

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held via Teams on Monday, 15th February, 2021 at 10.00am.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Treanor presided.

Present: Cllrs. Brian McKenna, Paudge Connolly, Cathy Bennett, David Maxwell, Raymond Aughey and Sean Conlon

In Attendance: John Murray, Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Dermot Deeney, Executive Engineer, Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer,

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr. Connolly, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on 18th January 2021 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

A discussion took place on Tullyhirm Lane. Mr Murray confirmed that a letter had been issued to the residents and a copy of this letter will be circulated to all members.

Cllr Conlon stated that he doesn't remember recalling his request to issue a letter regarding salt bunkers to the SPC and asked that a letter be sent.

Cllr Conlon referred to the withdrawal of sale of three of the Latlurcan sites, stating that we cannot hold back development with a housing waiting list of approximately 600, and appealed to the Executive to be assertive, creative and move this development onwards.

Mr Murray responded that these are affordable sites and are not within the realm of the housing waiting list.

Cllr Connolly asked for clarification on the suitability of Tullyhirm Lane for a CIS to which Mr McElwain responded that this lane is suitable for a CIS and the council are currently looking CIS applicants. He added that this is a great opportunity and that we have written to the residents and awaiting their response.

Cllr McKenna stated that Mr Hughes, Senior Planner gave a presentation on the plans for the Latlurcan site last year and asked that we seek an update on what is entailed for this site.

Cllr Treanor stated that sale of sites should be advertised on the front page of Northern Standard.

Mr Murray added that when we get confirmation from all residents on Tullyhirm Lane, we will proceed with Taking in charge and the CIS. He added that in relation to Latlurcan, the sale of sites is with the Estate Agent and we will upload the information on our webpage.

Cllr Conlon proposed we write to the Department of Housing requesting that Co Monaghan is designated as a location for Affordable Housing Scheme, so that we can initiate the urgent implementation of a scheme at Latlurcan.

Cllr Connolly asked what is the difference between an LIS and CIS to which Mr Murray advised that a LIS applies to a private lane and a CIS applies to a public road.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-ordinator:

Mr McElwain outlined his report to the members.

Cllr Connolly stated that the Tourism Map and App will be a great initiative to the Park and also welcomed the cashless pay parking App.

Cllr Bennett and Cllr Aughey agreed with Cllr Connolly. Cllr Aughey asked for a cost of works for Mill Street to which Mr Murray responded that this building will be re-roofed and stabilised and will seek the cost from Corporate Section.

Cllr Conlon advised that the App should be sent to groups such as Friends of Rossmore, Paul Bond. He added that there are too many trees on the map and harder to see highlighted features in park.

Cllr Conlon stated that there is no planning application submitted for a mast in the Park.

Cllr Maxwell confirmed that Coillte are looking for a telecommunication apparatus around Rossmore and that there will be a planning application. He added that we are developing an App and no coverage in the park but will discuss this further in committee.

Mr McElwain responded that people should download the App before they go into the Park.

Mr Murray confirmed that there is no planning application submitted to Planning and no consultation has taken place regarding a mast.

Cllr Aughey stated that a footpath is required from the greenway at St Davnets to top off the hill for safety reasons and asked can we apply under active travel

Cllr Connolly asked could the contractors come back sooner to complete roadworks in Monaghan town to which Mr McElwain responded that storm water drains need to be completed before the contractors return.

Cllr Conlon proposed that we write to Department of Transport and NTA in relation to cycle trails equity of funding allocation.

Cllr Conlon asked, in relation to the Margaret Skinnider Roundabout, which is a congested area at school times, that a mechanism is available of fast contracting the project once it is approved to allow work to be completed by the end of August and resumption of the school year.

Mr Murray stated that Ms Monahan will give details of cycle trail allocations at the sub-committee meeting.

4. Questions:

Cllr Connolly asked:

1) That in view of the recent increase in pollution in Peter's Lake what plans have Monaghan M D to replace the Boom that had previously been in situ in the lake on the long stay car park side?

