

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday 25th March, 2024, 10am in Birch Court, Ballybay.

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

Apologies: Mr. Martin Taylor, Executive Engineer.

In Attendance: Mr. Gareth McMahon A/Director of Services, Mr. Matthew Lambe
A/Municipal District Co-Ordinator and Ms. Lorraine Brogan, Assistant Staff
Officer.
Mr. Nial O'Connor, Mr. John Reilly, Mr. Lorcan MacCinna, Ms. Catherine
Murphy, Mr. Paul Ward, Housing Section.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Sean Gilliland welcomed all to the meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones. He informed the meeting that he had received a telephone call prior to the meeting, from Ms. Veronica Corr from the Northern Standard, to advise that she will be unable to attend the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr Richard Truell proposed the February 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.

Proposals arising from correspondence received:

Cllr. Seamus Coyle referred to correspondence received from Ulster GAA regarding St. Tiarnach's Park, Clones and proposed that Ballybay-Clones Municipal District request the Minister for Social Protection and Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys and all local Oireachtas members to immediately have Broadband connectivity levels in Clones Town and surrounding area increased to appropriate levels for a town and its requirements.

Proposed by Cllr. Seamus Coyle, seconded by Cllr. Richard Truell and unanimously agreed by all.

Cllr. Sean Gilliland proposed that 'The Ulster Final' be included as an item on the Municipal District's Meeting Agenda for the next 12 months. This was unanimously agreed by all.

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney referred to Page 2 of the minutes of the February meeting which records correspondence received from Monaghan GAA in relation to floodlighting at St. Tiarnach's Park. As this correspondence had not been received until after the meeting, he requested that the minutes be amended accordingly.

The Elected Members expressed disappointment with the correspondence received from the Local Link regarding their request for the introduction of a bus service from Ballybay to Carrickmacross and to Rockcorry along the Monaghan to Cootehill road.

The matter was discussed and it was agreed that Mr. Gareth McMahon, A/Director of Services, in his capacity as a Local Link Board member, will bring the Elected Members' request to the next Board meeting.

The correspondence received from Mr. Shane McCarville, Coach with the U14 Girls Clones Town FC team, requesting a contribution toward their upcoming cup final costs was discussed.

Mr. Gareth McMahon, A/Director of Services suggested that the Municipal District should not set a precedent of providing such funding due to the possible number of similar requests for funding that may come to the Municipal District for consideration.

It was agreed by all that the Municipal District will issue a letter to Cllr. Richard Truell, to bring to the attention of Mr. Shane McCarville, outlining the reasons for the refusal of this request.

The correspondence received from Mr. David Caraher, Ballybay Town Team, was discussed. Mr. Matthew Lambe, A/Municipal District Co-ordinator, advised that he is awaiting a response to his previous correspondence. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Sean Gilliland advised that he will attend the next Ballybay Town Team meeting.

4. Consideration of report on Housing Capital Projects in Ballybay/Clones Municipal District

Mr. Nial O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer in Housing Section, introduced the Housing Section staff that were in attendance at the meeting and advised of their roles within the Housing Section. He noted that all representations made by the Elected Members to the Housing Section should be made in writing and, that way, they will be informed of the outcome. All repair requests should be made to housingrepairs@monaghancoco.ie

Mr. Nial O'Connor thanked the Municipal District for the invitation to the meeting and suggested that it would be beneficial for the Housing Section to meet with the Municipal District and Elected Members twice yearly on housing projects in the area in order to maintain good communication with the Elected Members.

Mr. John Reilly, Executive Engineer, gave a presentation on the on-going and future housing capital projects in the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District.

The Elected Members thanked Mr. John Reilly for his presentation and the Housing Staff responded to the queries from the Elected Members.

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney requested a meeting with Housing Section staff in the Council offices to examine and discuss the Housing Report in more detail.

Mr. Nial O'Connor agreed to circulate the presentation on Housing Capital Projects in the Municipal District to the Elected Members and advised that staff in the Housing Section will be available to answer any questions. He advised that the issue of downsizing will be examined and it is hoped to have a policy in place later in the year.

Mr. John Reilly advised that Housing Section staff will be holding regular meetings with Mr. Kevin McNally, Town Regeneration Officer, and his team at which properties such as those mentioned in Newbliss will be discussed.

In relation to the houses on the Scotshouse road out of Newbliss, it was noted that the Housing Section approached the owners and were offered two sites. However, it was decided to leave these to the private market and focus on housing within the village, not on greenfield sites.

Mr. Matthew Lambe, A/Municipal District Co-ordinator noted, in relation to the possible taking in charge of the Carrowbarra estate in Smithboro, that the defects identified in the estate were referred to the Developer but no correspondence has come back yet.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Sean Gilliland suggested that the next time the Housing Section staff attend the Municipal District meeting to give an update on projects, it would be beneficial to invite the Town Regeneration Team to attend also. This was agreed by all.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Sean Gilliland, noted that the former Health Care building, if not suitable for housing, could be examined as a potential site for a Community Centre. He advised that this can be discussed at the meeting to be held with the Town Regeneration Team on Thursday week.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle stated that there is a serious problem in Ballybay due to the unavailability of car parking spaces at Lower Main Street, particularly around Shamrock Terrace. He suggested that the former Health Care building and other options be examined.

Mr. Gareth McMahon, A/Director of Services, gave an update on the Ukrainian Response. He advised that an Integration Team was being set up in the Council and the necessary administration staff are being put in place. He referred to the role of the Ukrainian Community Response Forum which consists of agencies including HSE, Tusla, CMETB, Gardai etc. who all have a role to play.

Mr. Gareth McMahon, A/Director of Services, referred to a recent Government Directive issued which gives protection to certain properties such as apartments etc. in relation to the provision of accommodation for the Ukrainian people. He agreed to circulate the Directive to the Elected Members for their information.

It was also confirmed that 18 no. Ukrainians are to be re-housed in the former Ballybay Civic Office and 25 no. in the old Ulster Bank building in Clones.

5. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator.

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.

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 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.

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

Development of the Farmer Yard Clones

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

Village Plan Drum: –

Following the completion of the AGM members of the Executive met the Committee to discuss how best to progress some of the items outlined in the plan.

Village Plan Rockcorry: –

Facilitation meetings are completed, and members of the Executive have met with to discuss the one-year plan which 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: -

The Route Options Selection for the Ballybay to Castleblayney Greenway has now been completed and the Preferred Route Option has been developed. Preferred Route Option Consultation with landowners took place on Wednesday the 13th of March in Doohamlet Community Centre. There were 212 letters send inviting landowners to the consultation and 47 landowners attend same.

The Public Consultation is now open from the 14th of March 2024, for a period of 4 weeks, to the 11th of April 2024. Maps indicating the Preferred Route can be viewed at <https://monaghan.ie/ballybay-to-castleblayney-b2c-greenway/>

Landowners, local communities, and the public are invited to review the Preferred Route and to discuss with the project team.

Observation or comment in relation to the Preferred Route Option, can be made on the website at <https://ballybaycastleblayney.ourgreenway.ie/>

Outdoor Recreation Schemes 2022

Dartry Forest

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

Dromore Blueway

A Public Information evening was held in Scoil Eanna Ballybay on the Wednesday, 7th 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. At present Engineering staff are preparing tender documents for the appointment of a design consultant.

PEACEPLUS Theme 1.4

Peace Link Extension

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. The closing date for receipt of applications is Thursday 23rd May 2024 and 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 Market House –

WGG Architects & Surveyors Ltd have been appointed as a multi-disciplinary design team for this project. Prestart meeting took place on the 9th of February at the Market House and preliminary surveys are ongoing at present.

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).	Q3 (Design only)	€100,000	Several options we presented to Engineering staff and at present staff are reviewing same.
MN/22/0001	Clones Peace Link AT Scheme	Q2 2024	€479,000	A value engineering exercise is in progress on the project to deliver the scheme. S Wilkin started on site on 27.11.23. Waste management plan in place. House demolished and bulk dig complete. Foundation dig commenced beginning March for redesigned Macwall Construction. Macwall is segmental blockwork retaining wall system combining the aesthetics of masonry walls with the engineered reassurance of reinforced earth.

MN/22/0004	Lough Egish Village AT Scheme	Q3 2024	€332,000	Works progressing. Accommodation works details to be confirmed and agreed. Foundations complete, wall formwork 95% complete. Drainage and backfilling to wall ongoing with excavation for formation level to new roadway.
MN/23/0005	Clones - Tirnahinch Rd Footpath	Q2 2024	€30,000	Works progressing. Footpaths 95% complete. Fencing works are ongoing. Completion Q2 2024. Lighting 100% including crossing. ESB to complete the connection. NBI removed overhead lines. Eir to underground lines when poles relocated. NBI then to relocate lines.
MN/23/0011	Scotshouse Village AT	Complete	Complete	School footpath contract complete. Clar project parking spaces complete. Laneway not on road schedule.
MN/23/0012	Smithboro - Magherarney Footpath	Complete	Complete	Contract complete.
MN/23/0014	Ballybay Footpath - R162 Monaghan Rd	Complete	Complete	Construction complete.

