

## The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 2pm, 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,  
and Hugh McElvaney.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Seamus Coyle.

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

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed all to the meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones thanking Members for agreeing to rescheduling this meeting.

Director of Services, Gareth McMahon extended congratulations to Martin Taylor on his success in being appointed Executive Engineer to the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District. Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Gilliland and all Elected Members extended their congratulations.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed January 2024 monthly meeting minutes, Cllr Hugh McElvaney seconded the proposal, and it was unanimously 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:

The Elected Members acknowledged receipt of correspondence regarding the recent formation of the Scotshouse Festival Committee and their future plans for the locality. The Members expressed their support for the committees' proposals to purchase & erect Christmas lights in the village and will contribute €1000 for these endeavours.

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

The Elected Members acknowledged receipt of correspondence from Nial O'Connor SEO Housing regarding a presentation on Housing Capital Projects in the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District area.

The Elected Members welcome this and wish to extend an invitation to Nial O'Connor SEO to attend the March 25<sup>th</sup> Municipal District Meeting to deliver this presentation.

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

The Elected Members expressed their disappointment at Water Ways Ireland response regarding the "Gone But Not Forgotten Committee" request for installation of a permanent national bikers memorial in the Water Ways Ireland Marina Site Clones. Water Ways Ireland advised this memorial would not form part of the development at this time. Monaghan County Council will meet the "Gone But Not Forgotten Committee" to discuss possible alternative sites.

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

The Elected Members acknowledged receipt of Ulster GAA & Monaghan GAA correspondence regarding floodlighting at St. Tiarnach's Park and thank them for the update. The Elected Members wish to reiterate their concerns regarding the redevelopment of Casement Park Belfast and the potential repercussions of this for St. Tiarnach's Park Clones; requesting that the Ulster GAA would spearhead a campaign to retain the Ulster Final in Clones.

*Proposed by Cllr. Hugh McElvaney, seconded by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Gilliland and unanimously agreed by all.*

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Gilliland drew the Elected Members attention to an item of correspondence received from Learghusa Helathcare, in which they outline their planned development of 58 Main Street, Ballybay. It is intended to restore the building and on completion of works operate it as an office for Home Care Services, Learghusa proved Home Care Services and Daycare Services to older people and People with disabilities under a contract with the HSE.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Gilliland, expressed his concerns over community reaction to this development on social media which includes speculation that this development will house migrants and in some instances threats of damage to the premises by individuals. Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Gilliland issued caution to those utilising social media in a threatening manner and hopes the information provided by Learghusa brings clarification to the community on the matter.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Gilliland advised that community members in Ballybay also expressed their concerns to him about the future use of the Riverdale Hotel which is currently undergoing refurbishment. He has spoken to the building owner and has been reliably informed this development is to house a workforce for 2 large employers in the region.

Following discussion by the Elected Members, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Gilliland was commended by all on his fact checking efforts. Elected Members noted their concerns regarding information sharing by Government to communities in relation to rehoming of migrants into communities and also expressed concerns regarding the capacity of local G. P's, Schools, Housing etc. within a given locality to cater for an increasing population.

#### **4. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator.**

##### **Town & Village Scheme 2021**

###### Public realm Enhancement Clones: -

**Item 1 Ball Alley:-** A Part VIII planning Application for the Ball Alley will be forwarded for sectional review next month.

The proposed development will consist of Infrastructural improvements to improve car parking, traffic flow and pedestrian facilities.

1. New one-way system westbound along Abbey Street towards Ball Alley.
2. New footpaths along Ball Alley and Abbey Street.
3. Widening of existing footpaths along Cara Street and Abbey Street.
4. Kerb buildout at junction between Cara Street and Ball Alley.
5. Kerb buildout at junction between Abbey Street and McCurtain Street.
6. Kerb buildout at junction between Abbey Street and Analore Street.
7. Road raising along Ball Alley on approach to Cara Street.
8. Road raising at junction of Cara Street and Ball Alley.
9. Raised courtesy crossing on Cara Street and Ball Alley.
10. New controlled pedestrian crossing on McCurtain Street.
11. Creation of shared space at Ball Alley.
12. New carpark off Abbey Street.
13. Soft landscaping.
14. Installation of new signs.
15. All enabling works.

**Item 2 Diamond Area: -** A Part VIII planning Application for the Diamond Area will be forwarded for sectional review and comment next month.

The proposed development will consist of Infrastructural improvements to improve car parking and pedestrian facilities.

1. Road raising along Fermanagh Street on approach to the Diamond.
2. Raised courtesy crossings on Fermanagh Street and McCurtain Street.
3. Realigned existing parallel parking into diagonal orientation along Fermanagh Street.
4. Additional parking spaces at the southern section of the Diamond and Fermanagh Street.
5. Kerb buildout and junction tightening between Fermanagh Street and N54.
6. New EV car parking spaces and disabled spaces.
7. Relocated and additional seating in both sections of the Diamond.
8. Soft landscaping and tree planting.
9. Installation of new signs.
10. All enabling works.

## **Town & Village Scheme 2022**

### Streetscape enhancements on Fermanagh Street and town centre: -

Works to enhance the façades on Fermanagh St and the town centre has now finished.

### Clones Town – Development of Micro Park –

Works are substantially complete.

### Development of the Farmer Yard Clones

Phase 1 works are complete additional proposed Phase 2 works will go to tender early next month.

### Village Plan Drum: –

Two of the three proposed facilitating meetings has taken place with the third to place following the local AGM.

### Village Plan Rockcorry: –

The last of the three facilitating meetings took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January. A one-year Implementation Plan has been developed by community leaders representing a range of community organizations from Rockcorry on foot of the facilitating meetings. The one-year plan sets out the actions required across year one to begin the process of delivering the Vision Plan for Rockcorry.

### Corrybrennan Park Playpark: –

An approved Playground Equipment Contractor has commenced enabling works and its is envisaged works will be completed in May this year.

## **Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2021**

### Ballybay to Castleblayney Greenway: -

An Options Selection Report and associated cost deliverables have been issued to Monaghan County Council. An emerging preferred route has been identified and Engineering staff are reviewing same.

Final Public consultation regarding the preferred route will take place on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of March in Doohamlet Community Centre from 12.00-20:00hrs.

## **Outdoor Recreation Schemes 2022**

### Dartry Forest

This project is at tender assessment stage, and it is envisaged that a Construction contractor will be appointed next month.

#### Dromore Blueway –

A Public Information evening was held in Scoil Eanna Ballybay on the Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 this information provided members of the public to view the proposed infrastructural proposal along the Dromore River from Ballybay to Lisanlong. Part VIII Planning has been submitted and a decision is due in the coming weeks.

### **Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2023 Project Development Measure (PDM)**

#### Drum Lough Circular Walkway

Funding of €50,000 has been received recently from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Project Development Measure (PDM) of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2023 for a proposed Circular walkway at Drum Lough. Members of the Executive to meet with local people next month to discuss same.

### **PEACEPLUS Theme 1.4**

#### Peace Link Extension

Details for the proposed scheme have been finalised and an application for PEACEPLUS Theme 1.4 funding was submitted in September of last year and we are awaiting an update.

### **PEACEPLUS Theme 4.2 Healthy & Inclusive Communities**

The MD are preparing a funding application with partners from Cavan County Council, Fermanagh Omagh District Council under Peace + for the Ulster Canal Workers Cottages. At present there is no date of when the application process will open however the MD are liaising with Clones Development Society regarding the application.

### **Rural Regeneration & Development fund Scheme Fifth Call 2023**

#### Clones Regeneration Hubs (Heritage and Enterprises) Plan.

This MD has applied under the Fifth Call for Category 1 for the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) for Clones Regeneration Hubs (Heritage and Enterprise). This application includes the proposed Business Hub on Fermanagh St and the Lennard Arms (Monastic Centre) MacCurtain Street/Analore Street/The Diamond, Crossmoyle.

#### Ballybay Library –

WGG Architects & Surveyors Ltd have been appointed as a multi-disciplinary design team for this project. Prestart meeting took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February at the Market House and preliminary surveys will take place in the coming weeks.

### Heritage Council Funding

#### Mott & Bailey Clones: -

Works have been substantially completed and final reports from the appointed Archaeologists and Architects have been forwarded to the National Monuments Services.

MD staff continue to pursue a lease agreement between the Church and Monaghan County Council. Monaghan County Council have secured the site of the bailey by erected fencing in agreement with the Church.

### Active Travel 2023

Project Code:	Project Name	Estimate Completion Period	2023 Allocation	Comments
MN/21/0020	Low Cost Junction Tightening - Newbliss (where R189 meets R183). Possibility of including Analore Street	Q3 (Design only)	€50,000	Tobins presented option, Meeting held with MD 31ST Jan to discuss, and alterations to be made by Tobins. Positioning of Bus stops to be altered and possible upgraded.
MN/22/0001	Clones Peace Link AT Scheme	Q4 2023	€75,000	A value engineering exercise is in progress on the project to deliver the scheme. S Wilkin started on site on 27.11.23. Tree cutting is complete and off site, as agreed with the client. Waste management plan in place. House demolished and bulk dig commenced.
MN/22/0004	Lough Egish Village AT Scheme	Q1 2024	€225,000	Works progressing. Accommodation works details to be confirmed and agreed. Foundations complete, wall formwork 70% complete.
MN/23/0005	Clones - Tirnahinch Rd Footpath	Q4 2023	€323,000	Works progressing. Footpaths 95% complete. Fencing works are ongoing. Completion Q1 2024. Lighting 90%, ESB to complete the connection. Eir & NBI to underground lines when poles relocated

MN/23/0011	Scotshouse Village AT	Q3 2023	€43,000	School footpath contract complete. Clar project parking spaces complete.
MN/23/0012	Smithboro - Magherarney Footpath	Q2 2023	€68,000	Contract complete.
MN/23/0014	Ballybay Footpath - R162 Monaghan Rd	Q2 2023	€57,000	Construction complete.
MN/23/0015	Clones - Cannons Lane Footpath	Q2 2023	€56,000	Works complete.
MN/23/0018	SRTS - St Tiarnachs		€10,000	An Taisce, MD, AT & School held meeting on 1st Feb at school to discuss a delivery plan. An Taisce to make changes as discussed. School requires as detailed report for discussion internally.
MN/23/0020	Urban Mobility/Sustainability AT Plans (Castleblayney, Ballybay, Clones, Carrickmacross)		€65,000	The NTA has reviewed Clones plan and returned comments.

### **Community Recreation Fund 2023**

#### 98 Avenue Bus Stop: -

A funding allocation of €120,000 has been received. The appointed design consultant and Engineering staff are at present examining preliminary design proposals in conjunction the National Transport Authority.

#### Outdoor Fitness Equipment Peace Link: -

A funding allocation of €45,000 has been received. This project is completed.

#### New Playground equipment for Ballybay Town Park: -

Funding allocation of €120,000 has been received. Works are nearing completion.

### **Waterways Irelands Ulster Canal**

#### Clones Marina

Phase 2 works are ongoing to restore a 1km section of the canal and construct a 42-berth marina in Clones, the target completion date is May 2024.

#### Tourism Hub

Waterways Ireland, Board Failte and Monaghan County Council are at present developing a vision plan for a new Tourism Hub/ water-based asset along the Ulster Canal which is being restored and rediscovered on a phased basis.

Following on from a Market soundings exercise, Waterways Ireland propose to go out to market for the Operation of Concessions at Clones Marina. These will be presented as 2 Lots.

- Lot 1: Outdoor Activity Concession
- Lot 2: Catering Concession

#### Ulster Canal - Clones to Smithboro Greenway: -

Section 50 Applications have been made to the OPW.

Draft Part VIII Designs and Assessment have been forwarded to the relevant section for review and amendments following this review are ongoing to the Design Report.

#### **Proposed Public CCTV Schemes.**

##### **Ballybay CCTV: -**

A consultant has been appointed to carry out a survey to examine the feasibility of a CCTV scheme in the town. An assessment of suitable locations for the system in consultation with reps from Monaghan County Council and An Garda Siochana was completed and Engineering staff are reviewing preliminary designs. Public Consultation on the preliminary design will take place next month.

##### **Clones CCTV: -**

A meeting with Engineering staff and the Design Security Consultant will take place next month on site.

##### **Ballybay Fire Station**

Construction is ongoing at Ballybay Fire Station and is due for completion by the end of 2024 and operational in Q1 2025.

##### **Ballybay Town Team**

A meeting was scheduled to take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February between the Ballybay town team and members of the Executive however this meeting failed to proceed due to the quorum not being available. Please see correspondence.

##### **Billy Fox Memorial Event the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2024**

The steering group has met on three occasions to plan the event. Draft event plans consist of commencement at 12:30hrs at Billy Fox Park Bawn, proceeding to Christ Church Aughanmullen for a service at 15:00hrs finishing with refreshments at Latton GAA Complex from 16:30hrs. Invitations for the event will be issued in the coming days.

##### **Traffic Warden**

The traffic warden is present in the district on a weekly basis.

### **Actions Arising from MD Report**

Members welcomed this report.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland requested that Correspondence issues to Ballybay Town Team in follow up to the MD Co-Ordinators letter of February 7<sup>th</sup> which remains unanswered. Cllr. Gilliland will attend the next Ballybay Town Team Meeting.

Cllr. Pat Treanor requested the Public Realm Enhancement Clones would go to public consultation as there will be significant changes to parking and traffic flow in Clones. Staff advised Part VIII Planning includes public consultation. Cllr. Hugh McElvaney expressed concerns regarding kerb build out as streets are already narrow in Clones. Cllr. McElvaney requested a guided walk-through on proposals under Public Realm Enhancement, the Ball Alley & Diamond Area. Staff confirmed this will be organised for the March Municipal District Meeting.

Cllr. Treanor requested, that a Letter issue to the owners of the Paragon Bar to seek clarification on future plans for the building. Cllr. Treanor enquired as to plans for the Old Cinema Site Fermanagh Street, Clones. Staff advised the cinema site and the Lennard Arms have been submitted as a joint application under RRDF for redevelopment and a decision on this application is awaited from the Department.

Cllr. Richard Truell requested that Carrowbarra Island Housing Estate Scotstown is Taken In Charge, also that traffic calming measures are examined in Rockcorry and in Smithborough, staff advised these items will be looked into.

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

#### **2024 Roads Programme**

- The programme for the 2024 roads programme has been adopted to include for 7 roads to be resurfaced.

#### **2024 Draft Restoration Improvement Programme**

Road No		Location	Comments
LP3401		McNallys cross to McVickors Cross	
LS7330		Terrygeely - 3 Roads - Mullanabattog - 4 Roads	Tullycorbet
LP2232/3		Drum village	
LT21122/23		Stone Bridge - Shankill	
LT71011		Carrickinare - 3 Roads South - Annahaia- 3 Roads	Gnaragh Lane
R212		Clones - Scotshouse Sections	
R190		Ballybay to Cootehill Section	

- Drainage works are complete on 2 of the roads;
  - LP3401 McNallys Cross to McVickors Cross
  - LT21122/23 Stonebridge to Shankill
- Roads have been measured up, tender documents complete and are currently out to tender.

### **Low Cost Safety Initiatives**

There was funding secured for 3 LCSI for 2024. The locations are;

- Maghernakelly R189/LT22803 JCT - €25,800
- Tossey Cross School – LP3131/LP4210/LS8200/LP3134 - €25,000
- Rockcorry – R193/188 JCT - €20,780.

Works are completed for the 2023 LCSI schemes at Camphill, Ballybay. There was an issue sourcing PVC fencing to match existing but has been ordered to complete the scheme at Dorothy's Cross at Ture.

### **My CoCo**

There are 59 entries on MyCoCo for Ballybay Clones MD. 34 of these are in progress, and 25 have the actions completed.

### **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 are following up on previous drainage notices issued to landowners.

Technical staff have been making themselves available to meet with landowners to discuss the drainage issues and confirm works requirements, and we are currently engaging with a few landowners to rectify the issues.

- 166 Drainage notices issued to date with 48 letters going out in February.
- 36 Closed off with works complete.
- 30 Referred to Roads for following up or legal proceedings.
- 16 Reminder Letter issued.
- 84 Opened/outstanding.

Following the substantial completion of the bulk excavations and muck shifting from Clones Marina, the contractor for Clones Marina is currently desilting gullies and drainage along the route within Clones.

### **Recent Storms**

The most recent storm has been storm Isha in January 2024 causing extensive damage across the county. All affected roads have been reopened.

### **Road Closures**

Following a road slippage at Drumgavny, the LS6521 remains closed from Alastair's Quarry gates to the JCT with LS6520 in the interest of public safety. Local diversions are in place. Works are ongoing on site installing an embankment and fencing at this location to ensure that the road is safe to reopen. The road will be reopened in the coming days, with plans to resurface a section of it later on this year where the road collapsed.

Following a recent bridge inspection, the bridge on the L40441 was found to be structurally unsafe and as a result, the L40441 road at Readuff is closed. Diversions are in place via Tullynamalra. Works

to rebuild the bridge are due to commence in early March. Ballybay Clones Municipal District have a gang carrying out works to the diversion route to complete drainage works and patching.

