

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday 17th July 2023, 10.00am, The Market House, The Diamond, Clones.

Members Present: The Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland presided,

The following members were also present: Cllrs: Pat Treanor, Richard Truell, Hugh McElvaney, and Seamus Coyle.

In Attendance: Gareth McMahon A/Director of Services, Kevin McNally Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Martin Taylor A/Executive Engineer and Gillian Costello Staff Officer.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed all to the meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed June monthly meeting minutes and the June AGM minutes, Cllr Richard Truell seconded the proposal, and it was agreed by all.

2. Correspondence Sent

Correspondence sent was noted.

3. Correspondence Received

Correspondence received was noted and discussed by the members.

Proposals arising from correspondence received:

Ms Olga McConnon Director of Services, Housing, will be invited to attend the September Municipal District meeting to present a report on modular homes, vacant properties & derelict sites, and service sites.

Proposed by Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland, seconded by Cllr. Richard Truell and unanimously agreed by all.

Ballybay/Clones Municipal District will give €100 in support to Molly Coffey O'Connor Youth Olympic Weightlifter toward travel and training for the European Weightlifting events.

Proposed by Cllr Pat Treanor, seconded by Cllr. Hugh McElvaney and unanimously agreed by all.

Ballybay/Clones Municipal District will provide match funding in the amount of €1000 to Eire Óg Na Mullai GFC, in support for the Sports Capital Grant which they have successfully secured to erect a 4G pitch.

Proposed by Cllr. Seamus Coyle, seconded by Cllr. Pat Treanor and unanimously agreed by all.

4. Consideration of report on proposal of Local Economic Community Plan – David McGlinchey, KPMG.

Mr. Jack Shakespeare, KPMG, presented the Monaghan Local Economic Community Plan Draft Objectives and Actions to the Members. This presentation outlined the purpose of the project, overview of objectives and outcomes, and actions.

Following discussion by the Members it was noted a review of the previous LECP was undertaken considering actions which were not previously delivered on, and those of significance and importance have been brought forward into the development of the new plan. The members requested that the review of the previous plan be circulated.

The presentation was noted by all the members.

5. Consideration of report on progress of Drumlins Park Wind Farm – Ausin Rafferty, Energia Group.

Mr. Patrick Tierney, Energia Group, presented an update on the Energia Renewables Drumlins Park Project which is a €90 million investment in County Monaghan and will see the installation of a number of wind turbines. The project will bring €1.2 million in development contributions, an estimated €700,00 per annum in rates and a committed Community fund for 15 years to County Monaghan.

Following discussion by the Members regarding additional roads requiring works and the operation of the facility outside of the conditions set by planning, it was noted Energia have been in consultation with the Roads Department regarding the CIS scheme to address those roads. It was noted that Energia are fully committed to the road works as stipulated by the planning conditions. Consideration will be taken of competing community applications as CIS funding is limited. Regarding operations beyond planning conditions Energia reassured Members rigorous safeguards are in place and the Energia liaison team remain in situé.

6. Report by Municipal District Co-Ordinator.

Kevin McNally Municipal District Co-Ordinator presented the Municipal District Report to the Members.

Ballybay to Castleblayney Greenway

Following receipt of €50,000 of funding under the Outdoor Recreation Scheme the Municipal District has appointed Clandillion Consulting Engineers to progress the Ballybay to Castleblayney Greenway. Public Consultation is currently underway for the Study Area for which observations are being sought online. There was an in person Public Consultation event held on the 15th of June and approximately 40 members of the public attended the event. General feedback and observations were very positive and welcomed the project. The online submission date for observations has been extended from the 6th of July to the 20th July and is still currently open. The Options Selection report should be issued by the end of July and the next public consultation has been preliminary planned for the 10th of August. Details of this event will be advertised using the usual media channels.

The duration of the programme of works is 5 months.

Clandillon Consulting Engineers are currently on track to complete Phase 2 Options Selection by the end of October following which, a Preferred Route for the proposed Greenway will be identified. This will allow the Council to seek funding from sources such as TII to advance the project.

Lough Major Boathouse

The refurbished boathouse adjacent to Lough Major in Ballybay, a project which was developed by the Town Team, was recently opened. The Municipal District is engaging with a community-based sailing club seeking for them to lease the boathouse and offer a number of water-based activities on the lake.

Town and Village Streetscape schemes for Clones

Following agreement from the elected members to provide €50,000 of funding shortfall from the Municipal District general allocation to the Clones Streetscape scheme;

51 applications have been approved for the Clones Streetscape Scheme. The Diamond. 4 Projects have been completed to date.

