

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of the proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday 15th March 2021 at 10.00am, via Microsoft Teams.

Members Present The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Seamus Coyle presided

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

In Attendance Adge King Director of Service, Kevin McNally Municipal District Co-ordinator, Colin Murphy Executive Engineer, and Seamie Mc Mahon Staff Officer.

Apologies: Cllr Hugh McElvaney

The Cathaoirleach Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed February's monthly meeting minutes, Cllr Richard Truell 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 Bus Eireann stated that there seemed to be very little urgency in the Bus Eireann response. Cllr Pat Treanor also stated he was disappointed in the response from Irish Water. Cllr Seamus Coyle agreed.

4. Proposals for inclusion in Speed Limit Review meeting - scheduled for 14th April 2021

Mr Kevin McNally gave an update to the members and asked them to consider any areas within the Municipal District for inclusion. The following locations were noted by the members as requiring examination:

- R188 Abbots Factory
- R162 Ballybay Town to Monaghan road
- R183 Ballybay Town to Castleblayney road
- R283 Ballybay Town to Clones road
- R189 Greenans Cross
- LPO4905 Corcaghan NS to Raferagh
- R181 Lough Egish Cross to Church

5. Consideration of Ballybay Clones Municipal District Schedule of Works for 2021

Mr Kevin McNally gave a breakdown of the proposed Schedule of Works for 2021. The members thanked Mr McNally and the staff in the Municipal District for their continued hard work. The members all raised the issue of the continued deterioration of the roads network within the Municipal District. Mr Kevin McNally pointed out that current staff restrictions arising from COVID were

impacting on the Municipal Districts ability to deal with road issues. Cllr Pat Treanor noted that he understood that the PSCI ratings for the roads in the Ballybay Clones Municipal District were in general worse than the other Municipal Districts. Cllr Pat Treanor requested that a review be undertaken on the PSCI on the County's roads to explore this issue.

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that this Municipal District write to Minister Eamon Ryan TD seeking special funding to address the specific road conditions prevalent in the Ballybay Clones Municipal District. This was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle and agreed by all. Cllr Sean Gilliland asked that the new roads defect app be rolled out to the elected members, Mr Kevin McNally stated that he would investigate this.

6. Consideration of meeting dates for meeting of Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership

Mr Kevin McNally asked the members to consider options for future meetings of the BCEEP. It was agreed that Monday evenings towards the end of the month would suit best but that members would do their best to accommodate their Northern Ireland counterparts.

7. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator

Mr Kevin Mc Nally gave his report:

- **Lennard Arms**

The enabling works package for the demolition works is complete. A number of surveys have been completed on the building – the most recent one been an asbestos survey.

A Ministerial consent application for the proposed demolition works was submitted to the Department in December of last year. This item is still outstanding and is being followed up by the Municipal District office.

On 5th March, the Municipal District hosted a meeting between the OPW and the Department of Local Government and Heritage. The condition of the Clones High Cross, which is in care of the Minister and maintained by the OPW is deteriorating at an advanced rate. During the meeting the OPW/Department give a commitment to consult with key stakeholders such as the National Museum so as to develop a plan to ensure the preservation of the High Cross.

- **Business Hub**

Part 8 process for the Business Hub has commenced and is programmed to be considered at the May meeting of Monaghan County Council. In order to progress the project, the consultant will shortly be commencing the detailed design phase.

- **Clones HTI**

The Wee Abbey and Clones Round Tower are now illuminated at night time. Going forward these lights will be on a timer. The lighting of these monuments has been widely reported on social media and appears to have been well received. New railing to perimeter wall to graveyard has been installed.

There are a number of items of works outstanding on this project such as:

- Completion of path to shrine
- Handrails to steps adjacent to Clones Round tower
- Installation of sign to pillar
- Provision of interpretative signage

The completion of the path to the Shrine requires reviewed Ministerial consent – this consent was requested in December of last year and is still outstanding. These works will be progressed once current COVID restrictions have eased.

- **Town and Village 2020 Seating**

The Municipal District has taken delivery nearly all the seating been funded under the advanced Town and Village accelerated COVID measure. These seats are currently been assembled and will be delivered to the various sites in the Municipal District shortly.

- **Town and Village 2021**

The Municipal District office is currently consulting with the ESB regarding the proposed undergrounding of ESB cables on Cara Street. A brief for the appointment of a consultant to examine the proposed implementation of a one-way system at the Ball Alley/Abbey Street and parking arrangement in the Diamond will be prepared. We hope to have a consultant appointed by Q2 of this year.

