

## **Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones**

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 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**        Aidge King Director of Service, Kevin McNally Municipal District Co-ordinator, Colin Murphy Executive Engineer, Martin Taylor Assistant Engineer, Deirdriu McQuaid (Peace Link) and Seamie Mc Mahon, Staff Officer.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed all to the meeting and spoke of the ongoing issues and new protocols that were in place due to Covid-19. The members praised the frontline staff for their continued good work.

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

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed September's monthly meeting minutes, Cllr Hugh McElvaney seconded the proposal and it was agreed by all.

### **2. Correspondence Sent**

Correspondence sent was noted by the members.

### **3. Correspondence Received**

Correspondence received was noted by the members.

### **5. Consideration report on proposed extension to the Peace Link Facility- Martin Taylor**

Mr Martin Taylor gave his report outlining the proposed extension to the Peace Link. Cllr Richard Truell asked if there was a need for a swimming pool at the facility. Mr Taylor noted that there was no need for swimming pool as there were a number of such facilities in close proximity to the site. Cllr Pat Treanor welcomed the report and spoke of the importance of the facility to the community. Cllr Hugh McElvaney welcomed the report and asked where the funding would come from. Mr Martin Taylor stated that it was hoped that a category 1 application under the Rural Regeneration Fund would be made in Q1 2021. Ms Deirdriu McQuaid spoke of the importance of this extension and to the fact that if the funding was received it would be the only venue of its type in the whole of Ulster. Mr Kevin McNally stated that the Peace Link would require €10,000 from the Municipal District allocation to fund the remainder of the design stage costs, Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed, Cllr Pat Treanor seconded, and all agreed to this payment. In order to discuss the operating finances further Mr Kevin McNally suggested that the meeting go in committee, Cllr Richard Truell proposed this and Cllr Sean Gilliland seconded, and all agreed. Following a discussion on the finances of the Peace Link, the meeting came out of committee on the proposal of Cllr Seamus Coyle and seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor. The members thanked both Mr Martin Taylor and Ms Deirdriu McQuaid for attending the meeting.

### **4. Consideration of Draft 2021 MD Budget**

Mr Kevin McNally gave a detailed report on the draft Municipal District Budget for 2021. The members stated that they wanted to see an increase on spend on local roads. A discussion was had on the Low-

Cost Safety scheme proposals for 2021. Mr McNally agreed to circulate a list of proposed bridge repairs to the members. Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed the draft document and asked for clarification on the match funding element. Mr Kevin McNally stated that match funding came from the Municipal District general allocation. Cllr Sean Gilliland asked that the media publicise that the Local Property Tax goes towards the Municipal District allocation and therefore the match funding of projects. A discussion was had on this with Cllr Pat Treanor stating that the government grant to local authorities was cut by the amount the Local Property Tax generates.

The members agreed that the Municipal District should write to the Roads section of Monaghan County Council seeking extra funding for local roads.

## **6. Report by Municipal District Coordinator**

Mr Kevin Mc Nally gave his report:

### **Lennard Arms**

Part 8 planning application for the required refurbishment works has been submitted and will hopefully be considered by the Monaghan County Council during their November meeting. The Municipal District is currently preparing an application for further funding under the next call of the Rural Regeneration and Development fund. The application deadline for this call is 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Funding will be sought to undertake the required works to the building.

### **Clones Business Hub**

Craftstudio Architects have prepared sketch plans for the proposed building. These proposals are currently been developed to more detail and are been considered by the various project's stakeholders.

### **Teehill Outdoor depot**

Craftstudio architects are have been appointed and are currently preparing sketch plans for this project. Due to the current COVID situation we have delayed the consultation process with some of the stakeholders.

### **Farmers yard project Clones**

Works are progressing well on the project and are programmed to be completed by the end of October. The completed project will offer enhanced facilities for the various community groups that use the site. A number of unforeseeable issues such as unforeseen ground conditions and additional steel works to roof occurred during the contract. This has resulted in additional cost of €20,000 which I recommend that the members fund from the Municipal Districts general allocation.

