

## The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 10am, Birch Court, Ballybay.

**Members Present:** The Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland presided,  
The following members were also present: Cllrs: Pat Treanor, Richard Truell, Seamus Coyle and Hugh McElvaney.

**Apologies:** Martin Taylor A/Executive Engineer

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

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed Brian Courtney Assistant Engineer and Ronan Watterson of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones.

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

Cllr. Richard Truell requested an amendment to December 2023 minutes, page 11.

*Cllr. Richard Truell sought an update on installation of regional road signage on the R181. Staff advised that 5 sections have been reviewed and signage ordered.*

Requesting that Road Number R181 is amended to the R189

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

Cllr Richard Truell proposed December 2023 monthly meeting minutes, Cllr Hugh McElvaney 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, welcoming the response from Clones St. Tiarnach's GFC regarding their application under the Sports Capital Equipment Programme for floodlighting. It was noted by Members the cost of this will be €1 million and the maximum award under this grant if successful is €500,000 therefore match funding would be required.

Members noted a response has not been received from Ulster GAA and Monaghan GAA who also received correspondence on this matter Cllr. Hugh McElvaney requested that this is followed up with both.

Local Link's correspondence regarding Members request for additional services was discussed, Members commended the existing service provided, however expressed their disappointment at their response advising that they cannot make amendments to current services at this time.

Progress on the previously proposed provision of a bus Stop at Greenan's Cross was discussed. Staff advised a report on this matter will be available for February's meeting.

Members discussed Energia Renewables agreed road works which they are obliged to undertake for Drumlin Wind Farm and the potential use of CIS by them. It was unanimously agreed correspondence issued to Kevin West, A/Senior Engineer, Roads Section will be followed up on by Gareth McMahon Director of Services and he will revert to Members on this matter.

Members expressed their concerns regarding the availability of CIS to all applicants and questioned if Energia Renewables utilisation of this would impact the successful award of funding to local communities.

Gareth McMahon, Director of Services informed Members there are currently a number of local community applications for CIS and these will be given priority. He is unaware if Energia Renewables have made an application and will revert to Members on this matter at the February meeting.

Proposals arising from correspondence received:

*Request Local Link to re-examine their timetable and additional bus services to the 176 route and that a Ballybay to Carrickmacross bus service is introduced as currently there is no service on this route.*

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

Gareth McMahon, Director of Services in his capacity as a Local Link Board Member will discuss the installation of a bus shelter located at Greenan's Cross and additional bus services at the upcoming meeting and report to Members.

**4. Consideration of report on PSCI Ratings for roads rated 1-4 in Ballybay/Clones Municipal District  
Brian Courtney, Assistant Engineer, Ballybay/Clones Municipal District.**

Brian Courtney, Assistant Engineer, Ballybay/Clones Municipal District presented a report on Ballybay/Clones Municipal District PSCI Ratings for roads rated 1-4. Ratings of 1-4 outline roads that have structural distress and require full construction. The ratings are based on most recent surveys, Regional Road Survey 2023, Local Road Survey 2022. Regional Roads are surveyed each year and Local Roads are surveyed at least every 5 years. There is 143km of Regional and Local Roads in Ballybay/Clones Municipal District with PSCI rating of 1-4.

## Conclusion

Total Area of Road with 1 to 4 Rating		Square metre rate to include preparation work, drainage and new surface course		TOTAL ESTIMATE
m <sup>2</sup>		€ / m <sup>2</sup>		
511286	x	43.00	=	€22 million

Based on the funding of €3.1million received for the 2023 Roads Improvement Programme, an estimate 7 years is required to overlay the 143km of road.

Members welcomed the clear and concise report and discuss the issues facing this Municipal District in Road Maintenance - that being the lack of funding. As there is no rail the road network is vital to members of our communities and businesses whether it is traveling to work or transporting products. Taxes paid e.g. car tax; insurance should see the provision of a good road network; however the reality is that road conditions are below standard and for example there is a 46% NCT failure rate in this area.

Members commended the efforts of the Roads Department for introducing new road maintenance systems in efforts to make funding received go further and gain additional kilometres. The measure of public road abandonment will not be supported by Members.

