

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of the proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday 17th May 2021 at 2.30pm, Clones Courthouse.

Members Present The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Seamus Coyle presided

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

In Attendance Adge King DOS Peadar McGuinness A/SE, Kevin McNally Municipal District Co-ordinator, Colin Murphy Executive Engineer, Sharon Finnegan Environment and Seamie Mc Mahon Staff Officer.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed all to the meeting and started that he was delighted that we were finally able to meet face to face. The members paid tribute to Mr Adge King Director of Service who was retiring from Monaghan County Council. Mr Kevin McNally on behalf of the staff also paid tribute to Mr King. Mr Adge King thanked all for their kind words.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

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

4. Consideration of report on Draft Litter Management Plan 2021 – 2023 - Sharon Finnegan Environment Section

Ms Sharon Finnegan gave a presentation on the draft litter plan. The members welcomed the report and the works carried out by the environment section. The members also paid tribute to the many community groups involved in litter picks and recycling events throughout the town. The members agreed that enforcement was an issue when it came to littering.

2. Correspondence Sent

Correspondence sent was noted by the members.

3. Correspondence Received

Cllr Seamus Coyle spoke of his disappointment with the letter received from Bank of Ireland and proposed that this Municipal District write to Bank of Ireland stressing our disappointment at the banks response and to ask Bank Of Ireland to retain the ATM machine in Clones. Cllr Pat Treanor 2nd the motion and asked could the letter also go to the Financial Service Ombudsman. This was agreed by all and the motion was passed.

Cllr Pat Treanor welcomed the correspondence from Deputy Matt Carthy TD. Cllr Pat Treanor raised the issue of representations that the Councilors had received in relation to school transport.

Cllr Treanor proposed that the Municipal District write to Bus Eireann and the Department of Education noting that: a number of families from the Aghabog/Killeevan area of County Monaghan are currently being denied access to School Bus Transport to Largy College, Clones, County Monaghan.

This issue is expected to worsen in the coming years as a number of new families have moved to the area and are expected to further increase the demand for school transport in the next 2-3 years.

The Ballybay-Clones Municipal District requests Bus Eireann to have a fully operational service in place for all pupils and their families in this area by the commencement of the 2021-22 academic year.

(This Motion to be forwarded to Bus Eireann, the Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD and all Oireachtas Members for the Cavan-Monaghan Constituency).

Cllr Seamus Coyle seconded this motion, and all agreed.

The members welcomed the letters of thanks from Aghabog in relation to the new seating.

4. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator

Mr Kevin Mc Nally gave his report:

Lennard Arms

An objection to the compulsory acquisition of the property by the Council has been received. This matter has been referred to Bord Pleanala for consideration, we are still awaiting on this matter to be resolved.

Business Hub

The Part 8 for the proposed Clones Business Hub was approved at the May meeting of Monaghan County Council. In order to progress the project, the consultant is continuing to proceed with the detailed design phase for the project.

Clones HTI

The outstanding works to the Clones HTI will be completed once contractor returns to site.

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 revised quotation for capital works has been received which is well in excess of original quotation. We are currently working with our colleagues in the Road section in order to obtain additional funding for the project from the TII.

Dereliction

As advised at the previous meeting we are working with our colleagues in the Councils Housing section to develop a further phase of the Clones Renewal Scheme. We have received approval from the Chief Executive to advance this project.

Taking in charge of estates housing Alders and Carraborrow.

The Councils planning section continue to liaise with Irish Water to agree the site resolution plans for the Alders and Carraborrow estates. All required documentation has been submitted to Irish Water – we are awaiting on them to respond.

Patching contracts

The final appointment for the contractor to complete patching repairs in the Municipal District has been made – these works will commence by the end of the month. It is hoped that these works will commence in early May.

