

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday July 15th, 2024, 10am, The Market House, The Diamond, Clones.

Members Present: Cathaoirleach Cllr Richard Truell presided, the following members were also present: Cllrs: Pat Treanor, Sean Gilliland, and Sinead Flynn.

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 Richard Truell welcomed all to the July meeting of Ballybay/Clones Municipal District extending welcome to Elected Members, staff and Northern Standard Reporter Veronica Corr noting the importance of coverage of the MD monthly meeting and thanking Veronica for attending.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr Sean Gilliland proposed June 2024 monthly meeting minutes, Cllr Pat Treanor 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.

Staff provided clarification to Cllr. Treanor regarding the Derelict Sites correspondence received from Regeneration Officer Kevin McNally. Property referenced at Analore St. Clones is the yard and not the Garda Station. Section 8(2) notices have issued to the OPW and currently awaiting engagement.

Cllr. Treanor welcomes Water Ways Ireland correspondence detailing the opening hours of the Marina public toilets, Cllr. Treanor proposes that further correspondence is issued to Water Ways Ireland requesting the opening times are extended to 9pm.

Cllr. Gilliland welcomed the Regeneration correspondence and noted derelict site procedure is applied equally to all including OPW, state buildings cannot be left vacant and derelict, and he looks forward to the OPW response on these properties. Cllr. Gilliland welcomes the prompt responses from Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, however, notes medical card eligibility continues to be means tested. Cllr. Gilliland feels a consultant's letter which gives a diagnosis of cancer or incurable disease should automatically qualify that patient for a medical card. Lobbying of this issue will need to be pushed harder and perhaps amendments to means testing in certain cases could be considered.

Cllr. Flynn requested clarification as to who key members of staff referenced in Regeneration Officer Kevin McNally's correspondence re. derelict sites are. Staff advised this will be OPW staff.

Regarding repurposing of Garda Stations in Newbliss and Smithborough Cllr. Flynn requested that community engagement is undertaken prior to decisions on the future of these buildings.

4. Consideration of report on Ballybay Market House – Craig Connolly, Assistant Engineer Ballybay/Clones Municipal District.

Engineer Craig Connolly presented his report on Architectural Conservation & Refurbishment of the Ballybay Market House to a Public Library and Community Hub to the Elected Members.

Wynne Gormley Gilsean Architects were appointed in January 2024, this project has an indicative budget of €2.5m - €2.8m.

Preliminary designs facilitate a children's library, reception area, office space, public toilets and access stairway on the ground floor. The first floor will house an adult library area, entrance & exit to 1st & 2nd floor, plant & store area, public toilets and access stairway. The second floor will house the chamber meeting room, community space, entrance & exit to 1st & 2nd floor, plant & store area, public toilets and access stairway.

All Elected Members welcomed the report and acknowledged the need for a community space in Ballybay. Unanimously agreeing this development will address dereliction and deliver on the much-requested community space by the Town Team and people of Ballybay.

Staff advised the completion date is Q1 2027, remote working hubs are not included in this development but will be considered for other buildings in Ballybay, Part VIII is required. There is no provision for parking in this plan, the Municipal District is actively looking for additional sites to provide parking.

5. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator

Matthew Lambe Municipal District Co-Ordinator presented his report to the Elected Members.

Town & Village Scheme 2021

Public realm Enhancement Clones: -

Item 1 Ball Alley:- A Part 8 VII planning Application for the Ball Alley will be forwarded for sectional review. Following the walk about after the March meeting with Engineering staff and elected member, Engineering staff have met with the Design Consultants to discuss possible design solutions for improved slight visibility and parking at the junction of the N54 and the ball alley. A draft design is now available for review.

Item 2 Diamond Area: - A Part 8 VII 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.

Town & Village Scheme 2022

Development of the Farmer Yard Clones

Phase 1 works are complete additional proposed Phase 2 works are at tender stage.

Corrybrennan Park Playpark: –

Works are completed and commissioned; Minister Humphries will officially open the play park on the 26th of July.

Town & Village Scheme 2023

Market House Ballybay

Funding of €250k has been received for Public Realm enhancement works to area and streetscape of the Market House. This works will be incorporated into the overall Market House project.