42 applications have been approved for the Fermanagh Streetscape scheme. 5 projects have been completed to date.

Funding of 80% up to a maximum of €3,500 for painting and façade improvements and €4,000 for shop front repair and replacement is available. Works are to be completed by the end of August.

As part of the scheme, the Council has given approval to for €266,750 for grant assistance for works to the façades in the Clones. Clearance works to the site for the proposed micro park have been completed. Tenders for the works are currently being finalised and will be issued shortly.

Ballybay Community Event

The Municipal District office is currently working with the Ballybay Town Team in order to assist them to host and deliver a community day on Sunday 20th August. Details of the event will be advertised using the Councils and Community social media platforms.

Corrybreenan Playpark

The council experienced a lot of difficulties in advancing this project. A number of tender processes were run which failed to get any interest in design consultants to develop design for the proposed project. It was then decided to proceed on a design build type contract. Proposals from a number of contractors are currently being assessed. Following the appointment of the successful contractor, it is hoped to proceed to planning stage in August.

Dromore River Blueway

The Council is continuing to advance the Dromore River Blueway. The Council has commissioned canoeing Ireland to survey the route and has also appointed CS Pringle to under the preliminary design of the project to planning permission stage.

Preliminary access point drawings have been prepared and are currently being reviewed by the Councils environmental consultant. A field study for the Natura Impact Statement is currently underway. The findings of this study will inform the final design for the project. A number of sites are being examined at Lisnalog to determine the most suitable site for an access point to the river. This may require the purchase of a suitable plot. It is hoped that the project will move to the planning permission stage in Q3 2023.

Dartry Forest Park

The Council is currently finalising the planning drawings for the project and hope commence this process by the end of the month. The design team will proceed to finalise the tender documents and subject to Part 8 approval we hope to make necessary appointment of contractor in October/November of this year.

Waterways Ireland

The Municipal District office recently hosted a meeting between Waterways Ireland, Failte Ireland and the Councils Tourism Officer regarding the operation and development of the Clones Marina project post completion of works. External consultants have been appointed to develop a management strategy going forward. The issue of serviced sites for camper vans was discussed. Waterways Ireland undertook to investigate this proposal.

Proposals arising from Municipal District Report

The Town & Village Micro Park Design will be circulated to Members.

Discussions have been undertaken with Monaghan Sports Partnership and the Peace Link regarding development of a promotional programme for outdoor gym equipment.

A funding extension will be sought for the development of Corrybrennan Playpark.

It was noted the LCDC has lodged an LDS for the new LEADER Programme to the Department and a strong focus of the strategy is tourism within the county. Development of services to complement the Water Ways Ireland Marina project could potentially be a project through LEADER, such as camp sites etc.

Roads Programme

Martin Taylor Executive Engineer presented the Roads Report to the Members.

Surfacing works at LS6201 Corlougharoe, Newbliss – Drum, R183 Newbliss to Doapey, and the R188 at Dawson Monument, Rockcorry to Cootehill are completed. New drainage culverts have been installed along the R188 to alleviate flooding at this location.

Speed cushions have been installed on the R183 and R189 in Newbliss.

Currently reinstating the LP4004 – Ummerafree Corduff – 1.5km.

All other roads on 2023 programme are ready for resurfacing with surfacing works due to commence in coming weeks.

- LT64022 – Molly Farmers Stranooden – 2.8km
- LT25022 – Packie Fordes Drumgarvey – 1.8km
- LT39001 – Bairds Shore – 1km

Gangs are currently getting the Surface Dressing roads ready. Surface dressing programme has been delayed in other areas due to weather, but it is hoped that surface dressing will commence in Ballybay/Clones Municipal District week commencing 31st July.

Velocity Patching

Velocity Patcher is currently in the Municipal District working on a programme of defective roads within the MD carrying out remedial works.

Canon's Lane Clones

Works are substantially complete for the widening of Canon's Lane, Clones except for surface dressing scheduled for later this summer. Some accommodations works are to be completed as agreed with the landowner.

Drainage Notices

We are continually inspecting roads to identify areas where water is running from private lands onto the public road, affecting the condition and safety of the road for road users. We have issued a significant number of drainage letters to landowners and have also issued follow up letters where works have not been completed. Technical staff have been making themselves available to meet with landowners to discuss the drainage issues and confirm works requirements.

Public Lighting

Public lighting at Drum Church of Ireland has been installed and energized.

The next area for public lighting on the previously agreed list is Ture Chapel. A design and quotation has been received from Enerveo. Ballybay – Clones Municipal District are currently appointing Enerveo for these works, with MCC outdoor staff to carry out the civil works and ducting.