Response: A: The boom in Peters Lake was placed there previously as a result of an oil spill in the vicinity of the lake and will be removed shortly. Environmental Services is presently investigating the source of more recent pollution in Peter's lake. Note that booms are specifically deployed to help deal with oil pollution incidents and are of no real use for other types of pollution incidents.

2) To ask Monaghan M D what's plans have they to address the issue of unsafe and unstable overhanging trees on the R186 between Connolly's Bridge and Heasty's Cross?

Response: The MD has been in contact with the landowner's representative and arrangements are being made to address the issue.

Clr Conlon asked:

1) Following the presentation to Council last January, and follow up public consultation meetings, by Sheridan Woods Architects on the Dublin St. North Regeneration Plan, and the commitment to publish the Plan on November 27th past which has yet to occur, what progress has occurred with the creation of a Master Plan aimed at identifying future potential use of this 12 acre town centre site in Monaghan Town?

Response: The consultants, Sheridan Woods, have prepared plans for Dublin Street North Regeneration and Roosky lands. A presentation will be made to the Members of the full County Council prior to a presentation to the Municipal District meeting. A date has to be agreed with the Members of the full Council for this presentation which the Members have requested to be held in person.

2) To seek from the Council Executive what number of complaint forms have been issued over the past two years to residents from the Mullaghmart area seeking to register a complaint to the Council regarding anti-social behaviour.

Response: Many complainants do not use forms and complaints are received by letter and by phone. We also become aware of issues from Garda sources and through MCC staff observations. Forms issued may not be returned and so do not result in a complaint and are therefore not recorded.

Over the last two years; 10 cases of Breach of Tenancy have been recorded in Mullaghmart relating to 10 individual households. Two cases are closed/resolved. Eight are still open due to Statutory Warnings being in place (1 issued in 2019 & 7 issued in 2020). All 8 statutory warnings were issued for Anti-Social Behaviour.

Of the 10 cases of Breach of Tenancy, 9 were related to Anti-Social Behaviour.

3) What are the total number of currently functioning CCTV cameras in operation in the Mullaghmart / Cortolvin area? What date did the cameras in position at the Greenway, between the Convent and Horseshoe Bridge, become operational?

Response: With regards to the Community CCTV scheme there are currently cameras functioning in 15 locations in Mullaghmart / Cortolvin area.

The cameras in position at the Greenway, between the Convent and Horseshoe Bridge, become operational in Q3, 2018.

4) With the ever increasing number of visitors to Rossmore Park and identified capacity issues, what plans are in place, and funding applied for, the building of a new toilet block?

Response: Minor upgrade / repairs were carried out to the toilet block in 2020. The frequency of the maintenance was increased to cater for the increase in visitor numbers currently visiting the park. There are no current plans to replace the existing toilet block. The long-term plan is to develop a visitor building adjacent to the playground incorporating toilet facilities.

5) From the Department of Housing's 2021 budget of €250 million under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme (SHCEP), what funding allocation is targeted towards the construction of Council Housing in County Monaghan that will address the extensive waiting list of applicants, approximately 1300 individuals and families, on the Council's housing application lists?

Response: The national budget of €250 million under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme (SHCEP) is part of the €3.3 billion Department of Housing national budget for 2021. There is €2.031 billion available nationally for Capital expenditure and

€1.276billion for Current expenditure in 2021 of which €250million is to be available for long term leasing under SHCEP. In County Monaghan ordinary long term leasing is not an attractive option so Monaghan County Council encourages Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) to avail of funding under the Capital Advance Leasing Facility instead which allows AHBs to arrange the construction of social housing using a combination of a Capital Advance up to 20% of the cost and a loan from the Housing Finance Agency (HFA) for the balance. The HFA loan is repaid through a “leasing” arrangement whereby central government pays the AHBs a monthly amount through Monaghan County Council in return for the properties being made available for use as social housing for applicants from Monaghan County Council’s housing waiting list.