Clones Youth Centre

Funding of €250k has been received for the refurbishment of Clones Youth Centre. Engineering staff in consultation with reps from CMYWI are discussing how best to proceed with the project.

Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2021

Ballybay to Castleblayney Greenway: -

The Route Options Selection for the Ballybay to Castleblayney Greenway has now been completed and the Preferred Route Option has been developed. Phase 2 of this project is now completed. As this proposed section of the Greenway forms part of the National Cycle Network, a copy of this report will be forwarded to both the TII and the NTA to determine how best to progress this project to the next phase.

Outdoor Recreation Schemes 2022

Dartrey Forest

Works have commenced, bulk excavation has been completed and at present equipment is being installed the estimated completion date is Q4 of 2024.

Dromore Blueway –

As part of this project development funding, a Part VIII Planning was submitted and a there has been several submissions received regarding the proposal. On foot of these submissions additional surveys and reports must be completed and these are currently ongoing.

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. At present Engineering staff are preparing tender documents for the appointment of a design consultant and will meet with members of the Drum Development Association later this month.

Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2023

Measure 1

Funding of €30k has been granted for the upgrading Existing Pathways, Dromore West, through existing Fairy Forest to include widening and re- surfacing/Drainage of Existing Pathways. Restoration of Piers at Entrance and rebuilding of existing Bricks and pointing of same as specified including re-erecting of capping's.

Drumnate Lake

Funding of €30k has been granted for the improvement of access road to Drumnate Lake, Newbliss. This works will be completed in Q3 of this year.

Ballybay Wetlands

Funding of €198,833.00 has been granted for the Ballybay Wetlands Public Path Enhancement.

Gortnawhinny Lido

Funding of €119,560.00 has been granted for the Gortnawhinny Lido.

Dromore Blueway

Funding of €481,560 for the development of a Blueway from Ballybay to Lisalong has been received.

PEACEPLUS Theme 1.4

Peace Link Extension

An application for PEACEPLUS Theme 1.4 funding was submitted in September 2023 and the funding body has come back seeking clarifications on the proposed project and these queries are being examined.

Part VIII planning application for the proposed works will be submitted later this month.

Presentations will be made at the Corporate Policy Group in August and the County Council meeting in September.

PEACEPLUS Theme 4.2 Healthy & Inclusive Communities

The MD submitted a funding application with partners from Cavan County Council, Fermanagh Omagh District Council under Peace + for the Ulster Canal Workers Cottages. The closing date for receipt of applications was Thursday 23rd May 2024 and the MD are liaising with Clones Development Society regarding the application.

Rural Regeneration & Development fund Scheme

Newbliss Digital Enterprise Hub

Works are ongoing and are due to be completed in Q4 of 2024.

Rural Regeneration & Development fund Scheme Fifth Call 2023

Clones Regeneration Hubs (Heritage and Enterprises) Plan.

This MD has received €4.95m 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. The executive forwarded responses to the Department regarding construction timelines and capital drawdown dates earlier this month.

Ballybay Market House –

WGG Architects & Surveyors are carrying out all relevant surveys and have provided 3No. preliminary designs for the proposed building. These designs were examined by all relevant sections and stakeholders and are at present firming up a final design and floor plan layouts with a view to preparing detailed designs for a Part VII application in Q3 2024. Proposed layout will be represented to elected members at the July meeting.

Active Travel 2024

Project Code:	Project Name	Estimate Completion Period	Comments
MN/21/0020	Low Cost Junction Tightening - Newbliss (where R189 meets R183). Possibility of including Analore Street	Q3 (Design only)	Design had been prepared however the NTA have requested a review of the location to

