

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday 21th September 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 Adge King Director of Service, Kevin McNally Municipal District Co-ordinator, Colin Murphy Executive Engineer, Kevin West A/Senior Executive Engineer. John Mc Ardle Broadband Officer, Martin Taylor Assistant Engineer and Seamie Mc Mahon, Staff Officer.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting

Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed July's monthly meeting minutes, Cllr Pat Treanor seconded the proposal and it was agreed by all.

2. Correspondence Sent

Correspondence sent was noted by the members.

3. Correspondence Received

Cllr Pat Treanor spoke on the correspondence received from The Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government Darragh O'Brien TD in relation to income limits for social housing. Cllr Treanor stated that these limits were set in 2011 and rents have doubled in this time.

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that this Municipal District write to The Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government Darragh O'Brien TD seeking that the review of income eligibility for social housing supports considers the special circumstances relating to County Monaghan including: limited availability of private houses to rent, slow recovery of construction sector, slow delivery of social housing, the difficulty for young people accumulating a deposit and difficulties getting approval for mortgages from financial institutions. This was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle and agreed by all.

In relation to correspondence sent to the Minister of Agriculture after the July monthly meeting, Cllr Seamus Coyle requested that the same correspondence be sent to the new Minister of Agriculture Charlie McConalogue TD.

The members discussed correspondence from the Clones Golf Club and it was agreed to award €100 from the Municipal District general allocation.

4. Consideration Report on National Broadband Project- John McArdle Broadband Officer MCC

Mr John McArdle gave a detailed report on the rollout of broadband in the county. The members thanked him for the report. Cllr Richard Truell asked if there were dates for the other surveys to be carried out, was the 150mb a guaranteed speed and what would the cost be. Cllr Truell also asked if broadband was available in community centres could people remote work from these sites. Mr John McArdle stated that there were no further dates of other surveys throughout Monaghan, he also stated that the 150mb was a guaranteed speed but that there was no figure available as to the cost

to the home. Mr McArdle also stated that in theory if community centres had broadband they could offer remote working facilities.

Cllr Seamus Coyle and Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed the news but stated that in the current Covid climate the roll out needs to be done a lot quicker.

Cllr Pat Treanor spoke on the MANs service within Clones Town and the high costs associated with it. Mr John McArdle stated that the MANs were a critical piece of infrastructure and its availability in Clones meant that Clones was important with regards to broadband rollout.

Cllr Sean Gilliland spoke of a community in Monaghan that had broadband but that a number of public premises were unable to connect to it. Other areas with the same issues were also raised. Mr John McArdle stated that he would investigate these areas. Cllr Gilliland felt that broadband at community centres was ideal for remote working.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney asked about the health issues associated with the new broadband system at community centres. Mr John McArdle assured the members that there were none. Cllr McElvaney asked for a timeline regarding the roll out of broadband at community centres, Mr John McArdle stated that all should be completed by the end of October 2020.

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed that this Municipal District request the Minister for Communication Eamon Ryan TD and the Government expediate the roll out of the National Broadband Plan in view of the 'New Normal' where many people now wish to work from home and to allow rural Ireland to develop its potential with proper connectivity. This motion to be forwarded to all members of the Oireachtas for Cavan-Monaghan. This motion was seconded by Cllr Sean Gilliland and agreed by all.

5. Consideration of report on realignment of R181 and replacement of Brackly Bridge- Kevin West A/Senior Executive Engineer MCC

Mr Kevin West gave his report. Cllr Seamus Coyle spoke of how important this area was to the county. Cllr Sean Gililand stated that the Lough Egish area was a massive employer in the County and the R181 was of vital importance to this area. Cllr Pat Treanor also welcomed these works. Cllr Hugh McElvaney added that an area of road between Newbliss and Swans cross needed to be looked at. Mr Kevin West stated that this was now been looked at and had been highlighted to the Department Inspector. Cllr McElvaney also raised an issue with a dangerous junction on the Castleblayney bypass, Mr Kevin West said he was aware of the junction and that it would be looked at.