In Latton, the Municipal District office is also developing plans for the provision of a footpath from the Church to the path at the housing estate. Once these plans are developed, we will arrange a meeting with the various stakeholders to discuss.

Meetings have been held with representatives of Doohamlet Development association to advance the town and village renewal scheme in the village.

- **Dereliction**

Following the success of the Clones Renewal scheme, the Municipal District office is currently preparing proposals for similar schemes for Ballybay, Newbliss and a further scheme for Clones Town.

These proposals will be considered by our colleagues in the Councils Housing section in the coming weeks.

- **Taking in charge of estates housing Alders and Caroborrow.**

The Councils planning section continue to liaise with Irish Water to agree the site resolution plans for the Alders and Caroborrow estates.

- **Flooding at Drumfaltra Ballybay**

I would like to welcome the recent announcement of funding under the OPW Minor Works scheme for the replacement of a culvert at Drumfaltra Ballybay. This location was again subject to flooding recently. It is hoped to have these works completed by Q4 of this year.

- **Patching contracts**

The Municipal District office is in the process of completing the procurement process to appoint a contractor to repair defective sections of road. These sections are typically requiring large patches measuring 20-30m². This appointment will be made post easing of current COVID restrictions.

- **Ballybay RRDF**

Ballybay Courtyard Site

Letter of intent has been issued to Sammy Wilkin and a project programme has been requested. Appointment of the contractor will be made post easing of the current COVID restrictions.

Separately our colleagues in the Councils Housing section have appointed a design team to develop plans for the derelict apartments and the remainder of the site adjacent to the Ballybay Mart.

The Councils Housing section is progressing the development of Housing units on Church Street Ballybay. The preferred tender has been identified and the final report is awaited from the consultants. Once received a final application for Stage 4 Funding approval will be submitted to the Department. After funding approval is given from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage they would hope to begin construction in Q2 2021.

I would like to welcome the recent announcement of funding under the Measure 2 of the Outdoor Recreation scheme to the Ballybay Path networks scheme. This funding is for the provision of a path to the Ballybay Wetlands and also along section of Lough Major. The Council is in the process of completing two land acquisitions associated with these schemes.

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

- **Ballybay Town and Village 2019**

Under the Ballybay Town and village renewal allocation, the Municipal District has provided lights to Cuan Mhuire and at the recycling bins. We are examining the proposal to provide lights to the basketball court.

A contractor has been appointed to provide a decorative height restriction feature at the entrance to the park. Proposals are currently been prepared for consideration.

The Whins on the Shercock road have been treated and cut. The Municipal District is currently seeking to appoint a contractor to treat this area for a further 3-year time period. This appointment will be made in Q2.

The Municipal District is examining proposals to provide architectural lighting to Ballybay Water Tower. Various surveys such as bat surveys have been completed. The Municipal District is currently in the process of appointing a conservation architect to develop a Masterplan for the site. This appointment will be made in the coming weeks.

New lighting columns have been installed in the Town Park – delays to this project have arisen due to COVID but primarily to Brexit.

- **Greenway projects**

Clones to Smithboro element - the Municipal District is in the process of appointing Clondillon Consulting Engineers to undertake ecological and environmental impact assessment screening reports on the corridor identified in the previous body of work undertaken on this project. They will also complete a strategic assessment report as part of their appointment.

- **Ballybay Castleblayney Greenway**

The Municipal District has also appointed Clondillian Consulting Engineers and Flynn Furney Environmental consultants progress this project. The consultants have provided an updated programme and project execution plan. They currently undertaking desktop studies to identify a suitable corridor for the route. The next meeting is programmed for 16th March during which representatives for Doohmalet Development Association and the Castleblayney Carrickamcross Municipal District will be in attendance.

- **Corrybrenan Playpark**

The Municipal District office is currently preparing tenders for improvements to the play surface at Corrybrennan playpark.

Tenders are being prepared for the Municipal District grass cutting contracts. These will be issued shortly. Tenders are been sought for Hedge cutting in the Municipal District. The tender return date is 2nd April 2021.