### **Clones Historic towns initiative**

Ministerial consent has recently been obtained for the proposed works under the Clones Historic town initiative. The Council has procured the services of a:

- Suitably qualified stone mason
- Metal worker to repair the gates to the graveyard
- Contractor to install the upgraded paths and underground electrical cables
- Electrical company to provide lighting to the round tower
- Commenced to preparation of the required interpretative signage

Due to the current COVID restrictions some of these works have been delayed.

Just to reiterate that 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 next meeting of the committee was scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Due to the current COVID restrictions this meeting will be postponed to a later date.

### **Lough Egish Footpath**

Works to be proposed footpath from the Community Centre to the Church have commenced and are well advanced. Tenders have been received for the proposed works under the active travel measure. These are currently being assessed.

### **Ballybay**

As part of the 2019 Town and Village renewal project lights have been installed on the Monaghan Ballybay road. The Council has commenced the procurement process to appoint a contractor to remove the gorse bushes on the Ballybay Shercock Road. These works consist of spraying of the gorse bushes and cutting them after a period of 4 weeks. These works will be completed under the guidance of the Councils Horticulturist.

### **Town and Village**

Following on from applications prepared by the Municipal District, funding has been received under Measure 3 of the Town and Village Renewal Programme for the following projects:

- Upgrade of walking track in Scotshouse Village. These works will complement the recently completed works to the village park
- Provision of outdoor screen and carparking improvements to the community centre at Threemilehouse

I would like to complement the following projects for being shortlisted for award by Chambers Ireland:

- Scotshouse Community Plan – under category for best practice in community engagement
- Clones town team - under category Supporting Sustainable Communities
- Sliabh Beagh Masterplan – under category supporting tourism - although this area is no longer part of this Municipal District, this was a project that the members agreed to fund and actively develop.

Mr Colin Murphy gave his report:

### **Roads Programme**

TH Moore have completed the bitmac overlay on the R183 Newbliss to Clones road and have started on the R212 in Scotshouse village today. The contractor has also completed the CBGM overlay as part of the pilot project on the LS6600 at Corravaken. The contractor intends commencing works on Ballybay Main Street on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October as part of the Active Travel Grant and following this they will move to carry out works at Annies as part of the Climate Change funding. This will complete the Municipal District overlay works for 2020.

### **Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes**

Works are substantially complete on the scheme located at the LP39002/R190 Cootehill road junction out of Ballybay at Balladian. We intend commencing work at Hanrattys Cross on the R162/R184 Ballybay Tullycorbet junction in the coming 2 weeks.

### **MD Localised Patch repairs**

The contractor is due to come back in the coming weeks to complete works at a number of additional locations in Doohamlet, the Newbliss Scotshouse road and Selloo direction.

### **Clones Footpath repairs**

The Contractor S Wilkin and Sons has commenced works to the repairs of the footpaths in Clones Town and this work will be ongoing for the next 4 -6 weeks .

### **R181 Lough Egish to Shercock Road Closure.**

The R181 Lough Egish to Shercock Road will be closed from today, 19<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October. The bridge at Lisnadarragh which is on the Cavan/Monaghan border will be unpassable at all times during this period. As the route is a heavily HGV trafficked road with no possible turning locations at the bridge itself, it is imperative that traffic, especially HGV's are directed to use the diversion route. The Municipal District will have a man stationed at Lough Egish and at the Shercock/Lough Egish road Junction outside Shercock assisting with the closure.

There will be VMS and road closed signs up at the following locations:

- R162/R181 junction in Cavan at Lough Sillian. This is where one man will be stationed to prevent traffic continuing on the R181 and divert them via the diversion route below.
- The Lough Egish Cross roads There will be a road closed build out at the Main entrance to the Lough Egish Food park opposite the Aughnammullen GAA pitch. This is where the other man will be stationed to prevent traffic continuing on the R181

The diversion route is as follows:

Traffic wishing to proceed on the R-181 in the direction of Lough Egish from the R-162 Shercock to Cootehill road, will be diverted by remaining on the R-162 in the direction of Cootehill, then turning right at the junction of the R-162/R-192 and continuing along the R-162 to the Ballybay town roundabout, then turning right on to the R-180 and continuing along the R-180 to Lough Egish.