			include a pedestrian crossing to the shop.
MN/22/0001	Clones Peace Link AT Scheme	Q2 2024	Construction works continuing site. ESB ducting completed Public Lighting on site 90% completed. Footway completed from O' Neill Tce to Peacelink. Construction commenced on footway on GAA side July 2024.
MN/22/0004	Lough Egish Village AT Scheme	Q3 2024	Construction works are continuing site. Shercock Rd alignment completed, and traffic diverted onto new road section. Eir diversion completed. Kerbing and footways underway around crossroads.
MN/23/0005	Clones - Tirnahinch Rd Footpath	Q2 2024	Footpaths completed. Fencing works are ongoing. Completion Q3 2024. Eir to underground lines when poles relocated. NBI then to relocate lines.
MN/23/0018	SRTS - St Tiarnachs	Q3 2024	School have reviewed the updated reports and responded (6/5/24) stating that they would not be partaking in the current round of safe routes to school.
MN/23/0020	Urban Mobility/Sustainability AT Plans (Castleblayney, Ballybay, Clones, Carrickmacross)	Q2 2024	A request from NTA for an SEA/AA screening (Strategic environmental assessment) to be carried out on Clones SMP. Quotations sought

			July 2024 from environmental specialists to carry out screening.
MN/24/XXXX	Bus Stop Enhancement Programme.	2024	Meeting to be held on the 18th of July with NTA & MCC, programme of bus stop locations and associated works to be agreed with the NTA in advance of any construction commencing.

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.

Community Centre Investment Fund –

Rockcorry Community Centre

The appointment of a design team is imminent for this project. A steering group will be formed, and an elected member will chair this group.

Waterways Irelands Ulster Canal

Clones Marina

Phase 2 works are completed on the restoration of a 1km section of the canal and construct a 42-berth marina in Clones.

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 went to market for the Operation of Concessions at Clones Marina in 2 lots.

- Lot 1: Outdoor Activity Concession Blue Green Yonder have been appointed.
- Lot 2: Catering Concession Clones Development (Canal Stores) has been appointed.

It is hoped that both Lots will be in operation in the coming weeks.

Ulster Canal - Clones to Smithboro Greenway: -

Stage 3 Flood Risk Assessment for the scheme has commenced as requested by TII and is due to be completed in August. Outputs from the FRA will be used to inform the detailed design of the scheme.

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. Data Protection Impact Assessment is being prepared at present for this scheme.

Clones CCTV: -

A meeting between Engineering staff and the Design Security Consultant took place last month on site to assess suitable locations and we are awaiting a preliminary design.

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.

Traffic Warden

The traffic warden is continuing to be present in the district on a weekly basis in both Ballybay & Clones.

Ballybay Library/Civic Building

Sander Construction have commenced works on the refurbishment works to the Ballybay Civic Building to convert to residential for the Ukrainian Humanitarian Response Initiative.

Bank Of Ireland Clones

Monaghan County Council has submitted a funding application in relation to this property under the Peace Plus Programme. The funding application is part of an East Border Region led application for Digi hubs in various regions. If the funding application is successful, the funds will be used to assist in the renovation of the ground floor.

Carrowbarrow:- Smithborough TIC

There is outstanding works of circa €50k and Monaghan County Council are pursuing the bond with the developer.

Ballybay Town Team

The town team will not run a community event on the 18th of August as previously suggested due to other similar events taking place in Ballybay over the summer.

2024 Community Recognition Fund

There was drop in information evenings in both Ballybay & Clones for the Community Recognition fund last month. This funding stream is to support communities that have welcomed people from Ukraine and other countries.

Project that will be funded include: -

- Development or refurbishment of community or cultural facilities including play areas, walkways, parks, community/sensory gardens, allotments, and recreational areas.
- Development or refurbishment of local club and sports facilities.
- Enhancement to school/parish facilities which are open to use by all of the community after school hours.
- Purchase of equipment for local clubs, festivals, community events and organisations

- Transport infrastructure such as community vehicles

There has been 6No. applications received from Communities in the Ballybay Clones area and these applications are currently being examined.

Town Re-Generation

There have been 71 properties identified as been derelict in the Ballybay and 65. in Clones by the Town Regeneration team. The properties are ranked in term location, prominence of location and intrusiveness. Derelict site notices will be posted via registered post to the owner but will also be attached to the property.

The Town Regeneration Team are placing section 8 (2) notices on properties.