Ballybay Regeneration committee had its first online meeting on 4th March last. Next meeting is scheduled for 15th April 2021

Mr Colin Murphy gave his report:

Roads Programme

Preparation work is well advanced on the LT40054, at Sreenty, the LS6212 at Crossbane in Newbliss and the LT22632 near Drum for the overlay later in the year and it is hoped that it will be finished by the end of March on all 3 roads. The plan is then to move to prepare our three Regional Roads for overlay after that. Because of the restricted work practices throughout the county due to Covid, this will give more flexibility to the successful Bitmac contractor to be able to complete their programme of overlay works in the county. Once the Regional roads are prepared we will move two of the gangs back to the remaining two local roads in Lagan and Legnakelly to prep them for overlay.

Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes

We have already mentioned the schemes for 2021. Again, given the current restrictions, construction works will not commence to the third or fourth quarter of the year. The majority of these works will be undertaken by our outdoor staff. Our Engineering staff are currently assessing the locations to establish requirements for later in the year.

Lough Egish Footpath

The Municipal District have appointed O'Connor, Sutton Cronin Consulting Engineers to carry out a design of the main Junction in Lough Egish. It is hoped to have this finalised by the end of the month.

Corcaghan Traffic Calming

The Municipal District have also appointed O'Connor, Sutton Cronin Consulting Engineers to carry out traffic calming design on the regional road through Corcaghan. The school have secured €50,000 from Clar to undertake these works.

Traffic Counts

The Municipal District have installed traffic counters on the Ballybay, Threemilehouse and Cootehill Road approaches to Newbliss village. One data has been collected from these it is the intention to move them to Rockcorry in the vicinity of teapot row, Drum village and to Lackey road Clones.

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed the match funding of 10% to the Ballybay paths network. This was seconded by Cllr Richard Truell and agreed by all.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked for a timeline regarding the taking in charge at Carrowbarra and The Alders, Mr Kevin McNally hoped he would be in a position to update the members at the next Municipal District meeting. Cllr Pat Treanor asked that if any decisions were made regarding the High Cross that the OPW make a public statement. Cllr Treanor congratulated all involved in the HTI project and also congratulated the Canal stores on been selected to participate in the National St Patrick's day online event.

The members welcomed the planned traffic counts at the various roads going into the towns and villages of the Municipal District.

8. Matters arising from previous minutes

Current issues regarding the restrictions placed on outdoor staff were discussed, Mr Kevin McNally stated that this was under constant review by management team. Issues of broadband speeds was also discussed and it was agreed to invite Mr John McArdle to the next Municipal District meeting.

9. Notice of Motion

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed

Ballybay-Clones Municipal District demand of the Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Charlie McConalogue and the Government an Agri-Environmental REPS that will deliver the maximum base payment to farmers over its pilot period, as its trial results will dictate payment rates to farmers, following the new CAP in 2023, which must give acknowledgement to farmers and the Agricultural Community as the greatest protectors of the Environment and Rural Ireland, who are constantly enduring cuts in their income margins with the small average size of Monaghan farms",.

(This Motion if adopted to be forwarded to Monaghan County Council and Oireachtas Members for the Cavan-Monaghan Constituency & to the Minister for Agriculture).

Cllr Pat Treanor Seconded the motion and all agreed.

7. Questions

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked

1).When do Monaghan County Council propose to carry out Safety Improvement works at the junction of the LS56011,Drumuck,Stranooden,known locally as Shanna Road and the R188,Monaghan-Cootehill Road, as this is a very dangerous junction with very poor visibility, particularly for vehicles, entering or exiting the Shanna Road?.

Answer

The Municipal District intend carrying out safety improvement works on this junction later in 2021 when resources permit.

(2).Will Monaghan County Council immediately examine, the possibility of carrying out Safety Improvement Works at the junction of the L4121,Lattonfaskey Road,Lough Eghish and the

R181, Castleblayney-Lough Egish Road, as it is currently very dangerous for vehicles entering or exiting from the Regional Road to the Lattonfaskey Road, with a number of accidents occurring at this location in recent times?.

Answer

The Municipal District will examine this location to establish if Safety Improvement works are required. Applications for funding under the relevant schemes will be submitted for any required works.

(3). Can Monaghan County Council arrange to have Sign's erected at the Castleblayney Road Roundabout etc in Ballybay for "Ballybay Mart", as on days of Sales in the Mart, significant numbers of people and business is attracted to the town, in unrestricted times?.

Answer

The proprietors of Ballybay Mart can apply to the Roads Section of Monaghan County Council for the provision and erection of Facility Information Signs to direct clients to their facility. The Municipal District office will arrange for the necessary application form to be sent to Ballybay Mart.

