

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in mTek1 Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday, 20th September 2021 at 10.00am.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Maxwell presided.

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

In Attendance: John Murray, Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Darren Flanagan, Assistant Engineer, Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer.

At the outset, a discussion took place on the number of homeless people in Monaghan Town. Mr Murray suggested that we ask our social worker in Housing, Ms Walker, to attend our sub-committee meeting after this meeting and clarify the situation and the circumstances. All agreed and Mr Murray confirmed that Ms Walker would attend the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Aughey, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on 19th July 2021 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr Conlon referred to the Giant's Trail in Rossmore Forest Park, which is attracting a lot of visitors, and asked that we seek permission from Coillte to put up Interpretive Signs along the Trail to enhance the whole story of the Giants. Mr McElwain responded that this is within our remit and the funding granted through LEADER includes signage may support this, but we need approval from Coillte for the type of signage. Cllr Conlon withdrew his request and will await the outcome of the LEADER funding.

Mr Murray advised that IT are currently developing software for Trails and all will be contained within one App. Cllr Connolly asked will the App include QR codes which Mr Murray responded he will check with IT.

Cllr Aughey asked for an update on fencing which Mr McElwain responded that a temporary fence is in place and a permanent fence will be erected in next few weeks when the contractor is available. He added that the railing at Cootehill Road will be repaired soon.

Cllr Treanor stated that the weeds around the town are a disgrace and asked that the matter be resolved to which Mr McElwain responded that he will discuss the situation with the team.

Cllr McKenna stated that the grass cutting at Killygoan was an unsightly site. A discussion took place on Biodiversity in the town and all members agreed that the MD should bring a full report to our November meeting.

Cllr Treanor stated that the derelict buildings on Park Street are an eyesore and that the money spent on Dublin Street would be better spent on these derelict sites.

Mr Murray responded that these buildings are not derelict sites but maybe eligible for a grant under Town & Village renewal.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-ordinator:

Mr McElwain outlined his report to the members.

Cllr Treanor noted that Aldi have given us to the end of September to vacate McNally's Car Park and asked how is the former Eircom car park progressing. Mr McElwain confirmed that all equipment has to be removed from the McNally's Car park before the 30th September.

Cllr Aughey asked, have all the bus operators been contacted as this is the main pick-up point for students. Cllr Connolly asked did we look for an extension of time to which Mr Murray responded that we have complied with the terms of the Lease.

Cllr McKenna stated that we need clarification on what is happening to the site to which Mr Murray responded that we will talk to our colleagues in Roads and Planning and bring a Report to the next meeting. Cllr Connolly also sought clarification on the availability of the €500,000 funding allocated to the flooding issue at this location.

Cllr Bennett welcomed the Hollywood Development and asked could we look at providing Lifeguards in the busy season in light of the tragic accident which occurred at this location this summer. Mr Murray responded that we will discuss the issue with our Water Safety Officer.

Cllr McKenna asked that the Public Realm Project at Emyvale be speeded up.

Cllr Conlon proposed we write to Transport Infrastructure Ireland seeking explanation regarding the reasons for the ongoing delays that is stalling the Tullybryan Realignment Scheme from advancing from Phase 3 to Phase 4 of the Project Management Guidelines for Minor Projects.

Cllr Bennett asked had any progress been made regarding crash barrier at Kilmore Football grounds which Mr McElwain responded that we have a design and are sourcing funding.

Cllr Treanor commended the fantastic job on North Road which was concurred by all members.

4. Questions

Cllr Paudge Connolly asked:

1) That in view of the increased volume of both traffic to the car park at Emy Lake and pedestrians who use this road (L2001) as part of their walk around Emy Lake to ask what plans have Monaghan MD have to improve road safety on two of the bends on this road?

Response: Monaghan County Council can seek funding where possible to assist the local Committee to deliver the project when all agreements are in place.

2) What plans have you to introduce further traffic calming measures to reduce speed in Tydavnet village from Tydavnet Community Centre through to Tydavnet National School?

