

## Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 10.00am, The Courthouse, Clones, Co Monaghan.

**Members Present**        The Leas Chathaoirleach Cllr. Richard Truell presided

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

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

**Apologies**                Cllr Seamus Coyle

The Leas Chathaoirleach Cllr Richard Truell welcomed all to the meeting and spoke of the ongoing issues and new protocols that were in place due to Covid-19.

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

Cllr Pat Treanor 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**

Cllr Pat Treanor spoke on the correspondence from the Minister of Health, Stephen Donnelly TD and proposed that this Municipal District write back to the Taoiseach, Ministers for Health, North and South, and the First and Deputy First Minister, referring to further comments made by public health expert Dr Gabriel Scally and ask for an emergency summit of the Dublin and Stormont Ministers to hammer out an agreement on how to control the spread of Covid 19 on the Island of Ireland.

This was seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all.

### **4. Consideration report on Ballybay Wetlands – Mr Finbarr Daly CEO Enterprising Monaghan.**

Mr Finbarr Daly gave a report to the members on recent works at Ballybay Wetlands and other projects in the Ballybay region. The members thanked Mr Daly for his report. Cllr Sean Gilliland asked for a detailed breakdown of the works at the Farmhouse. Mr Finbarr Daly stated that there was now space for hot desks and conference facilities. It was noted that highspeed broadband was also available. Cllr Hugh McElvaney asked about the price of a hot desk, Mr Finbarr Daly stated that it was €10b per day. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that the culture of work was changing and that it was important to take advantage of this. Mr Finbarr Daly agreed stating that there was an opportunity to provide remote working facilities throughout the Municipal District and county. Cllr Sean Gilliland raised the issue of the pontoon at the wetlands. Mr Finbarr Daly stated that unfortunately the pontoon would be removed as they are unable to get insurance cover for it. Cllr Richard Truell thanked Mr Finbarr Daly for attending the meeting. Cllr Truell asked Mr Adge King for an update on the Newbliss Courthouse. Mr Adge stated that there would be a Cat 1 application made under the Rural

Regeneration and Development fund in December 2020. The site could provide remote working as well as acting as a community hub.

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

Mr Kevin Mc Nally gave his report:

### **Lennard Arms**

The Part 8 planning application for the required refurbishment works was approved by Monaghan County Council during their November meeting. The Municipal District 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 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Funding will be sought to undertake the required works to the building.

### **Clones Historic towns initiative**

Works are ongoing at the Clones Round tower site which being funded under the Clones Historic town initiative.

The Municipal District has procured the services of a:

- Suitably qualified stone mason - work has been completed to the wall adjacent to the round tower. Repair works to other sections of the wall are ongoing,
- Metal worker to repair the gates to the graveyard – this work is well progressed. New gates from the Cara Street entrance have been made. Other gates are currently being repaired,
- Contractor to install the upgraded paths and underground electrical cables – approx. 50% of this work is complete,
- Electrical company to provide lighting to the round tower – the required light fittings are on order and,
- Commenced the preparation of the required interpretative signage – a draft of the interpretative signage has been agreed with the Department and the Councils Heritage officer.

### **Christmas lighting**

The Municipal District is currently working to with the Chambers of Commerce in Clones and Ballybay with a view to erecting the Christmas lights in the towns. Assistance is also being given to Newbliss village for a new tree in the village.

### **Ballybay**

The Council has appointed a contractor to remove the whins on the Ballybay Shercock Road. These works consist of spraying the whins and cutting after a period of 4 weeks. The whins have been sprayed and will be cut shortly. These works will be completed on the guidance of the Councils Horticulturist.

### **Chambers Ireland**

Chambers Ireland are having their awards event on line on the 26<sup>th</sup> November. This Municipal District has 3 projects of particular interest:

- Scothouse Community Plan – under category for Best Practice in Community Engagement
- Clones town team - under the category Supporting Sustainable Communities
- Sliabh Beagh Masterplan – under the 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 developed

I would like to wish them all the best in the awards.

### **Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)**

6 Broadband Connection Points within the Clones-Ballybay area are currently connected and have access to high speed broadband from Vodafone. Indoor and outside Wi-Fi will be provided. These sites have not yet gone live because they require final signoff from Vodafone and from Department of Communications Climate Action and Environment. The sites are:

- Connons
- Latton Resource Centre
- Ballybay Wetlands
- Carn Resource Centre
- Corcaghan
- Mullyash

Monaghan GAA sites connection is being installed on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Work is being progressed by Enet and its sub-contractors on the other sites including Drumcorrin NS, Tullycorbet Hall, Drumhowan Community Centre. One additional Broadband Connection Point has been proposed for Latton Community Centre and is currently being evaluated by the relevant departments, DRCD and DCCA. This scheme is funded under the National Broadband Plan.