Social Housing projects in progress in County Monaghan in 2021 include the following: (note that some sites have closed temporarily under current Covid19 restrictions)

Clones Renewal Scheme 24 dwellings on 7 sites €6million (MonCoCo Capital)

Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme €3million nearing completion (MonCoCo Capital)

Lui na Greine Scotstown 32 houses €7million (MonCoCo Capital)

Gortakeegan Traveller halting site 14 houses €1.2million (MonCoCoCapital)

Ard an Radhairc Carrickmacross 41 houses €9.8million (MonCoCo Capital)

Liseggerton Clones 19 houses €3.3million (Oaklee Capital)

Lough na Glack Carrickmacross 24 houses €4.5million (NEHA CALF) under SHCEP

Magheross Carrickmacross 33 dwellings €6million (Tuath CALF) under SHCEP

Radhairc an Bhrí Castleblayney 38 houses €8.1million (Tuath CALF) under SHCEP

Lakeview Carrickmacross 12 apartments €2.4million (NEHA CALF) under SHCEP

Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme (SHCEP)

The Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme (SHCEP) supports the delivery of social housing by providing financial support to local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) for the leasing of houses and apartments. These properties are either privately owned or owned by AHBs. Properties made available under the programme are used to accommodate households from local authority waiting lists.

The following schemes are currently supported under SHCEP:

- properties leased and owned by AHBs, including properties funded under CALF, and delivered under
- payment and Availability Agreements (P&As)
- direct leasing by local authorities from private owners
- properties in the Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS)
- AHB Mortgage to Rent (MTR) and the expanded MTR scheme
- properties leased to local authorities and AHBs from NARPS
- unsold Affordable Dwellings managed by AHBs for local authorities
- enhanced Leasing

Cllr Bennett asked:

1) In relation to the bad condition of the road from Mullaghmore, Tydavnet to Drumdesco. Can this MD please outline when repair works will be undertaken here.

Response: The LP1020 is on the 2021 Roads programme and drainage works and surfacing will be carried out in accordance with the restoration improvement works. Drainage works are scheduled to commence this week.

2) Can Monaghan County Council please let me know of any progress in the "taking over of estates" for Gola Crest, Scotstown.

Response: The developer made an application in 2010 for the estate to be taken in charge. Following an assessment by the local authority significant outstanding issues were identified in the estate.

Planning permission was granted in 2013 in an attempt to regularise the situation, however works were not carried out pursuant to this to address outstanding matters. There remain significant non-compliance issues.

3) In relation to potholes in Ballinode, has this MD wrote to Irish Water to see when they will repair the damage done during works.

Response: The MD is investigating a drainage issue in Ballinode in conjunction with Irish Water, which may have been caused by works previously carried out by IW infrastructure. Further clarification may be required in relation to the location of specific potholes.

4) In relation to the newly acquired houses by Monaghan County Council in Tydavnet. Is there a proposal for the vacant land beside these houses? If not in use by the Council, could it be leased by the Tydavnet Tidy Towns?

Response: Monaghan County Council purchased six houses at Cnoc na Greine in Tydavnet but does not own the vacant land beside the houses. Monaghan County Council has responded directly to a representative of Tydavnet Tidy Towns regarding this. Any further enquiries regarding the leasing of the land in question should be raised by Tydavnet Tidy Towns with the landowner / developer.

5) In relation to Kilmore football grounds and the safety measures required with a crash barrier. Can Monaghan County council please outline any progress in relation to this project.

Response: This project was submitted under the Low Cost Safety Schemes which is subject to funding levels received by the Department. As the cost of completing the scheme is high at €80,000 it is unlikely to be included in this year's program.

There has been no response yet from the Department in relation to the 2021 Low Cost Safety Schemes allocations.

Cllr Aughey asked:

1) What plans has the MD to deal with the ongoing litter issues in the Diamond car park which have been highlighted yet again by the IBAL inspection recently?

Response: Monaghan Municipal District will continue to carry out their litter picking operations on this area.

The MD have written to a number of the relevant property owners in the areas to ensure they comply with their responsibility in dealing with litter in the area.

2) Could the council consider the construction of a footpath from the carpark at Emylough to Russell's Corner in the interests of safety for the very many people now using the walkway at the lake? This path would complete a safe loop walk for all.

Response: Donagh Development Association Ltd Committee operate this loop walk and are investigating the possibility of this pedestrian connection. Monaghan MD can seek funding were possible, when all agreements are in place, to assist completion of the project.