6. Consideration of report on former Lennard Arms project- Martin Taylor MCC

Mr Martin Taylor gave his report on the proposed Lennard Arms project. Cllr Seamus Coyle asked for a timeline involved, Mr Martin Taylor stated that it was hoped that a Cat 1 Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) application would be made in December, if successful it was hoped that works would begin next year. Cllr Pat Treanor asked if it could be possible that the old cottages could be turned into social housing units. Mr Adge King felt that due to the sensitive nature of the site this would not be viable option.

Cllr Richard Truell welcomed the report and raised issues regarding the problem of dereliction in Newbliss. Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed that the meeting go In Committee, this was seconded by Cllr Richard Truell and agreed by all. The meeting proceeded in committee.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed that the meeting come out of In Committee, Cllr Richard Truell seconded and all agreed.

The meeting resumed.

7. Report by Municipal District Coordinator

Mr Kevin Mc Nally gave his report:

Clones High Cross

The Municipal District are receiving numerous queries regarding a proposal to relocate the Clones High Cross. It also appears that a story has been generated that the High Cross is being moved due to offence that the structure may cause to non-Christians. This story has been reviewed by the National Media. This story is completely false and is not true.

The Clones High Cross is in the care of the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. A partnership of the National Monument Services of the Department of the Culture, *Heritage* and the Gaeltacht and the Office of Public Works, looks after the national monuments in State care. Monaghan County Council has no rights to or direct responsibility for the High Cross. The condition of the High Cross has deteriorated due to Environmental factors. There are a number of options to safeguard the future of the High Cross - the proposal to relocate the High Cross to an indoor setting is only a proposal at this stage. While the Department have noted that in principal they have no objection to the proposal – no permissions have been sought or obtained to do the work. The proposed relocation of the cross would be a major task – a number of statutory consents would have to be obtained, consultation undertaken etc. This would involve the procurement of professionals to advise on the process and to undertake the works. The production of a replica cross would be a major undertaking as well. The Council/Department does not have any funding secured for these works and I can't give a timeline when we will. An evaluation of any of the available options to safe guard the future of the High Cross has not been undertaken.

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

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. We are 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 1st 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 will be considered by the various project's stakeholders. We hope to present these proposals at the next meeting.

Teehill Outdoor depot

Craftstudio architects are have been appointed and are currently preparing sketch plans for this project. These will be considered by the project 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.

Clones Historic towns initiative

Ministerial consent has recently been obtained for the proposed works under the Clones Historic town initiative. The various appointments have been made and works are programmed to commence on site in October. 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 next Thursday in the Ballybay wetlands centre. This is a follow-on meeting from the meeting held in early August during which John O'Neill from Venture International presented his report on the proposed business hub for Ballybay.

Lough Egish Footpath

Works to be proposed footpath from the Community Centre to the Church have commenced and are well advanced.

Scotshouse Town and Village

Works are ongoing to the Scotshouse Town and Village renewal project. Orders have been placed for additional public lighting. Several 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. These works are programmed to commence later in the year. Ragwort was removed from this location and also on the N54.

Town and Village Advanced COVID measures 1 and 2

Following on from applications prepared by the Municipal District, funding has been received under Measure 1 and 2 of the Town and Village Renewal Programme for the following projects:

- Provision of outdoor seating in Clones and Ballybay towns. This seating will consist of seating and picnic bench type arrangements. Estimated project cost is €27,500 in each of the towns.
- Provision of Broadband connections at various community centres with County Monaghan – the community centres located in this Municipal District which will avail of the funding are:

Latton, Corcaghan, Aghabog, Connos, Tullycorbet, Drumhowan and Ballybay Wetlands Centre.

- Latton Village: the provision of a Perspex canopy covering the footpath approach and external areas of the community centre and 4 seating benches within the village – Estimated project cost is €27,500
- The provision of external seating in 9 villages in the Ballybay Clones Municipal District. The estimated cost of this project is €45,000

I recommend that the members agree to provide the required match funding of 10% for each of the projects.