### **5. Consideration of report on O’Neill Park Clones – Ronan Watterson, Assistant Engineer, Ballybay/Clones Municipal District.**

Ronan Watterson, Assistant Engineer, Ballybay/Clones Municipal District presented his report on options for additional parking and/or alleviate current parking issues in O’Neill Park Clones. The following areas were examined 13 to 118 O’Neill Park – 106 units, Carn View – 11 units and Carn Heights – 20 units.

Cars currently park on one side of the road which results in insufficient room for two-way traffic. Traffic operates in one direction at a time by means of an unofficial ‘Give and Take’ scenario to pass on the other half of the road.

6 options were explored;

- 1) Infill Parking
- 2) 47 to 66 Backlands Field
- 3) Weather Station Field
- 4) Construct Parking Space on Private Garden
- 5) Formalise On-street Parking
- 6) Road Widening

Each presenting advantages and disadvantages due to costing, logistics and availability of land. Members welcomed this informative report, noting the need for additional parking in this location and the issues it presents for residents. It was unanimously agreed a combination of the options

presented today may need to be explored to address parking issues and the finalised option should be presented to Members when formulated.

#### **6. Consideration of naming recommendation for housing developments in Clones and Ballybay; – Planning.**

Matthew Lambe A/Municipal District Co-Ordinator presented the following proposal for the naming of housing developments in Clones and Ballybay.

- An Coiste Logainmneacha of the name of ***Ard na Gréine***, which translates as ***Height of the Sun***, for proposed development for social housing units on Old Scoil Mhuire site, Roslea Road, Largy, Clones for Monaghan County Council
- An Coiste Logainmneacha of the name of ***An Clós***, which translates as ***The Yard***, for proposed development for 7 social housing units on lands off Main Street, Cornamuckglass, Ballybay for Monaghan County Council

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

*Cllr. Hugh McElvaney proposed a letter of thanks to The Housing Minister Darragh O'Brien on his visit to Co Monaghan in December 2023 to announce the delivery and purposed delivery of social and affordable homes in the county which will see the delivery of 7 Social Homes in Ballybay.*

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

#### **7. Report by Municipal District Co-Ordinator.**

Matthew Lambe A/Municipal District Co-Ordinator presented the Municipal District Report to the Members.

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

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

This works includes the diversion of cabling, new heritage public lighting standards, pedestrian prioritisation, and car park upgrade. Part 8 Planning permission is required for traffic changes and the implementation of a proposed one-way system on Wee Abbey Street. At present designs are being prepared for the scheme. A Part VIII planning application will be submitted later this month.

##### **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 ongoing and will be completed in Q1 of 2024.

###### **Development of the Farmer Yard Clones**

Works to be completed in Q1 of 2024.

#### 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: –

Part VIII planning has been granted. An approved Playground Equipment Contractor is programmed to commence works later this month.

### **Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2021**

#### Castleblayney to Ballybay 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.

In accordance with the Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenway, Monaghan County Council will have to appoint an Independent Agronomist. The Agronomist will be available to farmers and landowners to discuss any agronomy issues or concerns that arise at this stage of the project. Engineering staff are at present endeavouring to procure an Agronomist.

Final Public consultation regarding the preferred route will take place in Q1 of 2024.

### **Outdoor Recreation Schemes 2022**

#### Dartry Forest

This project is at procurement stage, and it is envisaged that a construction contractor will be appointed in Q1 of 2024.

#### Dromore Blueway –

The Council is continuing to advance the Dromore River Blueway project. Part 8 planning permission has been submitted last week. Discussions have taken place with landowners regarding the proposal. Public Consultation will be carried out 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.

### **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 this year.

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

#### Clones Business Hub-

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced on the 10th of November 2023 that the Fifth Call for Category 1 proposals for the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) is now open and has a closing date for receipt of application on the Thursday 8th February 2024. An application for The Clones Business Hub will be examined with the view of applying for funding.