Response: Monaghan County Council will examine all current traffic calming measures installed in Tydavnet Village to date, and to explore any further solutions that could be introduced in accordance with the current Traffic Calming Policy.

Cllr McKenna asked:

1) In relation to the Town & Village Renewal Scheme for Emyvale village, what progress has been made regarding the undergrounding of the unsightly ESB & Telecom wires?

When are works expected to commence and what is the expected completion timescale for these works?

Response: This project is at design stage. Design information has been received from ESB and Eircom on what is required to remove the overhead cables. Local consultation needs to be carried out.

No date set for commencement. The project is planned for completion in Q3 2022.

Cllr Bennett asked:

1 Can Monaghan County Council and the Tourism office please give me a breakdown of planned works and funding that have been applied for under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme for the Sliabh Beagh area in 2021?

Response: The application under ORIS - Measure 3 is proposed to undertake the following:

- **Upgrades and Improvements of existing 4 looped walks which includes signage, resurfacing, and trail infrastructure (bog bridges).**
- **Develop new loops/linkages – Develop an Access for All loop around Lough Antrawer (Tra Lough) and an additional walking link at the Penal Cross.**
- **Phased development of the Green area in front of the Sliabh Beagh Hotel – landscaping, welcome signage, and extension of play area.**

The total project cost is €579K, with a maximum of €500 being sought under the ORIS scheme.

2) Can Monaghan County Council please outline when branded signage will be erected at the gateway areas to the Sliabh Beagh area?

Response: Signage and Branding strategies were developed by Ballybay-Clones MD under the Town & Village Programme previously. However, the funding available through this programme only allowed for the installation of one 'Bith' Sculpture and did not include funding for the manufacture and installation of the other signs in the strategy.

Funding for these gateway signs has not been sought as yet as this is seen as a longer-term goal. This will be the next step after the tourism infrastructure has been upgraded.

3) Can Monaghan County Council please give me a breakdown of how funding for Hollywood park will be spend? When will these works commence and when will they be completed?

Response: The consultants have commenced the preliminary design and have met representative of the Hollywood Development Committee. The proposed works have yet to be finalised and agreed with the committee. All works have to be completed by Q3 2022 as per the funding conditions.

4) Have Monaghan County Council discussed the upgrading of Clontibret Forest Park with Coillte? Are there future plans that can be put in place for funding?

Response: Castleshane is a commercial forest which does not have a recreational designation similar to Rossmore. Coillte has advised that an open forest policy operates in Castleshane, but due to high levels of commercial activity there are no plans to develop additional trails.

5. Can Monaghan County Council outline when the footpath works in Scotstown Village will happen?

Response: Design works are currently in progress, tender documents will then be prepared, and the works tendered. Construction works are expected to commence in November 2021.

Cllr Conlon asked:

1) With indications given last May of the scheduled completion of civil infrastructure works at Mullach Glas, I seek explanation regarding the steps required to advance the 'Taking in Charge' process at both Mullach Glas and Rowantree Court.

Response: Civil works have been completed which comprised of,

New security fencing to perimeter of existing pumping station; new raised concrete apron to internal area of pumping station; new entrance gates and posts; and 60m of water main to supply pumping station through third party lands.

Related mechanical and electrical works are nearing completion. Upon completion of all works Irish Water will be liaised with regards an agreement to progress the taking in charge of the estate. Separately, Municipal District Engineers are undertaking review inspections with a view to shortly re-tendering for surfacing and related works to the estate. Such works could not take place until water services works were undertaken.

2) For the purpose of facilitating access of coaches and wheelchair accessible buses into Rossmore Park, will the MD seek appropriate arrangements with Coillte that will allow barrier free movement of vehicles?

Response: Monaghan Municipal District are liaising with Coillte on this matter and Coillte are seeking a solution to improved access for higher vehicles to the park.

Cllr Aughey asked:

1) Can the MD please provide the members with the most updated information with regard to all the new works and improvements at Rossmore Park including the App? When is the App going to be finished, updated and go live?