3) Can the MD update Members, regarding Rossmore Park's Funding in ORIS Measure 1 for Cycle Track?

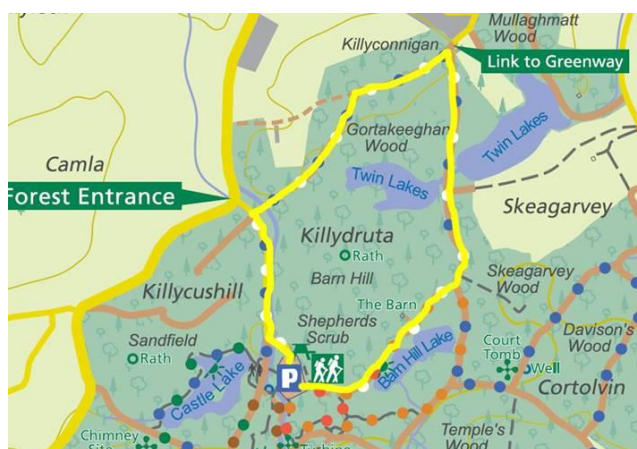
- A) Where things currently stand?
- B) What are the next steps in this and when are they expected to take place?
- C) Outline the exact works, their location within the park, the timeline for completion and delivery?
- D) Any other relevant details with regard to this?

Response:

- A) **MCC applied for funding and were successful under ORIS Measure 3. They have procured The Paul Hogarth Company to Design and implement the project. The project is at Design Stage. MCC worked in collaboration with Coillte, Cycle Ulster and Emyvale Cycling Club to finalise the design and implementation a program for the Family Cycle Trial.**
- B) **Completion of Design, Q1 2021, Tender Contractor, Q2 2021, Construct Cycle Trial & completion, Q4 2021.**
- C) **The Family Cycle Trial will be from the car park towards the main entrance, towards Killyconnigan, then between the Twin lakes, past the Barn Hill picnic area to the carpark.**

See trial highlighted on the map below

- D) **The timing of the construction works is dependent on Coillte's planned tree thinning taking place as scheduled in Q1 2021. MCC has been working closely with Coillte in this regard.**



Proposed Family Cycle Trial

4) Can the MD update members with regard to the safety concerns at the Entrance and exit to the Rossmore park and what actions are currently taking place to deal with these concerns?

A) Walking tracks within the park- the need has arisen for tracks to be provided within the park following colour codes and distances to stop people getting lost and help the overall presentation of the park and represent its increase in usage and footfall

Response: Colour coded trails were developed jointly by Coillte and MCC in 2018 and signed posted within the forest park. The map detailing the six colour coded trails is available on the Monaghan Tourism web site, on the Coillte website and on the notice board in the Rossmore Forest carpark.

Many additional car park signs have been erected in the park providing direction back to the car park.

MCC Tourism section is currently completing a project to provide a tourism style map of the park and an App to assist visitors around the park exploring the many attractions.

5) Can the MD investigate the current speed on the Glen Road from the traffic lights back as far as the speed van on the Cootehill Road, and liaise with the Gardai in the meantime to combat these dangerous road conditions

Response: The MD are currently completing a Traffic/ Speed Survey on the Glen Road.

Motion

“To ask the HSE for an update on progress being made towards the construction of a new Primary Care Centre for Monaghan Town at the St. Davnet’s Campus”

Cllr Sean Conlon

Cllr Conlon outlined his motion which was seconded by Cllr Connolly and agreed by all members.

5. Votes of Sympathy:

The members and Executive conveyed their deepest sympathy to the Kelly Family on the passing of Mickey Kelly RIP, and to the Logue Family on the passing of Raymond Logue RIP.

6. AOB:

Cllr Conlon asked that a letter of commendation be issued to former Principal of Beech Hill College Liam O'Connor, complimenting him on the outstanding accomplishment of historical research recently published at www.castleshanehistory.ie , and further that we contact the Councils Heritage Section seeking the replacement of an information sign / interpretive panel detailing history of Castleshane Castle.

Dated this 15th day of February 2021

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator