

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday 22nd May 2023, 10.00am, Market House, Clones, County Monaghan.

Members Present: The Cathaoirleach Cllr Hugh McElvaney presided,
The following members were also present: Cllrs: Pat Treanor, Richard Truell.

Apologies: Cllr. Seamus Coyle & Cllr. Sean Gilliland.

In Attendance: Gareth McMahon A/Director of Services, Kevin McNally Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Martin Taylor Executive Engineer, and Gillian Costello Staff Officer
Dympna Condra Tourism Officer, Sue Mannis, The Paul Hogarth Company

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Hugh McElvaney welcomed all to the May meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr Pat Treanor seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney it was agreed the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on the 17th April 2023, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence Sent

Correspondence was circulated with the agenda for the meeting and noted by Members.

3. Correspondence Received

Correspondence was circulated with the agenda for the meeting and noted by Members.

Following discussion regarding the request submitted from Threemilehouse Resident Association for installation of a pedestrian crossing it was unanimously agreed this request would be forwarded to the Active Travel team for their attention.

4. Consideration of report on proposed Dartery Forest park enhancements – Ms Sue Mannis, The Paul Hogarth Company.

Ms Sue Mannis, The Paul Hogarth Company, presented Dartrey Forest Park draft planning proposals to the Members. This presentation outlined the proposed interventions such as parking, pedestrian access, maps & signage, viewing points and picnic areas. It was noted that these interventions should attract visitors to the locality and act as a catalyst for the sustainable development of the wider community while maintaining the commercial viability of the Coillte forest.

The presentation was welcomed by the Members; following questions and answers it was noted that the deadline for completion of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the works is Q2 2024. Ms Condra noted that this project differs from the development of Rossmore National Forest Park, as Coillte own and operate the forest in Dartery and influence development. Consultations have been undertaken with the community and proposals where possible have been included in this development. Mr McNally noted that the community have also included the proposal for development of Dartery Forest within

the Rockcorry Vision Plan which is currently being developed through Town & Village. It is hoped in the future there may be further opportunities for development.

5. Consideration of report on Municipal District in committee meeting held on 8th May 2023 – Kevin McNally.

Mr McNally updated the members on the Municipal District in-committee held on 8th May 2023.

1. Fermanagh Streetscape scheme and Clones Town Street Scape Enhancement Scheme
Clones town currently has two Town & Village Schemes currently being rolled out in Clones. The Town & Village 2021 Fermanagh Streetscape scheme has received 48 applications of which 23 letters of offer have been issued and 25 applications have been referred to the Planning Department for their observations. The scheme has €150,000 available for painting & improvement works. The Town & Village 2022 Streetscape Enhancement, The Diamond Clones has received 51 applications. The scheme has funding of €100,000 and in order to award funding to all applicants an additional €50,000 will be required.

It is proposed to fund this short fall of €50,000 in the Town & Village 2022 Streetscape Enhancement Scheme from the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District General Allocation. A request will be submitted to the Department for additional funding, but with a deadline for project completion of August 2023 it would be prudent to proceed with agreement on additional funding now and reimburse the Municipal District funds if the request to the Department is successful.

The proposal to provide €50,000 from the Municipal District allocation to meet the projected shortfall in the Town & Village 2022 Streetscape Enhancement, The Diamond Clones was proposed by Cllr. Pat Treanor, seconded by Cllr. Richard Truell and unanimously agreed by all.

2. Consideration of Peace Link request for financial assistance in the sum of €5,000 to procure a consultant for Peace Plus application.

During the meeting correspondence received from The Peace Link Clones requesting funding support in the sum of €5,000 to engage the services of a consultant to develop funding applications was discussed.

The Peace Plus funding call has opened and a concept note submitted received positive feedback the next stage for the Peace Link will be to develop the full application. A successful application would secure €3.3million for construction of a building extension.

Following discussions among the Members it was noted the Peace Link Campus is operated by Clones Erne East Community Sports Facility Management Company on behalf of Monaghan County Council and it was agreed Ballybay/Clones Municipal District will provide funding support.

This was proposed by Cllr. Seamus Coyle and seconded by Cllr. Richard Truell, unanimously agreed by all.

3. Newbliss Digital Hub

Mr Gareth McMahon presented an update to the Members on the RRDF Newbliss Digital Hub. This project is being delivered by Corporate Assets, the project cost will be €2.69 million and match funding of €269,000 will be required.

It is proposed Ballybay/Clones Municipal District will provide the required match funding through the General Municipal District Allocation. The payment could be spread over a five-year period, with payments of €50,000 per annum.

Following discussion among Members it was proposed by Cllr. Seamus Coyle, seconded by Cllr. Pat Treanor and unanimously agreed by all to provide match funding.

6. Report by Municipal District Co-Ordinator

Mr McNally updated the members on the following:

Ballybay

On 22nd April 2023, Ballybay Town Team working in partnership with the Municipal District where delighted to welcome a delegation from Osterhofen in Germany. The delegation consisted of a number of elected representatives included the Osterhofen Buergermister Cllr Liane Sedlmeier and Cllr Karl Heinz Hierzegger

The delegation was given a guided walk of the Ballybay Wetlands and sampled a display of food products from the Ballybay Food hub. A formal presentation was made by the Cathaoirleach in Pearse Bros GAA Centre. Mr Rory McAtavey gave a history tour of the Town.

The event was completed by the Cathaoirleach hosting a meal for the Osterhofen delegation and the Ballybay Town Team in Kieran's restaurant in Ballybay.

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.

In order to review the study area and identify the optimum route, it is proposed to commence public consultation between 9th June 2023 to 6th July 2023. This consultation will be held online and will be shortly advertised on the Councils website and social media outlets. An in-person event will be held in early July. Details of this event will be confirmed closer to the time.

Ballybay

Ballybay Lido

The new lido in Ballybay, a project which was developed by the Town Team is nearing completion and is scheduled to be officially opened on 9th June 2023 by the Minister for Social Protection, Rural and Community Development.

This project has been delivered from funding received from the Departments Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and match funding from the Municipal District.

Lough Major Boathouse

The refurbishment of the boathouse in adjacent to Lough Major in in Ballybay, a project which was developed by the Town Team is nearing completion and is scheduled to be officially opened on 9th June 2023 by the Minister for Social Protection, Rural and Community Development. This project compliments the other recent investment in the Town Park.

It is intended that the boathouse will be used by a community-based organisation and will complement the facility owned by the Muckno Tri club. This project has been delivered from funding received from the Departments Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and match funding from the Municipal District.

Monaghan Road works

The realignment works at the junction of the Ballybay Monaghan Road and the Old Keady road are now substantially complete. Outstanding works consist of the completion of a small section of footpath. These works will be completed in the coming weeks.

Ballybay EV Points

Following detailed discussions with Easygo, new EV charging points have been installed in Ballybay Main Street carpark. Easygo are currently waiting for the charging points to be made live. It is hoped that the points will become operational in the coming weeks.

Town and Village- Drum and Rockcorry Village Plans

Following completion, the Consultation with the various sections of the Council on Tuesday 28th March 2023, the Consultant held further consultation events in each village on Wednesday 3rd May 2023 in Drum Thursday 4th May 2023 in Drum and Rockcorry respectively. The Consultants are proposing completing the draft plans by the 12th June for Councils review.

Depending on response from the community is it proposed to have the plans finalised in early July

Newbliss EV points

The Municipal District are progressing the proposal to install EV charging pints in Newbliss. This project is being facilitated by Engeria and Easygo. It is hoped that subject to approval by the Councils Senior Management that the points will be operational by Q3 2023.