### **Town & Village Renewal Project**

The Council is in the process of installing Video conferencing into all of the community Broadband Connection Points under the Town and Village Programme. It is expected that this will be completed by Christmas. CCTV is also being installed or upgraded in these community centres through this programme.

The locations in this Municipal District are: Latton, Corcaghan, Aghabog, Connons, Tullycorbet, Drumhowan and Ballybay Wetlands Centre.

### **Wifi4EU**

Monaghan Co. Co. is progressing the Wifi4EU plan through its partner, N.I.S. Ltd . N.I.S. have been on site for several days and have surveyed most of the sites identified in the Clones-Ballybay area. Broadband Lines have been ordered for most of these sites. It is expected that many of the Wifi4EU sites will be in operation by mid-December when all telecommunications activities are frozen in the run up to Christmas.

The sites are:

- Ballybay Library, Ballybay Playpark Wifi
- Ballybay Public Wifi – Lower Main Street
- Lower Fermanagh St Clones
- Canal Stores,
- Greenans Cross,
- Killeevan Gymnastics Club,
- Newbliss Protestant Hall,
- Peace Link Clones
- Scosthouse Community Centre and
- Doohamlet
- Lough Egish

### **Proposed Section 183**

Cavan Monaghan Rural Transport have agreed to lease the Municipal District former offices on the Monaghan Road for a further 2 years. The extension of the current lease will require Section 183 approval – this will be brought to the next Council meeting for the members to consider. This is a positive news story for the town and ensures the retention of 4 jobs.

### **Mr Colin Murphy gave his report:**

#### **Roads Programme**

TH Moore have completed the bitmac overlays on all roads as part of the Restoration Improvement Local and Regional Roads Programme. Ballybay Main Street overlay works were completed on Saturday with only some lining works to be completed this week. The same contractor won the tender for the Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot Project and intends to start work on the LT40211 this week. Once this is complete they will be moving to Annies to undertaker overlay works as part of the Climate Change funding. This will complete our overlay works for 2020.

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

Works are complete on the scheme located at the LP39002/R190 Cootehill road junction out of Ballybay at Balladian. A works crew has commenced work at Hanrattys Cross on the R162/R184 Ballybay Tullycorbet junction

#### **Clones Footpath repairs**

The contractor has carried out significant footpath repairs on the Newbliss road, O'Duffy Street, Analore Street and on the Cavan Road. The Contractor has temporarily suspended works to the repairs of the footpaths in Clones Town. The same contractor has won a tender for another project which is grant aided and requires a % spend of funding by year end, therefore has moved there to commence this spend.

**Active Travel Works** – Provision of new footpath on Ballybay Monaghan Road opposite Kepak. Phase 1 of the works are well under way on this project. The hedge has been removed and drainage has been installed. Eir ducting will be installed this week, and works by our staff will then be suspended until Eir move some of their assets which are in the line of the footpath and realigned junction.

**Lough Egish Footpath.** The contractor has moved in on this project to complete the footpath from Aughnamullen GAA field to the cross under the Town and Village Funding and to install the footpath from the cross out to Lakeland Diaries under the Active Travel Funding.

Members thanked Mr McNally and Mr Murphy for their reports.

Cllr Pat Treanor spoke of areas of flooding in the Clones area and asked that these areas be dealt with. Cllr Pat Treanor welcomed the HTI works and the works to the Lennard Arms he also stated that the plans to put ESB cables underground close to the Round Tower needs to be kept on the agenda. Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed the works in Ballybay and thanked the business owners for their cooperation. Cllr Hugh McElvaney also thanked them. Cllr Richard Truell asked about the recycled plainings used on the road at Celtic Pure, Mr Colin Murphy stated that this scheme appeared to represent good value for money. With regards to flooding Mr Colin Murphy stated that the Municipal District was actively pursuing land owners and that public flooding issues would also be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

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

No matters were raised

## **7. Notice of Motion**

As Cllr Seamus Coyle was not in attendance it was agreed to forward his motion to the next Municipal District meeting.

## **8. Questions**

**Cllr Seamus Coyle will ask:**

(1).Can Monaghan County Council give an update on the progress of the application by the Residences for the Taking in Charge of the following Estates-

- The Alders, Clones Road, Ballybay.
- Carrabarra Island, Smithborough.

### **Answer**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in relation to the taking in charge of housing developments was agreed in 2015 between Local Authorities and Irish Water. The MOU established a protocol which required all applications to be referred to an agreed with Irish Water before developments were taken in charge. In respect of the two housing developments queried, the following reflects the current position;

### **The Alders, Ballybay.**

Significant defects in the services have been identified. The Planning Authority has engaged with Irish Water on a number of occasions in an attempt to progress a site resolution plan for this development, but unfortunately have been unable to conclude this process. The Planning Authority shall continue to engage with Irish Water in an attempt to progress the application

### **Carrowbarra Island, Smithborough**

Further information was provided to Irish Water in late September 2020 for consideration and comment. The Planning Authority is awaiting a response before progressing the application further.