MN/23/0015	Clones - Cannons Lane Footpath	Complete	Complete	Works complete.
MN/23/0018	SRTS - St Tiarnachs	Q3 2024	€50,000	Draft delivery plan discussed with MD on 07.11.23. An Taisce, MD, AT & School held meeting on 1st Feb at school to discuss delivery plan. An Taisce are making changes to the plan. School require as detailed a report as possible to discuss internally.
MN/23/0020	Urban Mobility/Sustainability AT Plans (Castleblayney, Ballybay, Clones, Carrickmacross)	Q2 2024	€60,000	NTA has reviewed Clones plan and comments returned. Design Consultants are incorporated into the plan comments.
MN/24/XXXX	Bus Stop Enhancement Programme.	2024	€500,000.00	A programme of bus stop locations and associated works must be agreed with the NTA in advance of any construction commencing. In agreed locations, the NTA's contractor will continue to install bus shelters subject to the advance completion of the necessary groundworks.

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. Installation works are completed, and the equipment has been commissioned and is operational; top soiling will be completed when weather improves.

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

It is hoped to appoint Operators of Concessions in the coming weeks.

Ulster Canal - Clones to Smithboro Greenway: -

Section 50 Applications have been submitted to the OPW and all have been approved apart from one that requires additional information.

Draft Part VIII Designs and Assessment have been forwarded to the relevant sections for review and amendments AND any technical issues will be addressed following this review.

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 between Engineering staff and the Design Security Consultant took place earlier this month on site to assess suitable locations.

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 7th 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 28th 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.

Traffic Warden

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

BCEEP AGM

The AGM of the Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership will take place on Thursday 11 April at 6pm.

Ballybay Library/Civic Building

Sander Construction will this week commence works on the refurbishment works to the Ballybay Civic Building to convert to residential for the Ukrainian Humanitarian Response Initiative.

Bank Of Ireland Clones

The Bank of Ireland building has now been acquired by Monaghan County Council. This acquisition was delayed due to an oil spill, which the Bank addressed.

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.

Actions Arising from Municipal District Report

The Members welcomed the Municipal District Co-ordinator's Report.

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to the Clones Marina project and the outstanding issues to be addressed for residents in Cara Street when construction works are complete. He asked if it will be Waterways Ireland or Jons Civil Engineering Company who will be responsible for resolving these issues with the residents. He suggested that it would be better for the Council to ensure that these issues are dealt with.

In response, Mr. Matthew Lambe, A/Municipal District Co-ordinator advised that he has been in contact with the Waterways Ireland Manager who has given an undertaking to resolve any outstanding issues.

6. 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
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 2 of the roads;
 - LP3401 McNallys Cross to McVickors Cross
 - LT21122/23 Stonebridge to Shankill
- Drainage Works are currently ongoing on 2 further roads;
 - LS7330 Tullycorbet
 - LT71011 Gragarnagh Lane
 - There is also some additional works getting completed on the LT21122/23 Stonebridge to Shankill
- Roads have been measured up, tender documents complete and are currently out to tender.

In addition, roads have been assessed for suitability for surface dressing with a total of 16 no roads identified. These roads are currently being finalised and the final list will be circulated upon completion. Surface dressing in Ballybay Clones MD is first this year and scheduled to commence on 13th May weather permitting.

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.

My CoCo

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

- 77 entries to date.
- 11 entries in March,
- 38 of these are in progress,
- 39 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.
- 61 Closed off with works complete.
- 30 Referred to Roads for following up or legal proceedings.
- 27 Reminder Letter issued.
- 75 Opened/outstanding

Road Closures

Following a major road slippage at Drumgavny, the LS6521 from Alastair's Quarry gates to the JCT with LS6520, works are complete and the road has been reopened to traffic.

Following a 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 have commenced to rebuild the bridge.

Patching

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

Public Lighting

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

Lights have been replaced at Cherry Park in Clones including the fitting of an additional light where it was found that lighting levels had diminished below an acceptable standard. The former 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 had to be replaced.

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

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.

Recent flooding was experienced earlier this month at this location, and a drone survey of the area was carried out. Monaghan County Council met with the hydrologist on site last week and walked the study area.

Actions Arising from Engineer's Report

The Members welcomed the Engineer's Report.

A discussion took place regarding correspondence received from Mr. Adrian Quigley, on behalf of the residents and landowners in the townlands of Searkin and Killyleg, in relation to the Drumlins Park Ltd windfarm development and the deterioration of the roads LT62012 and LT62011. The residents and landowners are concerned that there may be no re-instatement works carried out on these roads.