To date there has been Section 8(2) notices in CLS/BBY area

- 12.no in Clones
- 17.no in Ballybay
- 4.no Newbliss

Additional Section 8 (2) notices will be issued in the coming weeks.

Ballybay Clones East Erne Partnership

A meeting took place on the 27th of June in the Clones

Black Pigs Dyke

An application has been made though Peace Plus 4.2 Rural regeneration and Social Inclusion for the provision of a visitor attraction at the historical site at Aghareagh West.

Brief synopsis below:

Led by East Border Region, this project collaborates with a consortium of partner councils to develop sustainable infrastructure that encourages an active lifestyle, bolsters rural enterprises, and boosts tourism. By enhancing green infrastructure and heritage sites, the project confronts these issues directly, aiming to revitalise these cross-border communities and foster a more connected sustainable future.

The consortium of partner councils are as follows: -

- Armagh Banbridge Craigavon DC
- Newry Mourne & Down DC
- Ards & North Down DC
- Monaghan Co Co
- Meath Co Co

Actions Arising from MD Report

Members welcomed this report and project progress in this Municipal District, commending staff. In response to Elected Members questions it was advised the proposed crossing in Newbliss has been submitted to NTA for feedback no surveys have been completed as off yet. Works in Dartrey Forest will include signage, upgrade of paths and installation of equipment.

Cllr. Truell requested that permanent toilets in Erica's Fairy Forest should be considered if any suitable funding opportunities arise, and that a defibrillator is installed in Ballybay Town Park beside

the bowls green. In reference to the nomination for an Elected Member to chair the steering group for the Rockcorry Community Centre project Cllr. Truell wishes to nominate himself.

Cllr. Gilliland requested clarification as to the roles of TII & NTA on the Ballybay to Castleblayney Greenway, Staff advised that TII hold national responsibility for greenways between urban areas and NTA have involvement in greenways between town and urban areas. Currently on this greenway the Option Selection Report has gone to NTA & TII for review and requires an allocation from NTA to progress. In relation to additional surveys required on Dromore Blueway Cllr. Gilliland requested additional engagement with landowners as he has received representation regarding a rock in the river that had a significant impact to flooding. Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator advised a public information event had taken place in March and was well attended, and Part VIII had been submitted, submissions have been received and surveys are currently being undertaken.

Cllr. Gilliland requested an update regarding reintroducing a bus service from Ballybay to Carrickmacross, Gareth McMahon Director of Services advised this item will be kept on the agenda. Cllr. Gilliland noted the CE Workers Scheme conditions have changed and are now less attractive and is affecting uptake, Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator will check these changes.

Cllr. Treanor welcomed the Peace Plus application for the Black Pigs Dyke but did express concern that the consortium does not include more local representation e.g. Fermanagh Omagh District Council, Cavan Council and Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership. In relation to nomination of an Elected Representative to chair Rockcorry Community Centre steering committee Cllr. Treanor noted he did attend all consultations in preparation of the Vision Plan which identified this project and implementation is now key & he maintains regular contact with community members in Rockcorry. Cllr. Treanor proposes the Cathaoirleach of the time would be the representative on this community steering committee, therefore the position will automatically rotate among the Elected Members of this MD. Cllr. Treanor requested that installation of bus shelter is included in the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme. In response to Cllr. Treanor's enquiries Gareth McMahon Director of Services advised he will consult with the Engineer working on the Bus Stop Enhancement programme regarding a bus shelter in Scotshouse. Cllr. Treanor proposed that correspondence is issued to Waterways Ireland regarding further development of the Ulster Canal. Gareth McMahon Director of Services advised Garret McGrath Regional Manager Waterways Ireland has advised they are actively looking for office space for Phase 3 of this project as this project is moving forward to the next phase.

Cllr. Sinead Flynn concurs with Cllr. Treanor's proposal to share the position for chair of Rockcorry Community Centre steering committee based on the rotation of Cathaoirleach of this MD.

Cllr. Gilliland noted while he supports Cllr. Treanor's proposal to rotate Chair, it would however be more consistent to have the same Chair for the duration of the project. Cllr. Gilliland noted to the best of his knowledge that a similar steering committee in Monaghan MD maintained the same Chair for their project duration. Cllr. Treanor expressed his dissatisfaction with this and recalled the official funding announcement of €2.7 million in April, where only Fine Gael Members got notification and were in attendance and if this was not a political stroke let's now prove it by working together and sharing the position of Chair.

Following discussion among all Elected Members it was agreed that Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator will liaise with the Capital Projects team regarding the requirements for the role of chair of this committee.

Gareth McMahon Director of Services advised Members we will get more information on the shape & structure of the steering committee. The Chair of this committee will not be involved in detailed design, there would be no issue regarding technical loss if the Chair was to change. The technical team will deal with the technical aspects of this project.

Cllr. Gilliland responded stating that while he understands Cllr. Treanor’s frustration, the funding announcement was not a political stroke and as previously stated the event was organised by the community. Cllr. Gilliland welcomes Gareth McMahon Director of Service’s input but believes maintaining the same Chair for the project duration will give consistency which is vital to avoiding any ambiguity. Cllr. Gilliland requested that an alternative solution would be that an Elected Member would not sit as Chair on this committee.

Cllr. Treanor proposed that in the interim until this is resolved that the current Cathaoirleach of this MD will sit as the steering committee Chair. Unanimously agreed by all.

6. Report by Municipal District Engineer.

Martin Taylor, Executive Engineer presented his report to the Elected Members.

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
LP3401	McNallys cross to McVickors Cross
LS7330	Terrygeely - 3 Roads - Mullanabattog - 4 Roads
LP2232/3	Drum village
LT21122/23	Stone Bridge - Shankill
LT71011	Carrickinare -3 Roads South - Annahaia- 3 Roads
R212	Clones - Scotshouse Sections
R190	Ballybay to Cootehill Section

- Drainage works are complete on all of the roads.
- TH Moore is carrying out works to the Urban Areas and Regional Roads
- John McQuillan Contracts Ltd are appointed for the Local Roads.
- L2232/23 Drum Village is complete.
- R212 Clones to Scotshouse Rd is complete.
- R190 Ballybay to Cootehill Rd is to commence at end of July/start of August.
- John McQuillan Contracts Ltd is to commence with local roads on 29th July and will be completed within a 4-week window.

2024 Restoration Maintenance Programme

Roads had been assessed for suitability for surface dressing with a total of 18 no roads identified, totaling 27km in length. Some of these roads required extensive preparation works to include drainage and bitmac patching/regulating.

Surface dressing in Ballybay Clones MD commenced on 21st May for 3 weeks with 16 no roads being completed.

The remaining 2 roads (R189 Newbliss to Threemilehouse Rd, and L7040 Latton 5 crosses to Derrygooney) will be completed in the coming weeks.

Road No	Location	Overall Length of road (m)	Length of SD only (m)	Width of Road (m)	Area Of SD Works (m2)
LT20322	Kilcorran Selloo	1468	1468	3.3	4844
LP2150	Magherarney - Carnowen	1723	1723	3.8	6547
LP2151	Carnowen - Killygorman	2141	2141	3.8	8136
LP2152	Killygorman - Shanco	1927	1927	3.8	7323
LS6250	Munnilly - Clonmore	1387	1387	3.6	4993
LT22102	Corconnolly (R212 - Ture)	668	668	3.3	2204
LT22414	Annaghraw Connons - Border to Border	1394	504	3.3	1663.2
LT22413	Annaghraw Connons - Border to Border	512	512	3.3	1689.6
LP2241	Drumhillagh	2946	420	3.6	1512
LT22412	Killynure	1505	442	3.3	1459
LP2320	Carson Monument - Doohat	2137	2137	3.8	8121
LS7040	Latton 5 Crosses - Derrygooney	2906	2906	3.3	9590
LS7115	Kilkitt - Formil	1117	1117	3.4	3798
LP32001	Laragh - Tonyglasson (Bellantra Chapel)	2231	2231	3.6	8032
LT24122	Rosnalough	2685	2685	3.3	8861
LT33002	Kilnacran - Lisquigny	2184	2184	3.3	7207
Road No	Location	Overall Length of road (m)	Length of SD only (m)	Width of Road (m)	Area Of SD Works (m2)
R189	Annagoose - Glinch (Mountain Hill)	3525	1755	6.2	10881

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

Meetings are underway to agree land take requirements to enable the completion of these works, with works expected to commence in the coming weeks.