The MD are also preparing a funding application with partners from Cavan County Council, Fermanagh Omagh District Council under Peace + for the business Hub. At present there is no date of when the application process will open however the MD have acquired all lands and have Part VIII planning permission in place.

#### Ballybay Library –

A letter of agreement has been issued to appoint a multi-disciplinary design team for this project.

### **Heritage Council Funding**

#### Mott Clones: -

Works have been substantially completed.

#### Bailey Clones: -

MD staff are pursuing 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.

### **Traffic Warden**

A full-time traffic warden was appointed in December of 2023 to the Ballybay Clones MD and the Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD and has been present in the district on a weekly basis.

### **Active Travel 2023**

<b>Project Code:</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>2023 Allocation</b>	<b>Comments</b>
MN/21/0020	Low-Cost Junction Tightening - Newbliss (where R189 meets R183).	€50,000	Consultant has been appointed. Topographical survey has been completed. BCMD provided speed surveys for Newbliss.

MN/22/0001	Clones Peace Link AT Scheme/St Tiernachs Plaza	€75,000	S Wilkin & Son Ltd has commenced works on site. Trees have been removed, and the demolition of the existing derelict house has started.
MN/22/0004	Lough Egish Village AT Scheme	€225,000	Works are ongoing and are at present the Contractor is constructing a reinforced concrete wall.
MN/23/0018	SRTS - St Tiernachs	€10,000	Draft delivery plan received, and MD Engineering staff are reviewing same. A Workshop to be arranged with An Taisce.
MN/23/0020	Urban Mobility/Sustainability AT Plans (Castleblayney, Ballybay, Clones, Carrickmacross)	€65,000	The Active Travel Unit and the MD have reviewed plans and are awaiting the re-issue of the plans to include Analore Street.
MN/23/0014	Ballybay Footpath - R162 Monaghan Rd	€57,000	Outstanding footpath construction was recently completed.
MN/23/0015	Clones - Cannons Lane Footpath	€56,000	This project is substantially completed.
MN/23/0005	Clones - Tirnahinch Rd Footpath	€323,000	This project is substantially completed with utility and accommodation works outstanding.
MN/23/0012	Smithboro - Magherarney Footpath	€68,000	This Works is substantially completed.
MN/23/0011	Scotshouse Village AT	€43,000	Works to rear of School and Car Park is completed. This MD has discussed the possibility of the installation of Pedestrian Crossing was with the Active Travel unit.

### **Community Recreation Fund 2023**

#### 98 Avenue Bus Stop: -

A funding allocation of €120,000 has been received. A design consultant has been appointed.

#### 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. Excavation works to commence later this month and installation of new equipment to be completed in Q1 of this year.

**Clones Marina**

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.

This proposed vision has been tested through a very well-attended public consultation and is now undergoing an expression of interest process. This process is seeking to engage with suitable interested parties in delivering a high-quality visitor experience(s) and community resource, with a focus on both on-water and land-based activities for the facility.

**Waterways Irelands Ulster Canal**

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 April 2024.

Ulster Canal - Clones to Smithboro Greenway: -

Environmental reports have now been approved by the TII. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) + Appropriate Assessment screening determinations are to be completed prior to lodging a planning application. Design reports are currently being reviewed by the TII. On receipt of all designs, assessment, and sectional consultations it is planned to submit official Part VIII planning application in Q1 2024.

**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 in Q1 of 2024.

**Clones CCTV: -**

Engineering staff have received a fee proposal from an experienced Security Consultant to carry out a survey and prepare preliminary designs for a CCTV system in the town and are examining same.

**The Alders Ballybay**

This estate has been taken in charge by Monaghan County Council.

**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 is scheduled to take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February between the Ballybay town team and members of the Executive.

### **Clones Town Team**

A meeting is scheduled to take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January between the Clones town team and members of the Executive.