Hedge and Verge Cutting

The first cut for the Verge and Hedge cutting along Regional Roads and at junctions has been completed.

The contractor is currently in the process of cutting the Surface Dressing roads.

Fermanagh Street Micro Park

Craftstudio have been appointed as consultants for Fermanagh Street Micro Park and have produced tender documents for the work. A contractor appointed by the landowner has removed the wall and tidied up the area ahead of the works. The tender process is due to commence to appoint a contractor to carry out the works.

Weedkilling of streets

Shaffrey Landscaping have completed the first treatment for weedkilling the streets in Ballybay and Clones. Weeds are being killed using an environmentally friendly hot foam stream system.

7. Matters arising from previous minutes.

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted by members and following discussion it was agreed a speed survey would be undertaken in Newbliss on the Cootehill to Newbliss road to assess the impact of speed cushion installation.

8. Questions

Cllr. Richard Truell asked.

Q1: Can Monaghan County Council give the current update of the Lennard Arms Hotel Development.

Answer:

Following receipt of funding under Category 1 of the Department of Rural and Community Development Rural Regeneration and Development fund, Monaghan County Council has prepared detailed proposals to refurbish and repurpose the building as the Clones Monastic Centre. The proposed Clones Monastic Centre will act as a focal point for the large number of heritage assets that Clones Town contains and will serve to develop and enhance the Towns Tourism product.

A detailed application was submitted under the last call for funding under Category 2 of the Department of Rural and Community Development Rural Regeneration and Development fund for the required capital works. Unfortunately, this funding application was unsuccessful.

The Municipal District office recently received a debrief from the Department who have suggested a number of areas that the project could be further strengthened. The Municipal District office are considering these suggestions and subject to Monaghan County Council Management Team approval, it would be hoped that a further application is resubmitted in the 5th call for Rural Regeneration and Development Fund which should be announced later on this year.

Q2: Can Monaghan County Council examine and make an application for a low-cost safety scheme at junction R212/LT62802 Scotshouse to Ballyhaise Road which has very poor visibility from this dangerous junction and the scene of some accidents and very near misses involving HGVS and cars.

Answer:

The Municipal District Engineering staff will assess this location and submit a request for funding under Low Cost Accident Reduction Initiatives.

Q3: Can Monaghan County Council carry out safety improvement works at junction LT63202/LT62301/LT23311 as this is a very dangerous junction.

Answer:

The Municipal District Engineering Staff have been speaking to the landowner at this location in the past, who has confirmed that they would be willing to allow the removal of the hedges to improve sight visibility at this junction. Monaghan County Council will submit a request for funding under Low-Cost Accident Reduction measures for the required works.

Q4: I request that Monaghan County Council outline their plans for 2023 & 2024 to tackle derelict properties in Ballybay, Clones and our villages.

Answer:

Following on from the success of the Clones Renewal Scheme Monaghan County Council are currently developing a phase 2 of the scheme for Clones Town. A number of properties on Cara and McCurtain Streets are being considered for acquisition and redevelopment. The Council is also seeking to acquiring a number of derelict properties in the Ballybay Town for redevelopment. The Council will also be using the Derelict sites Act 1990, where appropriate to address particular derelict properties.

Q5: I request that Monaghan County Council examines the possibility of works to Drumate Lake (LP2421) under the outdoor recreation infrastructure scheme. More families and fishermen are using this lake and any works to be carried out should allow better access, clearance of vegetation and safety features also.

Answer:

The Municipal District Office will consider this location for funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. The ownership of the lands is currently being investigated.

9. CE Orders

Noted.

10. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

The Members unanimously offered congratulations to.

Monaghan Senior Football Team on their campaign in the Senior All Ireland Football Championship and their success in reaching the semi-final.

Monaghan Minor Football Team on their campaign in the Minor All Ireland Football Championship and their success in reaching the final.

Monaghan Ladies Senior Football Team on their campaign in the Senior All Ireland Football Championship.

Co. Monaghan RGC Clay Target Team on finishing 2nd in the All Counties All Ireland 2023.

11. AOB

Tribute was paid to Kevin McNally Municipal District Co-Ordinator who announced his departure from the Municipal District, Mr. McNally will be taking up the post of Town Regeneration Officer. The Members commended him on his service and dedication to Ballybay/Clones MD throughout his 9 years in the district, noting his contribution in initiating key projects which have enhanced the community both socially and economically. They wished him well in his new role.

Meeting concluded.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date 18th September 2023