My CoCo

We are continuing to receive entries on MyCoCo for Ballybay Clones MD.

- 159 entries to date.
- 7 entries since June meeting,
- 11 of these are in progress,
- 148 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.

- 196 Drainage notices issued to date
- 74 Closed off with works complete and no further action required
- 26 Referred to Roads for following up or legal proceedings. Notices under The Roads Act 1993, Section 76, SubSection 6 were sent to these 26 property owners with registered post with specifications of the works required to be completed to prevent water from running onto the road on 30th April 2024. These locations will be checked to establish if the works have been carried out in accordance with the notice, or if further action is required.
- 22 Reminder Letters Issued
- 74 Opened/outstanding

Road Closures

Local roads will be closed during the next month to facilitate road resurfacing.

Patching

MCC outdoor staff and the velocity patcher have been continually patching the roads within the MD. Since the June meeting.

- 13 roads patched with MCC Outdoor Staff
- 11 roads sealed with Velocity Patcher

reBitmac Patching

John McQuillan has been appointed and has commenced works in the MD to carry out bitmac patching in the MD. There were 15 different locations/roads across the MD that is being patched with these large cut out patches. Works are completed at 13 of these locations with the remaining 2 locations to be completed before the end of July.

Kilnacran Drainage

The hydrologist is continuing to work on the study area for Kilnacran Drainage to establish the hydraulic model.

The consultant has visited site for a walkover and has met with affected landowners.

The consultant is currently working on a scoping study and data collection. Lidar survey data has been obtained for the site and is currently being reviewed by the design team. An update meeting is scheduled for later this month.

Actions Arising from Engineers Report

Members welcomed this report and commended staff. Following discussion staff updated Elected Members on the following. Outstanding Roads listed for the Patching Blitz will be done under the Reclaimed Asphalt Scheme, this project is still underway in Carrickmacross, and the pothole repair material will be sent to this MD to complete Patching Blitz jobs. In terms of funding requirements for the Reclaimed Asphalt scheme the crusher is only on hire and the potential of Monaghan County Council purchasing their own crusher will need to be examined.

Annaghmartin Lane is on the Draft 2026 programme, 7 drainage notices went out to landowners on this lane and to date no works have been done by the recipients. There was patching done recently but with the continues surface water running onto the road it is constantly deteriorating. Cllr. Flynn requested that this road is brought forward on the resurfacing programme. Martin Taylor Executive

Engineer advised programmes for 2024 & 2025 have been adopted the 2026 programme has not been formally adopted as the new Council will do this. Presently to see any additional roads added to 2024 & 2025 programmes additional funding will be required.

Cllr. Truell raised a query regarding Lower Main St. Newbliss, this has no road number & who is responsible for maintenance. Martin Taylor Executive Engineer advised the section with no road number is seen as private by Monaghan County Council but was previously maintained through patching however as this section is not part of the Road Schedule it will not qualify for funding.

Gareth McMahon Director of Services will look into this in consideration it has public utilities along it.

Cllr. Gilliland was advised by staff signage will be going up to notify of Mullaghduff Bridge Lough Egish, it is not possible to put restrictions on this road due to farmers using it. The signage should be in place this Friday.

7. Matters arising from previous minutes.

Noted, no matters arising.

8. Questions

Cllr. Flynn Asked:

- 1) Can Ballybay Clones MD outline their plans for Traffic Calming Measures for our villages and towns in the MD, in particular Smithboro Village and Castleblayney Road, Ballybay, which has huge numbers of traffic to include HGVs etc. passing through on a daily basis.

Answer

Engineering staff have recently undertaken to carry out a speed and traffic survey at these locations. The data obtained from these surveys will be used for future Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes applications. Engineering staff has also spoken with the Roads Policing Inspector for Cavan and Monaghan, and as undertaken to inform the Roads Policing sergeant for these areas to give the additional attention and carry out speed checks with the objective of detecting any potential speeding offences.