Clones Renewal Scheme

Two number sites Former Davey Butchers and Former Boylesports are completed with 6 apartments occupied. Estimated time frame for completion is as follows;

- Former An Bonnan Bui, Flower Shop & 63 Fermanagh Street providing 9 apartments is programmed for construction completion in September/October 2021
- Former Busted Sofa Site at 82 & 83 Fermanagh Street providing 3 apartments is programmed for construction completion in January/February 2022
- 2a & 3 Analore Street providing 2 Townhouses is programmed for construction completion in January/February 2022
- Former Abbey Gatehouse Bar on Analore Street providing 4 apartments is programmed for construction completion in January/February 2022

Ballybay Courtyard Site

Letter of intent has been issued to Sammy Wilkin. Contractor is currently progressing other schemes. These works may not commence until Q3 of this year.

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. Preliminary layouts have been prepared and are currently being costed

A Stage 1 and Stage 2 application to the Department in the next week. It is envisaged that the Part 8 for this project will be considered by the members at the September meeting of the Council. The Councils Housing section is progressing the development of Housing units on Church Street Ballybay. They are currently having discussions with the preferred contractor and hope to make the necessary appointments shortly.

Ballybay Town and Village €100,000

A contractor has been appointed to provide a decorative height restriction feature at the entrance to the park. Proposals are well advanced and should be installed this week.

The Municipal District has appointed a conservation architect to develop a Masterplan for the Water Tower site. This plan sets out various options for the safeguarding and development of the site. We are currently working with a lighting designer to prepare a proposal and awaiting approval from the Department to change the scope of the previously approved project.

Review of byelaws for Clones and Ballybay

We are working with our colleagues in the Castleblayney Carrickacmorss MD to address this issue. They are currently seeking legal advice whether this is a matter for the Council to address or if it can be dealt with at Municipal District level.

Hedge cutting

Tenders are currently being assessed for Hedge cutting in the Municipal District. It is hoped that this contract will be awarded in the next week. The Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership will meet tomorrow 18th May at 6.00. The meeting of the Ballybay Regeneration committee scheduled for Thursday 20th May. These meetings are via teams and necessary links have been circulated.

Weed control

The Municipal District is currently undertaking a trail of a glyphosate-free solution for weed control in Clones Town. This system controls weeds via hot water and foam. If successful we will work with our colleagues in the Machinery Yard to consider purchasing the equipment.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The Council is currently seeking Expressions of Interest for the 2021 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme provides funding for the development of new and existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas. The fund will provide for significant investment in the development of outdoor trails, walkways, cycleways, blueways, tidal pools, floating boardwalks and bridleways. Closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest to Monaghan County Council is 5.00 p.m. on Friday 28th May 2021, all Expression of Interest should be submitted to akierans@monaghancoco.ie

Clar

The CLÁR Innovation Measure is still open to receive applications. Funding under this measure is targeted at piloting new ideas which address specific challenges faced by communities in CLÁR areas, including rural isolation, population change, social disadvantage and marginalisation.

Applications under this measure can be submitted directly to Department of Rural & Community Development, Rural Schemes, Ballina, Co Mayo. Closing date for receipt of applications is 21st May.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

The Council is currently seeking expressions of interest for the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021. The Scheme provides funding for rural towns and villages for delivery of projects in 2021 and 2022 with a focus on projects that make our towns and villages more attractive and sustainable and respond to the new challenges associated with COVID-19 and support the economic and social recovery of our towns and villages.

All interested Town/Village Groups/Community Groups/Development Associations should complete the Expression of Interest form which must be submitted on-line to Monaghan County Council no later than 5pm on Friday 11th June 2021.

The members thanked Mr McNally for his report, Cllr Seamus Coyle asked for clarification on when works would begin at Ballybay Courtyard, Mr McNally stated it would be Q3 2021. Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed that this Municipal District write to the Chief Fire Officer asking that the issues regarding a new site for the fire station in Ballybay be addressed immediately.