(2).Will Monaghan County Council have all broken/defective sections of Footpath replaced in Ballybay Town as soon as possible?.

### **Answer**

Some sections of broken/defective footpaths are being repaired as part of the current overlay works being undertaken in Ballybay. It is the Municipal Districts intention to carry out a full survey of the remaining footpaths in the Town early in the new year with the intention of repairing these also. These works will be completed in Q2 2021.

(3).Will Monaghan County Council immediately have additional Traffic Calming Measurers put in place to reduce the speed of traffic on the Carrickmacross Road, Ballybay(R180) in the vicinity of O'Duffy Tce. Entrance to Corrybrennan Park and Cul Brennan Housing Estates and Ballybay Community College, as there are huge number of Pedestrians, Children etc in this area, with parents particularly concerned for the safety of their children, with the speed of H.G.V.s etc approaching the town?.

### **Answer**

There are currently traffic calming Islands, a speed feedback sign, antiskid surfacing, pedestrian crossing and ramp and footpaths on either side of the road on the approach to Ballybay Community School from the Carrickmacross approach to the town. The Municipal District do not have any plans to install additional traffic calming measures at this location. The Municipal District will notify the Gardai through Monaghan County Council's Road Safety Officer of the concerns raised at this location.

(4) Will Monaghan County Council immediately prioritise the carrying out of Safety Improvement Works at the junction of the LT56011, known locally as the Shanna Road, Drumuck, Stranooden and the R188(Monaghan-Cootehill Rd.), as it is an extremely dangerous for traffic entering or exiting the junction, as visibility is very limited?

**Answer**

The Municipal District have applied for funding under the 2021 Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme to undertake safety works at the junction of the LT56011/R188. Subject to approval of funding it is proposed to undertake works at this junction in 2021.

(5)What plans have Monaghan County Council for the completion of Ballybay Town Street Scape, at Lower Main Street/Ballybay?

**Answer**

The Municipal District have recently carried out overlay works on Lower Main Street Ballybay to the value of approximately €80,000. As part of this works some sections of broken/Defective footpaths have been repaired. The Municipal District intend to carry out a full survey of the remaining footpaths in the Town early in the new year with the intention of repairing these also. This will include the remaining sections on lower main street.

**Cllr Richard Truell will ask:**

(1) Could the Ballybay Clones MD investigate the speeds of vehicles approaching newbliss village on the R189 by Dara Boats/Cootehill Road and at the junction of the R189 and the Threemilehouse road/Ballybay road R183 at Nino's takeaway. Could the MD staff issue a report at the next MD meeting on the speeds recorded at these locations and recommend solutions for any potential speed problems that are identified in the speed surveys?

**Answer**

There is currently a traffic feedback sign on the approach to Newbliss from Cootehill as well as a footpath for pedestrians to use. The Municipal district have no current plans to install additional traffic calming measures at this location. The Municipal District will continue to liaise with the Gardai and request that enforcement of the speed limit in this area is undertaken. The Municipal District will erect the traffic speed counter on the R189 approach to the Threemilehouse road/Ballybay road junction when resources are available and report back to the members in due course.

(2) Could the Ballybay Clones MD investigate speeds of vehicles in Scotshouse village at Oakland Grove near the Community Centre? There are currently 2 speed ramps in this vicinity however there are complaints that these ramps are not slowing down traffic in an area where a lot of children live and play outside. Could the MD issue a report on recorded speeds in the areas which can be used to identify if a speed problem exists and if so, could the MD issue a recommendation to solve any potential speeding problem in the area?

**Answer**

The Municipal District intend to install an additional ramp at Oakland Grove near the Community Centre before the end of November. This will provide additional Traffic Calming when approaching the village.

## **9. CE Orders**

The C.E. orders BCMD 54/20 to 63/20 were noted by the members,

## **10. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations**

There were no votes of sympathy or congratulations

## **11 AOB**

The recent anti-social behaviour on the Diamond was noted.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed the meeting go in committee, Cllr Sean Gilliland seconded, and all were in favour.

Subsequent to a discussion, Cllr Pat Treanor proposed the meeting to come out of In committee, Cllr Hugh McElvaney seconded and all agreed.

A discussion was had with regard to a fight on the Diamond in Clones that was circulated on social media. Cllr Pat Treanor praised the Gardai for their quick response.

As December's meeting was due to be on the week of Christmas the members agreed to move it forward by 1 week, next meeting 14/12/2020

That concluded the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled 14<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00am.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator

Date

14/12/2020