- 2) Can Ballybay Clones MD please provide an update on the Threemilehouse pedestrian crossing or offer an alternative measure for children crossing the road from the housing estates to go to the football complex and for children from primary school crossing 2 roads to reach the after-school facility on a daily basis throughout term time.

Answer

Engineering staff have recently undertaken to carry out a speed and traffic survey plus pedestrian counts at this location. The data obtained from these surveys will be used for future Low-Cost Safety Improvement Schemes applications.

- 3) Can Ballybay Clones MD please provide me with a list of derelict properties that have been acquired or are due to be acquired in the MD, will these properties be available to purchase by the public?

Answer

Monaghan County Council has received €1.5 million under the URDF Call 3 programme to purchase approved derelict properties within Monaghan town centre and make them available to sell on the open market. There are currently 22 such properties included in the programme. Following the Councils engagement with the owners of these properties, several of these properties will be offered for sale directly by the owners in the coming months. Under this programme, the Council is currently

in the process of compulsorily acquiring 1.no derelict property and this property should be available in Q4 2024 for resale. The Council has recently made a submission to the Department seeking approval to include a further 26 derelict properties onto the programme.

There are a number of properties throughout the county currently being entered onto the Derelict Site Register. In the event that there is a resale demand in the particular area for such properties, Monaghan County Council may consider compulsorily acquiring them and reselling them on the open market.

4) Can Ballybay Clones MD provide me with an update on when and where new affordable social houses are planned for construction in the MD?

Answer

The following social housing projects have been approved and funding is in place. Housing Section are currently working on several other project proposals and once funding is in place they will be announced.

Project Name	Total Number of Social Units Expected	Part V	Approved Housing Body	Project Status	Projected date for delivery
10 & 12 Cara Street, Clones	7			Stage 1 Approved	01/04/2025
Hall Street, Ballybay	6		North and East	On-site	30/06/2024
Hall Street, Ballybay	1		North and East	On-site	31/07/2024

5) Can Ballybay Clones MD please update on whether there are additional services to be offered by the Local Link throughout the MD and whether the NTA have additional services planned for other areas throughout the MD.

Answer

Local Link outlined its proposed public transport improvement services in November 2021 for the region for 2022-2027. There are two additional services proposed to be in operation during this timeframe. A route from Clones to Oram via Ballybay and Castleblayney and another route from Castleblayney to Carrickmacross via Lough Egish Food Park. Both services will have a minimum service frequency of three return trips per day.

9. CE Orders

Noted.

10. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

The Elected Members proposed and unanimously agreed the following votes of congratulations.

Cllr. Richard Truell proposed a vote of congratulations to Rockcorry Divers on their recovery efforts at the Cliffs of Moher on July 6th

The Elected Members proposed and unanimously agreed the following votes of sympathy.

Cllr. Pat Treanor proposed a vote of sympathy to Deirdre Quigley and Nial Quigley on the passing of their sister-in-law Geraldine Armstrong.

11. AOB.

Cllr. Pat Treanor requested that in light of the upcoming provision of accommodation under the refugee policy in what was the Ulster Bank premises that contact is made with the HSE & ETB seeking confirmation that there is capacity in our local health care system and available school places to accommodate new members to our community.

And also seek details from Monaghan County Council Integration Unit on how they will assist with any issues which may arise.

Gareth McMahon Director of Services advised that it is envisaged that this accommodation will house individuals already settled in our community, seeing people transferred from temporary accommodation to this development and as such there will be no additional demands on local health care and schooling.

Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator briefed Elected Members on the MD upcoming Festivals and Events for 2024. A music festival will be hosted the weekend of September 27th in Clones and October 5th a literary festival will be hosted in Clones.

Currently there is no allocated funding for the roll out of these festivals and it is proposed that €5,000 for the MD GMA would be allocated to support these festivals.

Proposed Cllr. Pat Treanor and seconded Cllr. Sinead Flynn and unanimously agreed by all.

Meeting concluded.

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed _____
Meetings Administrator
Date, September 16th 2024