### **Actions arising from MD Report**

Members welcomed this report and discussed the Bikers Memorial which the Gone But Not Forgotten Committee are seeking to put into the Marina. Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator updated Members advising he has met with this committee and informed them as this site is under the control of Water Ways Ireland their permission would be required. The committee have since submitted correspondence to Water Ways Ireland on this matter. Cllr. Treanor requested that a letter of support from Ballybay/Clones Municipal District would issue to Water Ways Ireland, which was unanimously agreed by all.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland requested that Ballybay Town Team provide a workplan detailing upcoming events and any assistance required, the next meeting is scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Cllr Coyle & Cllr Truell requested that engineering staff examine the corner approaching Erica's Fairy Forest following the recent fatality, suggesting perhaps VRS is installed adjacent to the wall on the inbound lane to Cootehill

Cllr. Treanor requested that angling initiatives for the Marina will be investigated, Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator informed Members he has spoken to the angling representatives and will be setting a plan in place.

Following requests from Members for additions to the Salting Route, Gareth McMahon Director of Services, informed Members Roads will endeavour to get to routes not included on Salting Routes. Requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis with consideration primarily given to schools, creches, nursing homes and places of worship. Monaghan County Council are acquiring additional vehicles for salting, and this will give more capacity to get to areas beyond the salting route.

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

Matthew Lambe A/Municipal District Co-Ordinator presented the Roads Report to the Members.

#### **2024 Roads Programme**

- The programme for the 2024 roads programme has been adopted at the December meeting.
- Drainage works are substantially complete on 2 of the roads – LP3401 McNallys Cross to McVickors Cross, and LT21122/23 Stonebridge to Shankill.
- Engineering staff have commenced measuring the roads for the 2024 roads programme for tendering.

### **Low Cost Safety Initiatives**

There was funding secured for 2 LCSIs for 2023. The locations are Camphill, Ballybay and Dorothy's Cross at Ture. Works are complete at Camphill and substantially complete at Dorothy's Cross.

### **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.

### **Kilnacran Drainage**

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. We have met with local residents and landowners to get a better understanding of the issues.

### **Recent Storms**

We have had more storms, namely Storm Gerrit. The MD had trees down and roads blocked due to flooding. Roads have been cleared and have since reopened. Additional works are required at LP4004 at Corrinenty following the blockage of the drainage network.

The MD has recently applied for additional funding under Climate Adaptation and Resilience Funding to tackle a number of these areas that regularly flood by way of clearing drainage channels/streams etc. or raising the road level above the flood plain.

### **Winter Maintenance**

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January, unexpected rainfall fell on cold frozen surfaces causing hazardous conditions. Ballybay Clones Municipal District implemented its Severe Winter Weather Plan at 8am and arranged for salting of the towns and footpaths. The office was inundated with requests for salting, and crews were dispatched dropping off salt at locations throughout the MD

### **Road Closures**

Following a road slippage at Drumgavny, the LS6521 is 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 to install 120m of a large diameter drainage pipe at this location to ensure that the road is safe to reopen. Works are expected to be completed and the road reopened within two weeks.

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. Roads Section of MCC have appointed a design team to produce a design for the replacement bridge, and a topographical survey has been carried out. Ecological surveys are to take place and it is hoped that a

design will be available in the coming weeks. Ballybay Clones Municipal District are sending a gang to the diversion route this week to carry out drainage works and patching.

### **Patching**

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

### **Actions arising from Engineers Report**

Members welcomed this report and commended salting efforts during the severe weather occurrences. Cllr. Treanor requested that LCSi would include Scarvaghy Road LS6240 at the junction with R183, also that reserved lands for Clones Bypass would be examined in the New County Development Plan as this is causing problems with planning applications on these sites.

Cllr. Truell raised concerns regarding deteriorating road conditions due to transportation of site material from the Ulster Canal and asked if Water Ways Ireland will repair these roads.

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

### **10. CE Orders**

Noted.

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

Congratulations to Christmas Light Committees in Ballybay/Clones Municipal District on their wonderful Christmas displays.

Proposed by Cllr. Seamus Coyle and unanimously agreed by all.

### **12. AOB**

Cllr. Coyle requested the Clones Road and the Castleblayney Road out of Ballybay town are examined as there are issues with speeding and dangerous overtaking occurring on the bad corners.

It was noted as a point of information by Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Gilliland, works to the Primary Care Unit in Ballybay are underway again.

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator  
Date, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024