(4). Can Monaghan County Council undertake to paint and carry out refurbishment works at the Housing Estates in Bawn, An Clos and An Cluain over the coming months?

Answer

Under Planned Maintenance 2021, Monaghan County Council Housing Section have organised a contractor to undertake soft wash on social houses and boundaries in Bawn, An Clos and An Cluain Housing Estates. These works will commence in April 2021.

(5). When do Monaghan County Council propose to carry out Road Safety Improvement Works on the R181, Castleblayney - Lough Egish Road, in the area known locally as Cabragh Cross/Reilly's Shop, with a very dangerous corner, which had a number of years ago a Crash Barrier erected, with many vehicles crashing into it over recent times, additional signage and anti-skid surface installation are essential, if loss of life is to be prevented at this highly dangerous location?

Answer

The Municipal District intend carrying out safety improvement works on this location later in 2021 when resources permit.

Cllr Richard Truell asked

(1). Could the MD of Ballybay-Clones investigate the need for patching/ resurfacing works on the R212 from Scotshouse to Clones as sections of this road are rough and uneven and require remedial works.

Answer

The Municipal District will add this road to its programme for patch repairs, examine if there are drainage issues present on the road and undertake these works when resources permit.

(2). Could the MD of Ballybay-Clones investigate the need for patching/ resurfacing/ road reconstruction works on the LT63102 Doohat road and LT63103 as sections of these roads are in poor condition. Could the MD also investigate if additional drainage works are required on these roads which may assist with the extending the lifetime of any patching works undertaken.

Answer

The Municipal District will add this road to its programme for patch repairs, examine if there are drainage issues present on the road and undertake these works when resources permit.

(3). Could the MD of Ballybay-Clones investigate the need for patching/ resurfacing/ road reconstruction works on the LT64022 as sections of these roads are in poor condition. Could the MD also investigate if additional drainage works are required on these roads which may assist with the extending the lifetime of any patching works undertaken.

Answer

The Municipal District will add this road to its programme for patch repairs, examine if there are drainage issues present on the road and undertake these works when resources permit.

(4). Could the MD of Ballybay-Clones investigate the need for patching/ resurfacing/ road reconstruction works on the LT22432 as sections of these roads are in poor condition. Could the MD also investigate if additional drainage works are required on these roads which may assist with the extending the lifetime of any patching works undertaken.

Answer

The Municipal District will add this road to its programme for patch repairs, examine if there are drainage issues present on the road and undertake these works when resources permit.

8. CE Orders

The C.E. order BCMD 08/21 to 12/21 were noted by the members,

10. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Cllr Richard Truell spoke of Senator Billy Fox and asked that a plaque be erected in honour of his death on 12 March 1974.

Votes of Sympathy were proposed for the following:

- The Ward and Clerkin families on the death of Bernadette
- The McGorman and Moore families on the death of Tessa
- The McCullagh family on the death of Harry
- The Beggan family on the death of Pat
- The Quinn family on the death of Ben
- The Leonard family on the death of Eileen
- The Kelly family on the death of Patrick
- The Reilly family on the death Mary
- The Maguire family on the death Una

Votes of Congratulations were proposed for the following:

- To Patrick Walsh on securing a Scholarship to TCD
- To Patrick Duffy on securing a Scholarship to Oxford University
- To Kristofer Grigaritas on reaching the All Ireland Olympiad
- To Rory McMahan for creating Clones Lego St Patricks Day Parade
- To Ulster Canal Stores on being selected to take part in RTE's St Patricks Day Festival

11 AOB

Cllr Truell noted that the community at Christ Church, Aughnamullen were developing a project in memory of the late Senator Billy Fox who was the only Oireachtas member to lose his life during Troubles.

Cllr Truell requested that the Municipal District would erect a plaque to commemorate the late Senator Billy Fox. Mr Kevin McNally undertook to examine this issue.

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed the following:

“That Ballybay-Clones M.D. write to Bank of Ireland, The Financial Services Union, the Minister for Finance, Pascal Donohoe T.D. and all local Oireachtas Members, demanding that Bank of Ireland reverse their decision to close their branches in Clones and Castleblayney.”

If passed that this motion is sent to Monaghan County Council and Cavan Monaghan Oireachtas members.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Coyle and agreed by all.

That concluded the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled 19th April 2021 at 10.00am.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date

15th March 2021