Response: The appointed contractor for the Rossmore Cycle Trail has provided a date of 27th September for the commencement of the works. The project entails the delivery of a 2.6 km family cycle trail which has been designed in conjunction with Emyvale Cycling Club and Cycle Ulster. It is specifically for novice cyclists/children and is a safe, off-road environment in which they can learn to cycle. The project also includes trail infrastructure, rest stops and associated signage. It is anticipated that the trail will be completed by mid-December 2021. The App went live at the same time as the new brochure last year. An issue downloading the app has recently been brought to our attention and the developer was contacted immediately. This issue has been resolved and the APP is working again.

2) Can the MD please update the members on the current status of the Skinnader Roundabout and provide full briefing details and information to members?

Response: Construction works commenced on the 3rd of August, the majority of the footpath alterations / ducting requirements will be completed by Friday 24th September with surfacing to be completed at night, week commencing Monday 27th September.

3) Can the MD please update the members on the current status of the pavement works and any relevant information with regard to same?

Response: Surfacing works will be completed on the 17th September with no more road closures required.

4) Can the MD please undertake an audit, investigation and action plan to deal with blocked drains and footpath cleaning for the MD towns and villages?

Response: The Monaghan MD, as part of their road maintenance works carry out jetting of storm drains and cleaning of footpaths as necessary subject to available resources. Any defects to blocked drains or footpaths within the Monaghan MD can be reported and logged, and any necessary repairs will be scheduled into the works programme.

5) Can the MD share with members the road sweeper schedule and frequency of street cleaning in all areas of Monaghan Town?

Response: The Monaghan MD can provide the general road sweeper schedule for the District Area. The sweeper is in Monaghan Town area approximately 60% of the time. The frequency of sweeping various areas within the Monaghan Urban Area is at the discretion of the Area Foreman depending on needs and with the resources available.

5. Motions:

“That this MD request a report from the Planning Section of Monaghan Co Council as to works being carried out on the mobile phone mast at Killygowan, Monaghan town viz a viz compliance with Planning laws etc.”

Cllr Sean Conlon, Cllr Brian Mc Kenna, Cllr Cathy Bennett

Cllr Conlon outlined the Motion which was seconded by Cllr McKenna and supported by all members.

“That this Council write to the Ministry of Finance regarding the legislation to bring in minimum pricing for alcohol from January 2022 this will increase alcohol by up to 40% in off licenses on this side of the border this will have a detrimental effect on business here in Co Monaghan as off licenses In the Northern side will be up to 50% cheaper”

Cllr Seamus Treanor

Cllr Treanor outlined the Motion which was seconded by Cllr Connolly and supported by all members.

6. Correspondence:

Letter dated 11th August 2021 from Department of Transport in relation to the Safe Routes to School Programme.

Email dated 23rd July from Department of Health acknowledging receipt of our correspondence regarding beds at Monaghan Hospital.

Email dated 31st August 2021 from Department of Health regarding the migration of the Primary Care Centre to St Davnet’s Campus.

7. Congratulations:

Congratulations was extended to the following:

Monaghan Harps Hurling Team on winning the Junior Final.

Monaghan Harps ladies on winning the Division 3 Senior Final.

Truagh Ladies Senior Team on winning Division 2 Intermediate.

Monaghan Town on reaching top 20 and Glaslough on reaching top 5 of Ireland’s best place to live rankings.

8. Sympathy:

On behalf of the members and Executive, sincere sympathy was extended to the following:

Corrigan family on the passing of their mother, Philomena.

McCormack Family on the passing of their son, Adam.

9. AOB

Cllr Connolly asked had any progress been made on monitoring the approach roads to Sliabh Beagh. Cllr Maxwell suggested that a Motion be sent to the JPC to which Cllr McKenna responded that this matter was discussed at the JPC and turned down.

Cllr Conlon asked the Executive to give consideration to signs for persons with visual difficulties.

Dated this 20th day of September 2021

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator