghan and Shercock in County Cavan.

The proposal includes:

- Realigning and widening incorporating significant improvements in both the horizontal and vertical alignment.
- Improved sight visibility from existing junctions
- The installation of new drainage systems,
- The relocation of existing road side services,

The aim of the project is to provide a safer economic corridor whilst facilitating further economic growth and improving driver safety and road continuity in line with previous upgrades undertaken on this strategically important section of the road network. The total length of the two schemes is 5.6km. In this regard, Monaghan County Council have engaged the services of a professional engineering consultant to submit a Part 8 application and to carry out a detailed design for the project.

The Programme for completion is as follows:

- Finalise Part 8 Report including section on Pre-Part 8 Consultation by Friday 17th July
- Issue newspaper notice on Tuesday 21st July
- Lodge Part 8 Application by Thursday 23rd July
- Present Part 8 at Octobers Council Meeting for adoption by the Elected Members.
- Detail Design to be complete by November 2020
- Construction of Phase 1 planned for 2021 subject to funding.

The members thanked Mr Kevin McNally for his report. Cllr Pat Treanor welcomed the proposed works at the Lennard Arms Hotel.

Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed the works to the R181. Cllr Seamus Coyle also welcomed these works and asked for a Ballybay Regeneration meeting to be held in early August at the Wetlands. Cllr Hugh

McElvaney welcomed the report and asked for an update on signage at Gransha School and verge cutting.

Cllr Richard Truell welcomed the works at various dips and hollows throughout the Municipal District.

Mr Kevin McNally stated that the scheme to address the dips and hollows in the road was an initiative of the Municipal District and works to the footpaths in Clones would commence once these works were completed.

The members discussed the issue of overgrown hedges which were causing a public nuisance and in particular a traffic hazard in some locations. The members requested that the Municipal District become more proactive in addressing this issue and also water flowing onto the public road.

Mr Mc Nally stated that the Municipal District would address these issues. It was also noted that a further cut of verges on key roads and junctions would occur later in the year.

9. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Page 2 – Cllr Richard Truell asked about the LIS list requested at previous meeting, Mr Seamie McMahon stated that he was waiting advice from Monaghan County Councils GDPR officer before releasing it. Cllr Truell also asked about the list of bridges, Mr Kevin McNally said he would arrange to have this information circulated after the meeting.

Page 2 – Cllr Pat Treanor asked that the residents be consulted about the plans for O’Neil Pk playground. Mr McNally agreed that this necessary consultation would be undertaken.

Page 3 – Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed the progress of the Town and Village Renewal Schemes and was delighted announce the passing of the Section 183 approval for the proposed Primary Care Centre in Ballybay.

Page 5 – Cllr Seamus Coyle asked that the Planning Section expedite the taking in charge of the housing estates at The Alders Ballybay and Carrowbarre island Smithboro.

11. Questions

Cllr Richard Truell asked,

Q1: Can Monaghan County Council examine the road LP02232 through the village of Drum to the Cavan Border as it has got in poor condition.

Answer:

The Ballybay-Clones Municipal District will examine the condition of this road and carryout remedial repair works where required.

Q2: Can Monaghan County Council examine the road R212 from Scotshouse village to Clones as it has got in poor condition.

Answer:

The Ballybay-Clones Municipal District will examine the condition of this road and carryout remedial repair works where required.

Q3: Can Monaghan County Council Examine part of the road R189 from Cootehill to Newbliss as there is parts of that road that has got in poor condition.

Answer:

The Ballybay-Clones Municipal District will examine the condition of this road and carryout remedial repair works where required.

Cllr Seamus Coyle will ask,

Q1: What actions or plans have Monaghan County Council to address difficulties for users of Disabled Parking Spaces,as for example in the towns of Ballybay and Clones, where these spaces exit on to raised footpaths/public streets-Regional Roads/located at bottom of sharp inclines,these locations are proving very challenging for Wheelchair users, as the dangers of exiting on to a raised footpath/kerb/public roadway are enormous and in no way contribute to inclusivity for all?.

Answer:

The Municipal District will review these Disabled Parking Spaces, however due to the topography and layout of the streets in the towns of Ballybay and Clones it may be difficult to change some of these spaces without moving them to different locations, and this would result in further distances for the user to travel. Monaghan County Council's Inclusion Officer has carried out a survey on the disability parking spaces throughout the Municipal District and is satisfied that they meet the standard required as set out "within reasonable accommodation". Disability Parking Badge holders can park in any parking space free of charge and are not restricted to parking in Disability Parking Spaces.

Q2; As part of the detailed survey of the R181(Lough Egish-Shercock Rd.),will Monaghan County Council include proposals for major safety improvement works at the Junction of the R181 and the LT40054 in the townland of Corhelshinagh,Shantonagh,as it is an extremely dangerous junction for vehicles exiting from the LT40054 on to the R181,as it is located at the bottom of a hill, resulting in very poor visibility for all?.

Answer:

The junction of the R181 & LT50054 has been surveyed as part of the initial survey and will be considered in the realignment design. However, the funding received in 2020 is only for Part 8 and detailed design. To date no funding has been secured for the works phases.

Q3: Will Monaghan County Council immediately carry out resurfacing works and replacement of foot pathing at the Hilltop Estate,Boyher,Rockcorry as it is currently in a very poor state of repair?

Answer:

The Ballybay-Clones Municipal District will examine the condition of this road and footpath and carryout remedial repair works where required.

Q4: When do Monaghan County Council propose to commence works to address the very dangerous subsidence issues on the LP04201 at Tossey Cross,Lough Egish,as this is a very heavenly vehicalerised/H.G.V.location,with a huge amount of industry located closely,the road is currently in a very dangerous condition?

Answer:

The works on the L4210-0 at Tossey Cross are due to commence in Autumn 2020 subject to Part 8 approval and land agreements.

Q5: Will Monaghan County Council immediately examine/install additional safety signage/road markings in Latton Village, as there is huge traffic/vehicular/H.G.V.s at school/pre-school/GAA match times, passing, exiting and entering the village, emergency safety Measures are required, to avoid incidents?

Answer:

The Balybay Clones Municipal District will arrange for additional road markings/lining to be installed in Latton in the coming weeks.

12. C.E. Orders

The C.E. orders BCMD 35/20 to 47/20 were noted by the members, Cllr Pat Treanor referred to CE order 44/20 and asked that the junction at Fermanagh Tce on Fitzpatrick Sq be looked at.

13. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

- Cannon Owen Joe Mc Eneaney on becoming Cannon.

That concluded the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled 21st September at 10.00am.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date

21/09/2020