### **Patching**

A crew is continuing with patching the roads within the MD.

### **Greenans Cross**

Following receipt of representations from residents at Greenans Cross, a speed survey was carried out. Data from this survey has been sent to An Garda Roads Policing for consideration.

An additional request was made for a bus shelter at this location. Engineering staff met on site with community group representatives and are currently in discussions with Local Link in relation to user numbers at this location and are finalising a proposal to bring back to the residents in relation to the bus stop.

### **Public Lighting**

Lights have been repaired/replaced at the Clones Round Tower and Wee Abbey following failure of some of the lamps.

Cherry Park in Clones lighting levels have diminished below an acceptable standard. The lamps at this location were some of the first in the county to have the lamps replaced with LED lamps under the energy efficiency programme. Light levels for some of these early fittings had reduced with time, so these are to be replaced along with 1 no additional light fitted before the end of March.

An additional light is to be added at Abbey Street in Clones following an assessment that has identified light levels below an acceptable standard.

### **Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works**

The County received €380,000 in funding under Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works Funding, with 1 no project in Monaghan MD at €100,000 and 3 no projects in Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD totaling €280,000.

Funding applications for 2024 were unsuccessful for Ballybay Clones Municipal District as they received no funding.

### **Kilnacran Drainage**

In 2023, Ballybay Clones MD received funding for Kilnacran under Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works. McCloy Consulting Engineers have been appointed Hydrologist to complete the hydraulic modelling at Kilnacran to produce a design to reduce flooding and divert water off the road at Kilnacran, but without the funding it is unclear how far the design can progress.

### **Actions Arising from Engineers Report**

Members welcomed this report. Following discussion among the Members, Staff responded to queries arising. O'Neill Park car parking arrangements will be further examined, the R183 Annalore to Clones Road has a gang going out this week to patch. Rockcorry has a Low Cost Safety Scheme in place which will see traffic calming addressed. The speed survey undertaken at Greenan's cross showed 22% violations for speeding and this data has been passed onto An Garda Síochána. The

road network in the Drummonds, Scotshouse area is scheduled on the 26/27 Roads Programme and has a lot of surface water running onto it which needs to be addressed – drainage notices will issue.

Elected Members discussed and noted the road patching system is not as effective as the previous method and queried the compacting system. Patching practices will be examined.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland requested clarification regarding the failure of Kilnacran Drainage project to secure further funding under Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works as €150 thousand has been spent to date developing this project. Gareth McMahon Director of Services advised notification of a funding allocation to Monaghan County Council under this scheme does not provide a breakdown. Currently the allocation is for 4 specific projects in the amount of €380 thousand. If any of the selected projects have excess money MCC do have discretion to redirect this, and clarification on the current funding allocation will be sought.

Cllr Richard Truell requested that correspondence is issued to Local Link regarding the introduction of a Ballybay to Carrickmacross bus service as there currently is no service on this route.

Members also request the introduction of a Local Link Bus Service to Rockcorry along the R189 Monaghan to Cootehill road. As there is a reliability and cost issue with the current Bus Eireann service, for example passengers traveling home from Cavan/Cootehill at 5/6pm in the evening cannot depend on this service running. The service hours also see the last bus depart from Monaghan to Rockcorry at 4:15pm. This service is inadequate for the community of Rockcorry.

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

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

Cllr. Richard Truell raised his concerns regarding Energia Windfarm Newbliss and the reinstatement of roads outside of those set out in their planning conditions, questioning if by Energia utilising CIS will other applicants loose out. Cllr. Truell proposed that Energia are informed off the repercussions of overprescription to the CIS scheme and the potential of local communities being unsuccessful in securing funding if Energia is to succeed in their application.

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

Cllr. Truell requested consideration of installation of a bus shelter in Rockcorry, Staff advised there is an ongoing review on Local Link Routes and their bus stops. There is an allocation under Active Travel for new bus shelters and such requests can be considered under this.

## **7. CE Orders.**

Noted

**8. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.**

Condolences to Anna McAvinney on the passing of her husband Jimmy McAvinney of Bullogbreen, Clones, Co. Monaghan.

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

**9. Date of March meeting (March 25<sup>th</sup> due to Bank Holiday)**

**10. AOB.**

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland requested that a scoping exercise is undertaken on No. 3 Main Street Ballybay to explore the potential development of this premises into a community centre.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator  
Date, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024