This was seconded by Cllr Sean Gilliland and agreed by all. Cllr Sean Gilliland asked how Covid restrictions had affected the councils work programme.

Mr Kevin McNally said it was a massive impact but was confident that project would be completed. Cllr Pat Treanor asked that the housing estates at Mullanamoy and An Tuachtarlann Clones be taken in charge by the Council. Cllr Richard Truell welcomed works on the Clones Renewal but asked that the dereliction in the villages also be addressed.

Mr Colin Murphy gave his report

Roads Programme

The bitmac contractor has completed overlay works on the LT40054, at Sreenty, the LS6212 at Crossbane in Newbliss and the LP2130 Legnakelly – Annaghkilly road and the section of Road up at

Black Kesh on the R189. The LT22632 near Drum is ready, however a damaged bridge has to be replaced on this road and overlay works will be postponed until the bridge is replaced. The contractor intends to move to the CMX MD to complete a number of roads there before returning to us to do the Lagan road. They will then return later in the year to complete our 2 Regional roads, the R184 Ballybay Tullycorbet road and the R162 Ballybay Latton road.

In relation to the RI programme we have funding Surplus in the region of €300,000. I am proposing that we overlay the LP6511 Loyst – Drumalt in past Urcher School, which is the third road on the 2022 agreed roads programme.

Lough Egish Footpath

The contractor plans to return to Lough Egish to recommence works on the footpath from Lakeland Dairies to the junction this week. The Municipal District have applied to Roads Section to be forwarded to the NTA for consideration under the Active Travel Scheme funding stream that was announced earlier this year.

If successful, the funding would be used to carry out a full junction realignment design, Road Safety Audit, obtain Part 8 Planning and land easement agreements as well as partial site clearance, installation of uncontrolled pedestrian crossing and completion of the connection between the two sets of footpaths. These works will significantly increase the safety of the junction for both pedestrians and road users.

Corcaghan Traffic Calming

A design for the Traffic Calming measures has been completed and a Road Safety Audit on the Design is planned to be carried out this week. Once this is completed any findings will be added to the design and tender documents will be drafted with the intention of going to tender as soon as possible.

Traffic Counts

The MD has carried out traffic speed counts on the Ballybay, Threemilehouse and Cootehill Road approaches to Newbliss village, Drum village and the Scotshouse road out of Clones. All 5 locations indicated significant speed violations. Summary of the results are as follows:

Location	% Violation	Maximum Speed (km/h)
Newbliss R183 Ballybay-Newbliss road	84	138
Newbliss R189 Cootehill Road	54	97
Newbliss R189 Threemilehouse road	76	156
Drum	47	102
Clones R212 Scotshouse Rd Clones	87	180

The members welcomed the report and Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed the extra road being added to this year road programme, this was seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all. A discussion was had on the condition of the roads and Mr Colin Murphy estimated that it would cost approximately €30million to bring the worst roads in the Municipal District up to satisfactory condition.

A discussion was had on the speed counts and Cllr Sean Gilliland proposed that this Municipal District write to the Garda Superintendent and the Garda Traffic core regarding these speeds, this was seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and all agreed.

6. Matters arising from previous minutes

Page1 – Cllr Richard Truell asked about the proposed layout of the new business hub in Newbliss, Mr Kevin McNally stated it was similar to the current layout.

Page 2 – Cllr Pat Treanor asked that the positioning of seats on the Diamond Clones be looked at.

Page 7 – Cllr. Seamus Coyle asked for an update on Corrybrennan Pk, Mr Kevin McNally stated that this work would be carried out by the new engineer

7. Notice of Motion

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed

“That Monaghan County Council immediately engage with Cavan County Council to carry out a feasibility study on a Greenway from Ballybay to Cootehill/Rockcorry and joining up with the Ulster Canel Greenway to Clones, this would bring enormous benefits to the area”.