Active travel

Following on from applications prepared by the Municipal District, funding has been received under the Departments Active travel measure programme:

- Resurfacing of Ballybay Main Street €150,000
- Provision of upgraded public lighting to Ballybay Town park €20,000
- Provision of footpath and public lighting on R162 – Ballybay Monaghan Road €55,000
- Footpath and public lighting in Lough Egish €175,000

Under the Climate Change Adaptation programme, funding has also been received to advance the detailed design of 16 bridges in the Municipal District,

€120,000 has been received to address the ongoing flooding of the L506261 road at Annies

The Members thanked Mr Kevin Mc Nally for his report.

Cllr Pat Treanor spoke on the controversy and the confusion over the High Cross in Clones. All the members agreed that the cross did need to be protected from further erosion due to environmental conditions. Mr Adge King stated that this has been on the agenda for many years.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed the match funding for the projects outlined in the report, Cllr Seamus Coyle seconded, and all agreed.

Mr Colin Murphy gave his report:

Roads Programme

TH Moore have completed the bitmac overlays on all our local roads and on the R181 Regional road from Blackhill GAA towards Lough Egish. They are currently completing a number of CIS schemes in the other MD's and are due back to us this week where they will do overlays on the R183 Newbliss to Clones road and the R212 in Scotshouse village. The contractor will also be on site to carry out the CBGM overlay as part of the pilot project on the L56600 at Corravaken and reclaimed asphalt pilot project on road opposite Celtic Pure.

The Municipal District Surface Dressing programme was completed last Monday 14th September. A total of 16 local roads, measuring a distance of 30km and 4 Regional roads measuring a distance of 10km were surface dressed. The Municipal District also surface dressed 12km of bitmac roads under the RI Programme.

Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes

One of the Municipal District gangs will commence work on the scheme located at the LP39002/R190 Cootehill road junction out of Ballybay at Balladian this week. We are meeting the land owner at Hanrattys Cross on the R162/R184 Ballybay Tullycorbet junction next Friday to discuss our proposals for improving the sight visibility there and will commence works once agreement has been received.

MD Localised Patch repairs

The Contractor S Wilkin and Sons has completed work on repairing localised hollows/dips at approximately 20 different locations spread throughout the Municipal District. The contractor is due to come back in the coming weeks to complete works at 3 additional locations in Doohamlet, the Newbliss Scotshouse road and Selloo direction.

Clones Footpath repairs

The Contractor S Wilkin and Sons plans to commence works to the repairs of the footpaths in Clones Town in the next few weeks.

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 works at O Duffy Terrace Ballybay
- Drainage/outlets on Regional Road

The members thanked Mr Colin Murphy for his report. Cllr Richard Truell raised the following issues, a small section of road at Doohat turn, road in Drum village, traffic calming at Largy College and footpath repairs on Monaghan rd out of Clones. Mr Colin Murphy said there was no further funding for works at Doohat turn, Drum village was partially done, traffic calming at Largy would commence soon and the Monaghan rd footpath is not included in the planned works.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney hoped for a successful outcome with regards to Hanrattys Cross.

Colin Murphy asked for members to submit any areas that they felt could benefit from a low cost safety scheme by next Friday the 25th September 2020.

8. Matters arising from previous minutes

Page 1- Mr Kevin McNally stated that the Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District had agreed to part fund the scoping project in relation to the greenway from Ballybay to Castleblayney

Page 5- Cllr Pat Treanor spoke about overgrown hedges within the Municipal District. He asked that the Municipal District are proactive in making sure hedges are cut. Cllr Hugh McElvaney supported this and paid tribute to those who do cut their hedges, Cllr Sean Gilliland also supported this approach.

Page 6- Cllr Seamus Coyle spoke of the up coming Make Way Day and stated that any issues or suggestions should be forwarded to Bernie Bradley.