It was noted that Drumlins Park Ltd had to lodge a bond of €250k with the Council for this project for the re-instatement of the public roads.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Sean Gilliland stated that it was important that the Municipal District carry out a survey or report on these roads and have it available as required under planning conditions in relation to the bond.

Mr. Gareth McMahon, A/Director of Services, advised that the Community Involvement Scheme (C.I.S.) will be examined as a possible funding source for the re-instatement of these roads. He also noted that there are other funding streams that can also be explored.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle referred to the drainage issue at Kilnacran. A further application for funding in 2023 was not successful. A discussion followed and Mr. Gareth McMahon, A/Director of Services advised that the Roads Section would re-examine the Kilnacran submission and seek feedback from the Department regarding the scoring and ascertain why funding wasn't received. Should any another project that has been funded not proceed in 2024, Kilnacran would be a priority and Roads Section would resubmit the application again for funding in 2025 if works don't go ahead this year.

He advised that if this project is a priority, the application can be reviewed internally to try to bring it up the priority list for next year. Other options can also be examined. This was agreed by all.

7. Matters arising from previous minutes.

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to proposal to hold a meeting with the 'Gone But Not Forgotten Committee' to discuss alternative sites for a memorial.

Mr. Matthew Lambe, A/Municipal District Co-ordinator, stated that he had received correspondence to the office this morning regarding arrangements for a meeting with Mr. Brian MacUaid, committee member.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Sean Gilliland, referred to traffic calming measures in the Municipal District and referred to a recent meeting held with the Roads Policing Unit, which controls the areas of Cavan, Monaghan and Louth. He advised that there is now a new protocol in place and, if the Council requests the assistance of the Roads Policing Unit to deal with speeding issues in the Municipal District, he has been assured that Council's requests will be dealt with.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Sean Gilliland proposed that the Municipal District forward the locations of the roads, where speeding is deemed to be an issue, to the Inspector of the Roads Policing Unit. This was agreed by all.

The matter was discussed and it was agreed to send on the following locations to the Roads Policing Unit:

- Clones road out of Ballybay
- Ballybay road out of Newbliss
- Castleblayney road out of Ballybay (further out)
- Newbliss Road out of Clones

8. Notice of Motion

Motion received from Cllr. Seamus Coyle

"That the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District demands of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Chris Heaton-Harris, the British Government and the full support of the Irish Government, that the demand of Mr. Justice Kinney, when he halted the Inquest, for a full Public Inquiry, into the murder of Sean Brown, Chairman of Bellaghey Wolf Tones GAA Club, by an LVF gang as he locked the gates of his beloved GAA Club in May 1997 be immediately acceded to, in view of the way State Parties had handled the disclosure process, repeatedly delaying the Inquest process, as branded by Mr. Justice Kinney "deplorable and inexcusable",

(Motion, if adopted to be forwarded to the three-party leaders of the Irish Government and the Northern Ireland Secretary of State)

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

9. Questions

Cllr. Richard Truell asked:

Q1: Can Monaghan County Council expediate in conjunction with the private provider the installation of Electric Car Charging points in Newbliss.

What is the expected date for the installation of this facility and is there any other plans of Electric Car Charging Points in the rest of the villages.

Answer:

Energia were installing the EV charge points in Newbliss, and not Monaghan County Council.

Monaghan County Council met on 13th March with Energia and asked them of their proposed programme to carry out these works. They did not have a date for commencement; however Monaghan County Council will follow up on this meeting and request the programme of works.

Q2: Can Monaghan County Council provide an update on the old Lennard Arms Hotel.

Answer:

Monaghan County Council has submitted an application under the 5th call of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund in February 2024 for the Lennard Arms Hotel as a Regeneration Hub for Heritage. It is expected that the announcements will be made later this year at which time we will learn if the submission has been successful.

Q3: Will Monaghan County Council give an update of what the plan is for the old Bank Of Ireland Building, recently acquired by Monaghan County Council.

Answer:

The Bank of Ireland building has now been acquired by Monaghan County Council. This acquisition was delayed due to an oil spill, which the Bank addressed.

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.

Q4: Will Monaghan County Council give an update of proposals that were been finalised to examine the traffic calming measures, like cushion ramps, traffic islands and better signage in the village of Rockcorry.

Answer:

A proposal for traffic calming for Rockcorry village has been prepared by Monaghan County Council.

Ballybay Clones Municipal District applied for funding under the Low Cost Safety Improvements for Rockcorry village in late 2023. An allocation of €20,780 has been secured for the R193/R188 JCT. Works are expected to commence later this year.