Traffic wishing to proceed on the R-181 in the direction of Shercock town from Lough Egish, will be diverted on to the R-180 at the Lough Egish crossroads, continuing along the R-180 to the Ballybay town roundabout, then turning left on to the R-162 and continuing along the R-162 to the junction of the R-162/R-192, then turning left on to the R-162 and continuing on to Shercock town.

All detours will be signposted in order to direct the Traffic. (Local Access only, no through road).

In addition to the works on the bridge, a site investigation contractor (Hummar) will be undertaking bore holes and trial pit investigations on the same section of road as part of the Specific Improvement Grant, for the purposes of collecting data for design. This will also result in localised traffic management.

### **Programme of Works for the next number of weeks:**

- Active Travel Works – Provision of new footpath on Ballybay Monaghan Road opposite Keepack
- Climate Change Allocation – Prep work at Annies on 4 sections of road prone to flooding prior to overlay
- Low Cost Safety Scheme at Hanrattys Cross
- Side filling of Regional Roads following Bicmac overlays
- 7no Road Crossings and drainage issues in Doohamlet area
- Road Slippages at Camphill, Scotch Corner and Ture
- Drainage/outlets on Regional Road

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked if works on Ballybay main st were taking place during working hours, Mr Colin Murphy said they were. Cllr Sean Gilliland asked that the diversions for the works on the R181 be republished in the media.

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that this Municipal District write to all the local groups who were nominated for Chambers Ireland award, congratulating them on their success. This was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle and agreed by all.

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that the Municipal District provide additional funding of €20,000 to the farmers yard project. This was seconded by Cllr Gilliland and agreed by all. Mr McNally noted that this was a Council project.

## **7. Matters arising from previous minutes**

Page 3- Cllr Seamus Coyle asked for an update on the Clones High Cross and Broadband. Mr Kevin McNally said there was no further update on the High Cross and that he would seek an update on Broadband from the Councils Broadband officer John McArdle.

Page 5- Cllr Richard Truell asked for clarification on different road surface on 2 different jobs, Mr Colin Murphy explained that one was recycled material the other cement based.

Page 6- Cllr Richard Truell asked on the start date for works at Selloo and Scotshouse, Mr Colin Murphy confirmed these works would be commencing soon.

Cllr Sean Gilliland referred to the previous meeting in relation to hedge cutting and drainage and he asked the press to publicise the powers that the Council have in dealing with noncompliance.

## **8. Notice of Motion**

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed the following motion:

That we write to the Ministers for Health, North and South, the Taoiseach and Joint First Ministers, reflecting the very real concerns of our constituents at the lack of a coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic, across this border region. It is imperative, at this time, that every collaborative effort is made to support the border community and agree a common approach to eliminating this threat to human health, on the island of Ireland.

After discussions the motion was seconded by Cllr Richard Truell and all agreed to issue to go to all the local members of the Oireachtas.

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed the following:

As Skate Parks become a great attraction across Ireland, as a healthy outdoor activity, that Monaghan County Council examine the possibility of the location of a Skate Park in Clones, a site and funding opportunities, as many young people in the area have taken up Skating as an activity, but as no Skate Park is available locally, they are travelling outside the County, in addition to the excellence of the Peace Link facilities, St. Tiranachs Park etc, this would be an attraction to the area, bringing visitors and the economic benefits “.

This was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

## **9. Questions**

**Cllr Pat Treanor will ask:**

- (1) What can the Council do to alleviate the parking congestion at O'Neill Park, Clones, which is causing serious frustration and risks interference of access for emergency service vehicles?

Will the Council investigate widening the back lanes to allow off-street parking?

The Municipal District will review the parking situation in O'Neill Park with a view to installing additional parking in 2021 subject to funding.

- (2) When will the installation of a pedestrian crossing at Annalore street and improvements to the street surface be completed?

The contractor has started works in Clones, repairing defective footpaths. These works will take between 4-6 weeks to complete. Once complete the contractor will commence work on the road and surface at Annalore Street

- (3) When will the traffic calming measures be installed at Largy College?