9. Questions

Cllr Richard Truell asked:

Question 1:

I wish to query the MD of Ballybay Clones on their proposed phase of provision of public lighting for the district? The following locations require public lighting as a matter of urgency especially now with the darker, winter evenings approaching.

- (A) Ture Chapel
- (B) Drum Church of Ireland Church
- (C) Newbliss Church of Ireland Church

Answer

In 2019, the elected members of the Ballybay Clones Municipal District members approved a Public Lighting Programme for the Municipal District. Six locations were identified as high priority for provision of lighting, subject to funding. Five of these locations have now been completed. Subject to funding, it is proposed to complete the remaining site, lighting on the R212 from Clones to ABP, in 2021. The Municipal District will carry out a review of the remaining locations and produce a new priority list for the members to consider for approval. The 3 locations requested will form part of the new Public Lighting review.

Question 2:

I wish to raise the issue of weed killing and the lack thereof, in the towns and villages in both the MD area and countywide. I have noted a significant amount of weed growth on footpaths, kerb lines, walkways etc which is not addressed and if it continues to be left unattended, the situation will only worsen. Can the MD of Ballybay Clones advise of what programme they have in place for weed killing in the district and what materials/sprays they intend to use also?

Answer

During the July 2019 monthly meeting of Monaghan County Council, the elected members passed a motion regarding the discontinuation of the use of Glyphosates (Roundup, Gallop) for the purposes of weed control. As a result, Monaghan County Council's Horticulturist developed an Environmentally friendly weed control mix based on trials carried out in Dublin City Council. This solution contains vinegar, Epsom salts and washing-up liquid and has been used in all the Municipal District for the control of weeds. The performance of this solution has been monitored and it would appear that the organic weed control solution is significantly less effective at controlling weeds when compared to glyphosate-based weed killer. Weeds are sprayed in the affected areas/towns a minimum of four times per year. The Ballybay Clones Municipal District have also invested in 2 mechanically operated weed control wire brushes, approximately the size of a small lawn mower. Two wire brushes rotate, breaking the weed off at the surface. This is effective for a period; however, the weed reappears after a number of weeks. The Ballybay Clones Municipal District has also undertaken trials of other herbicide-free solutions for controlling weeds. These options require large capital investment equipment and machinery. While these options are viable, now they are considered cost prohibitive. The Municipal District will continue to investigate and implement methods to address weed control in line with the elected members direction regarding the discontinuation of the use of Glyphosate.

10. C.E. Orders

The C.E. orders BCMD 48/20 to 50/20 were noted by the members,

11. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

Congratulations to the following

- Ruth Madden & Largy College on winning gold award in the Physics & Engineering Category of GYSTB
- Scotstown GAA on winning the 2020 Senior Football Championship
- Ballybay GAA on reaching the final of the 2020 Senior Football Championship
- Monaghan Harps GAA on winning the 2020 Intermediate Championship
- Cremartin GAA on reaching the final of the 2020 Intermediate Championship
- Aughnamullan GAA on winning the 2020 Junior Championship
- Sean McDermotts GAA on reaching the final of the 2020 Junior Championship

Votes of Sympathy

- The McPhillips family on the death of Peggy
- Patricia Shortt & family on the death of Paddy
- The Audley and McGuigan families on the death of Sharon
- The McEaney family on the death of Michael
- The Burke and McDermott family on the death of Alice
- The McDermott family on the death of Pat
- The Patterson family on the death of Jean
- McElvaney & Connolly families on the death of Rosaleen
- The Sheridan family on the death of Brian
- The McCaul family on the death of Andy
- The Gibson family on the death of Brida
- The Quigley family on the death of Dominic
- The Carolan family on the death of Liam
- Declan McElroy and family on the death of Anita
- Duffy and McCabe families on the death of Ben
- The Morrow family on the death of Bridgid
- Helena McGeough MCC on the death of her father Packie
- Kevin McNally MCC on the death of his uncle Bernard
- The Hume family and the people of Derry on the death of John
- The McCabe family on the death of Eugene.

That concluded the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled 19th October at 10.00am.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date
19/10/2020