Q5: Following on from the 2 tranches of funding under the Outdoor Recreational Funding for Dartrey Forest Park, what plans has Monaghan County Council to apply for extra funding to further enhance this forest park as the potential is massive and can equally be as good as Rossmore Park.

Answer:

Monaghan County Council's current focus is on delivering the 2 ORIS funded projects which have an anticipated commencement date of end April 2024. Future funding streams will be assessed for suitability for Dartrey and similar locations when funding calls are made.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle asked:

Q1: Can Monaghan County Council immediately examine the installation of Traffic Calming Measurers on the Clones Rd.(R183) Ballybay, as very serious concerns are being expressed by residents/business owners and persons walking on the footpath, installed to The Wetlands, about safety at the speed of vehicles on this stretch of roadway.

Answer:

Monaghan County Council have recently adopted a new Traffic Calming Policy earlier this year. Ballybay Clones Municipal District will arrange for traffic surveys to be carried out along this stretch to collect data to determine the level of violations along this stretch. The collated data will be made available to An Garda who will determine if the location warrants the requirement for a speed van at this location.

This stretch of roadway is an 80km/hr roadway out to the Wetlands.

Q2: Can Monaghan County Council examine the installation of additional Traffic Calming Measurers/speed control on the Castleblayney Road, Ballybay(R183) as serious concern is being expressed by residents/pedestrians etc. at the speed of traffic on this stretch of roadway, which has seen many accidents, a fatality in one case. There are many walkers on the footpath, including residents, persons going out to Pearse Park GAA Grounds and the much-used Town Park, many of whom walk in the Town Park doing a loop of the town including Main Street Ballybay & concluding by walking out the Castleblayney Road.

Answer:

Along this section of road, there are currently ramps, road markings, public lighting, feedback signage and footpaths.

Monaghan County Council have recently adopted a new Traffic Calming Policy earlier this year. Ballybay Clones Municipal District will arrange for traffic surveys to be carried out along this stretch to collect data to determine the level of violations along this stretch. The collated data will be made available to An Garda who will determine if the location warrants the requirement for a speed van at this location.

Q3: A major flooding problem is occurring regularly with the roadway inaccessible for almost four months last year and also on a number of occasions so far this year with Fermoy Lake, Lisnalong flooding on to the LS07001(Veldins Cross to the Cavan Border),can Monaghan County Council immediately examine the alleviation of the flooding, the erection of a barrier along the area's where the Lake is totally open to the road, causing great danger/hazards for motorists as its impossible to distinguish between the road and lake, when water is flooding on to the roadway?.

Answer:

The area will be assessed for a future funding application under the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Fund. In the short term, road edge delineation markers will be fitted to denote the road

edge during times of flooding. During times of flooding, the road will be closed and road flooded signage placed.

Q4: The junction known locally as Veldins Cross, Latton (the junction of the LP03000/LP03001/LS07000/LS07001) is an extremely dangerous junction & the scene of many accidents, including an unfortunate fatality. Can Monaghan County Council immediately examine and have Safety Measurers put in place to avoid further accidents and fatalities at this very heavily vehicularised location?

Answer:

At this location, there has been additional signage installed over the years and road markings. To create the sight lines required, vertical realignment of the junction is required by a cut and fill method. Private land take is required in order to create the embankments, and to set the hedges back behind the sight splays. This would be a major project and construction costs would far exceed that of the Low Cost Safety Schemes.

Q5: Can Monaghan County Council immediately examine the putting in place of additional Safety Measurers in the Village of Latton, particularly on the LS07000/LP03001, as local residents are very concerned at the speed of traffic in the area, as there is huge daily traffic, due to the adjacent community facilities i.e. Scoil Mhuire, Resource Centre Latton, O'Rahilly GAA Club facilities, St. Mary's Church, Shop/Post Office, etc?.

Answer:

Monaghan County Council have recently adopted a new Traffic Calming Policy earlier this year. Ballybay Clones Municipal District will arrange for traffic surveys to be carried out along this stretch to collect data to determine the level of violations along this stretch in line with this policy. The collated data will be made available to An Garda who will determine if the location warrants the requirement for a speed van at this location.

10. CE Orders.

CE orders 14/24 to 17/24 were noted by the members.

11. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

Congratulations to the organising committees of the St. Patrick's Day/Eve Parades in Ballybay, Clones and Newbliss for their excellent work on their St. Patrick's Parades

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

12. AOB.

The Meeting Concluded.

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed _____
Meetings Administrator
Date, 15th April 2024