This was seconded by Cllr Richard Truell and all agreed

8. Questions

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked

(1)Will Monaghan County Council immediately examine what additional Safety Improvement works can be carried out at the Scotscorner junction, as there are huge concerns locally for all road users passing through the junction, on the Castleblayney Road, traffic travelling from the Clontibret and Tullycorbet directions, this junction is shared by the Ballybay-Clones M.D. and the Monaghan M.D. with special funding required to carry out the necessary realignment works?.

Answer:

The Municipal District will examine if additional Safety measures are required at Scotch Corner. Any works identified will be subject to funding availability.

(2).Can Monaghan County Council give a full update on the following issues raised in the Cremartin area-

- Extension of Speed Limits as speeding traffic is a major issue in the area?.
- Traffic Calming measures?.
- extension of Footpaths?.
- Additional Benches for the area?.

Answer:

Speed counts are currently being undertaken at this location and will hopefully be available by the end of the month.

Following receipt of speed/traffic data a design review of the proposal to provide a footpath from McVickers Cross to the pub will be undertaken. An application for these works has been submitted under the CIS scheme.

In April, the Municipal District met with the local residents committee to provide assistance to submit an application under the Clar programme for traffic calming measures. This is a joint application with Cremartin GAA. If successful works will be completed by the Municipal District.

A new bench has been provided to the locality under the Town and Village Covid funding measure

(3).Can Monaghan County Council examine the widening of the junction at the Riverdale Hotel, Ballybay Roundabout, particularly for large vehicles/lorries etc turning left off the R180 Carrickmacross Rd. onto the R190 Cootehill/Shercock Rd., as numerous drivers of these large vehicles/lorries are concerned that they are being forced onto kerbs/grass to get around?.

Answer:

The Municipal District will examine if additional Safety/widening measures are required at the Roundabout junction at the Riverdale Hotel, Ballybay. Any works identified will be subject to funding availability.

(4).Will Monaghan County Council immediately examine the possibility of resurfacing the LP03403(Cremartin/Cornanure Rd.) at the junction coming out on to the R183(Ballybay-Castleblayney Rd.),as many road users complain of the road being slippy at this point, perhaps an anti-skid surface would greatly improve the road safety at this junction for all road users?.

Answer:

The Municipal District will examine the junction of the LP3403 and R183 to determine if there are skid resistance issues with the road surface.

(5).Will Monaghan County Council consider the installation of a Bottle Bank in the Lough Egish area?.

Answer:

The Councils Environmental section will consider the installation of a bottle bank in this area if a suitable and agreed site can be located.

8. CE Orders

The C.E. order BCMD 22/21 to 27/21 were noted by the members,

10. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were proposed for the following:

- Eamonn O Sullivan CE of MCC on the death of his brother in Law Owen
- Duffy and Dooley families on the death of Agnes
- McCabe family on the death of Paddy
- McCahey family on the death of Tommas
- Farnan and Leonard families on the death of Betty
- Lynch family on the death of Brendan
- Weir and Sharpe families on the death of Mavis
- Carraher and Treanor family on the death of Patsy
- Toal and Burns family on the death of Moira
- Clerkin and McArdle families on the death of Elizabeth
- Thornton family on the death of Vincent

Votes of Congratulations were proposed for the following

- Clodagh Murphy for her raising over €2000 for Crumlin Children's Hospital
- Ella McCarron on been named captain of Monaghan GAA ladies' team

11 AOB

Cllr Coyle proposed that the Municipal District Annual General Meeting be held on Monday 21st June 2021 at 2.30pm. This was seconded by Cllr Truell and agreed by all.

Cllr Sean Gilliland passed on his thanks to Mr Colin Murphy and outdoor staff for their work at Laragh Tin Church.

Cllr Richard Truell asked that an audit be carried out on signage in the Municipal District as lots of signs were damaged.

That concluded the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled 21st June 2021 at 3.00pm (after the 2021 Annual General meeting).

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date

21st June 2021