Awards night 1st June

The Municipal District is proposing to hoist its annual awards night on Thursday 1st June in the Creighton Hotel in Clones. This event offers the Councils who acknowledge and thank the communities in the Municipal District for all the great work they do each year.

Invites have been issued to over 54 community groups who applied for funding under the Councils Community & Environment Fund. Funding of €55,117 will be acknowledged on the night.

Rockcorry Bring Bank

The Council currently have a number of recycling banks in Rockcorry Village. These units are located on private property which is currently scheduled for redevelopment. Despite investigating several alternative sites, the Councils Environment Section are currently unable to identify a suitable site.

This change may not happen for a number of months, but the location of an alternative site is being actively pursued by our colleagues in the Environment section.

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, 41 letters of offer have now been issued. 41 letters of offer have also been issued in respect of the Fermanagh Streetscape scheme.

Funding of 80% up to a maximum of €3500 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.

It is hoped that when completed, these schemes will have a very positive impact on the town.

17 remaining letters of offer will be issued in due course. In most cases we are awaiting the provision of outstanding information such as additional quotations

Community Recognition fund.

Following the consultation with the respective town teams, and preparation of detailed applications, the Municipal District is delighted that it has been successful in obtaining a further €279,000 for projects in Clones and Ballybay.

These projects are:

- Refurbishment & Enhancement of Ballybay Town Park play area - €120,000
- Upgrade & redevelopment of Bus stop at 98 Avenue - €120,000
- Provision of Outdoor Exercise Equipment for Children at Peace Link Campus - €39,047

Mr Taylor updated the members on the following:

Roads Programme update

Surfacing works at LS6201 Corlougharoe, Newbliss – Drum have been completed. This road will be surface dressed in the coming weeks. Crews are currently working on R183 Newbliss to Doapey. Surfacing works are now completed on this road. Ramps and road lining will be installed this week before road is reopened. It is proposed to install ramps on R189 at Newbliss on Threemilehouse Road later this week.

The Councils contractors are installing new culverts at R188 at Dawson Monument on Thursday 25th May. Resurfacing works will be commencing at location on Monday 29th May. This works will be ongoing for 2 weeks.

The Municipal Districts outdoor staff have all other roads on 2023 programme ready for bitmac resurfacing:

- LP4004 – Ummerafree Corduff – 1.5km
- LT64022 – Molly Farmers Stranooden – 2.8km
- LT25022 – Packie Frdes Drumgarvey – 1.8km
- LT39001 – Bairds Shore – 1km

These roads will be surfaced later this year (3rd on programme).

The Municipal Districts outdoor staff have moved on to the Surface Dressing roads to get them ready starting with the roads in the south of the Municipal District. Surface Dressing works are planned to commence in September.

Velocity Patching

The velocity patcher has been in the Municipal District now for the past 4 weeks and has been working to a programme of defective roads within the Municipal District carrying out remedial works. These works are ongoing.

Canon's Lane Clones

Works are ongoing for the Active Travel funded Phase 2 widening of Canon's Lane, Clones. The road has been widened and the section will be surfaced later on this year.

Ulster Final

The Ulster Final was held in Clones on Sunday 14th May 2023. There were several meetings prior to this event with AGS, Ulster GAA and MCC. These meetings addressed issues including crowd control, litter, and parking. There were a number of Municipal District staff present at the event and the Council facilitated the organisers with signage to alleviate parking issues and to ensure routes remained clear at all times. There was a major cleanup operation at half time and also following the game. The event passed off without incident and Municipal District staff were commended by AGS following the event.

Drainage Notices

We are currently 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 Drum

Civil Works have been carried out for the public lighting at Drum Church of Ireland. Columns will be installed later this month and energised thereafter.

Hedge and Verge Cutting

Verge and Hedge cutting along Regional Roads and at junctions has been tendered and awarded and is due to commence soon.