The contractor has started works in Clones, repairing defective footpaths. These works will take between 4-6 weeks to complete. Once complete the contractor will commence work on the proposed traffic calming measures at Largy College.

**Cllr Seamus Coyle will ask:**

- (1) Can Monaghan County Council immediately have Warning of Height Restriction Signage erected on the junction of the Rockcorry-Ballybay Rd (R193-2) to the Glen Rd.(LP02600) and at the Junction of the Ballybay-Cootehill Rd.(R190) to the Lisnalong PO Rd.(LS07900) ,for what is known locally as Scarva Bridge, as if lorries or high sided vehicles enter on to this road, they have to reverse to turn, this is very dangerous, as this is a narrow road and a serious accident could result?.

The Municipal District have taken height measurements and ordered height restriction signage for this bridge. These signs will be erected once they are delivered.

- (2) Will Monaghan County Council immediately have Safety Measurers/Right of Way/Yield/Stop Signage erected at the junction of the Laggan Rd.(L81201-0) and the Annaglave Rd.(L41112-0) at what is known locally as Fordes Cross to the Horse Shoe Rd.as it is very dangerous with traffic speeding through with no yielding etc?

The Municipal District will arrange to have the required signage erected and road lining placed at this junction in the coming weeks.

- (3) Can Monaghan County Council immediately have Traffic Calming Measurers put in place on the Scotshouse Rd.(LP02233) and Castle Avenue(LS06200),Newbliss Village, as each of these roads are very busy routes, with residences very concerned for their safety entering and exiting their homes and for pedestrians, young children & elderly, as both locations are very busy at the moment?

The Municipal District will arrange to have a speed survey undertaken at the Newbliss Scotshouse Road. This survey will assist in determining if and what suitable measures are required to reduce speed on this road. It is the Councils understanding that Castle Avenue is a private road.

- (4) Can Monaghan County Council immediately have Traffic Calming Measurers put in place on the Monaghan Rd.(R188-6) Rockcorry in the vicinity of the Dartry Court Estate, Crèche, Health

Centre, Hall etc, as there is a huge amount of activity, pedestrians & vehicular movements on a daily basis in this area, adjacent to a sharp/dangerous Market House corner, on a very heavily vehicularised regional road (R188)i.e. H.G.V.s etc?.

The Municipal District has requested the Roads section of Monaghan County Council to procure the services of an appropriately qualified consultant to review the traffic movements and road layout in Rockcorry Village and to determine means to improve safety at this location.

- (5) As the Rockcorry to Doapey Creamery Road (LP02331/LP02330)is very heavenly vehicularised, as a very widely used connection route for H.G.V.s,5 School Bus Routes per day etc, will Monaghan County Council place it on the Gritting/Salting Programme for the coming winter, as there is a great danger of serious accidents on this road, if it is not gritted in frosty/snow conditions?.

Monaghan County Council are currently treating over 610km of road on each call out. The 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 kms. The Council regularly receives requests to treat additional roads. To treat additional roads, would require a substantial further investment in the operation which would include additional plant and labour costs. The Council receives a limited budget from TII and DTTAS for these works with the balance taken from its own resources. In relation to schools, community centres and business premises the Roads Department operate a salt bin purchase scheme whereby boards of Management and community groups can buy a salt bin for use within the carpark's entrances etc. The Municipal District is happy to assist with these applications.

## **10. CE Orders**

The C.E. orders BCMD 51/20 to 53/20 were noted by the members,

## **11 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations**

Votes of Sympathy were proposed for the following:

- The McDermott family on the death of angie
- The McNeill family on the death of Oliver
- The Mealiff and Martin families on the death of Jackie
- The West and McPhillips families on the death of Mary
- The McGuigan family on the death of Kevin
- The O Brien family on the death of John
- The Martin and Rafferty families on the death of Helena
- The Mc Bennett and ward families on the death of Eileen
- The Weir and Hagan families on the death of Irene

That concluded the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled 16<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00am.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator

Date  
19/10/2020