Painting of Lamp Posts in Clones

Tender documents have been prepared to seek quotations for painting of the black lamp posts in Clones to compliment the Streetscape painting scheme.

Fermanagh Street Micro Park

Craftstudio have been appointed as consultants for Fermanagh Street Micro Park and have been working up a design and are finalising tender documents for the work. We are currently working with the landowners to organize cleanup of the area.

Weedkilling of streets

Shaffrey Landscaping have been appointed and are to start this week with 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.

Minutes of 17th April 2023 Municipal District meeting were circulated to Members and noted.

8. Notice of Motion

Cllr. Pat Treanor proposed; That the Ballybay Clones Municipal District. appreciates the valuable work being done by the Clones Family Resource Centre and supports their plea for extra funding to deal with new and emerging issues in this region. That we write to Tusla, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman T.D., and all Oireachtas Members for Cavan Monaghan, seeking their support and intervention.

Proposed by Cllr. Pat Treanor, seconded by Cllr. Richard Truell and unanimously agreed by all.

9. Questions

Cllr. Richard Truell asked;

Question 1:

I wish to request that the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones assess the local road LS08011 (Corduff area) as I have received reports that the road has poor vertical alignment.

Answer:

This road is currently on the programme for surface dressing this year. A gang is currently working on this road carrying out the preparation works. There are a few bitmac patches required prior to surface dressing of which will be tendered separately.

Question 2:

I wish to request that the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones assess the parapet wall of the bridge on the LP3430 roadway in the Doohamlet area as the wall has been damaged.

Answer:

This bridge was referred to the Councils Roads department for assessment. Following assessment, it has been given a rating of 4 (are rated 1 to 5 based on condition) due to structural issues, with many of the defects being historic. Road section will seek tenders for the design of and implementation of identified works. It is hoped that repair works will be completed in 2024.

Question 3:

I wish to request that the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones provide an update on when the public lights in Drum Village will be erected? These lights received approval under the CLAR programme. Can the MD of Ballybay-Clones confirm if ramps are being considered in this area (on road between village and the Church of Ireland)

Answer:

Civil works are currently ongoing on site and public lighting poles should be erected by the end of May. A speed survey was completed this section of road in 2021 and the Municipal District intend to install traffic calming following completion of the public lighting.

Question 4:

I wish to request that the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones provide an update on the proposed Digital Hub in Newbliss? Has a contractor been awarded the contract for the works?

Answer:

The project is being delivered by Monaghan County Councils Corporate Section. They have confirmed that the Department of Rural and Community Development confirmed additional funding for this project in its Letter of Offer dated 24-03-23. Discussions are ongoing with the Contractor, and it is anticipated that the contract will be signed this month, with works expected to commence in early June 2023.

Question 5:

I wish to request that the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones provide an update on the installation of public lights at Ture Chapel?

Answer:

The installation of additional lighting at Ture Chapel is on the approved public lighting priority list. The current lighting was recently updated to LED previously as part of the upgrade works. The Municipal District will seek a quotation for public lighting installation at this location and subject to available funding will seek to advance this scheme in 2024.

10.CE Orders

CE Orders 17/23 to 25/23 were noted by the Members.

11.Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

Congratulations to Larcy College on the success of their students Deirdre Smith, Amy-Jo Kierans, Katie McCaffrey & Aoibhine McLoughlin on becoming champions of the All-Ireland Concern Debate.

Proposed by Cllr. Richard Truell, seconded by Cllr. Hugh McElvaney and unanimously agreed by all.

12. AOB

Mr McNally noted that the Ballybay Clones Municipal District AGM will be held on Monday June 19th at 10.00am. The members agreed the Clones Market House as the venue.

Cllr. Richard Truell requested an update on derelict properties in Newbliss on Lower Main Street, Mr Kevin McNally advised there is a title issue with these properties which will be discussed with the Planning Department.

The meeting concluded.

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed _____
Meetings Administrator
Date 19th June 2023