

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday November 18th, 2024, 1:45pm, 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.

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 October meeting of Ballybay/Clones Municipal District extending welcome to Elected Members, staff and Northern Standard Reporter Veronica Corr and Dympna Condra Tourism & Marketing Executive.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr Sean Gilliland proposed October 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

Cllr. Sean Gilliland welcomed correspondence from Minister Heather Humphreys regarding the timeline by NBI for broadband connectivity in Clones, however noted the timeframe for full service is disappointing. Cllr. Gilliland commended John McArdle MCC and his broadband team on their work on this.

Cllr. Pat Treanor noted there is confusion among the public regarding Fibre Optic roll out & which areas qualify to get it. It is important the information reaches the public, if your location is not achieving 30MB download and 6MB upload speeds you qualify for fibre broadband. Information on blackspots in the MD need to be passed onto John McArdle.

Cllr. Pat Treanor congratulated Clones Chamber of Commerce on their Halloween Festival, noting they have a request for funding support for this festival in the sum of €1,600 submitted to Ballybay/Clones MD. Why was this festival not funded through Community & Enterprise Festivals & Events as it was in previous years? A request for €890 from Killeevan Heritage Group for production of a booklet has also been received.

Following discussion, the Members noted funding requests of this nature are not eligible under the adopted *Guidelines For Miscellaneous Requests For Funding From The Municipal District Allocation*. Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator advised Clones Chamber of Commerce received €350 from C&E under Festivals & Events, it was unanimously agreed by the Members that Christmas Lights funding for Clones Chamber will be reviewed and additional assistance will be provided through this budget to cover some of their Halloween Festival costs. The Library Services have been approached by this Municipal District regarding Killeevan Heritage Group funding and have agreed to financially support production of this booklet.

The Elected Members discussed representations being received from local residents in objection to the proposed Bikers Memorial on Cara St. Clones, unanimously agreeing that this is a memorial for families of victims of sudden road deaths and this should be kept in mind when dealing with this. This will go through due process as with all proposals and will go to planning and public consultation and everyone will be afforded an opportunity to have their say whether it is in favour of or opposing this memorial.

4. Consideration of report on Clones Marina/Tourism Hub – Dympna Condra Tourism & Marketing

Dympna Condra Tourism & Marketing Executive provided an overview of Monaghan County Councils vision for Monaghan Tourism which is focused on promoting and developing the tourism product in Co. Monaghan by maximising the county's rich assets and infrastructure to enhance the visitor experience with both new and existing offerings. Aims include expanding networks and collaborations, growing visitor numbers while promoting sustainable tourism, and boosting the Monaghan tourism brand through strategic marketing efforts.

Monaghan Tourism Unit are implementing Monaghan's Tourism Strategy 2023-2028. The establishment of a supported, multi-stakeholder forum for integrated tourism and outdoor recreation development is a key action of the strategy document. The forum works collaboratively on a partnership basis with the Tourism unit within MCC to deliver on the ambitions of the Tourism Strategy.

Key Aims for Clones Marina/Tourism Hub are

- To better connect the town to the marina, and the marina to the town
- To encourage complementary local activities, businesses and sustainable enterprises
- To create a uniquely borderland hub along the wider waterways network

These ambitions will be achieved through a partnership approach with Waterways Ireland, Fáilte and Monaghan County Council recognising the longer-term ambition to restore navigation between Clones and Castle Saunderson which could be a gamechanger in realising the tourism potential of Clones as a visitor destination, creating a major positive cross-border initiative.

The Elected Members welcomed this presentation commending Dympna and her team recognising and supporting the need to get the message out there promoting Clones as a tourist destination.

Following discussion by Members regarding balanced tourist development and funding of current tourism projects within Ballybay/Clones Municipal District, while the Members request for balanced development is noted Dympna advised it is good projects with development opportunities that are proving successful in funding applications regardless of geographic location within the county. However, it should be noted that Ballybay/Clones Municipal District are home to many key tourism initiatives presently for example the Black Pigs Dyke, Clones Marina, the Greenway and Blueway and the Lennard Arms.

The Members suggested The Border Lands should be a Fáilte Ireland promotion similar to for example The Ancient East or Hidden Heartlands this would be a good opportunity for tourism promotion in County Monaghan. Dympna advised the idea for The Borderlands as a tourist destination has been discussed with Fáilte Ireland and there is no support from them for such an initiative presently. However, this will be promoted on our own capacity.

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 has been submitted for Planning.

Item 2 Diamond Area: - A Part 8 VII planning Application for the Diamond Area has been forwarded for sectional review. 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 2 works are substantially completed.

Mural The Micro Park Clones

The work has been completed.

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. The undergrounding of overhead power lines will commence in Q1 of 2024

Clones Youth Centre

Funding of €250k has been received for the refurbishment of Clones Youth Centre. It is planned to go to tender early next month for this 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 was forwarded to both the TII and the NTA to determine how best to progress this project to the next phase. Currently, TII are not able to provide a funding allocation at present. An application for funding has been made for proposed greenway from Ballybay to Castleblaney for 2025.

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. As there has been a savings made on the contract the Department on foot of a submission from Monaghan County Council have agreed a change of purpose and have approved additional pathway upgrade works in the forest.

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 are all in place now and should be ready to lodge the application shortly to An Bord Pleanala. Funding of €481,560 for the development of a Blueway from Ballybay to Lisnalong has been received.

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. The appointment of a design consultant is imminent.

Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2023

Measure 1

Dromore West

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. Works have commenced and will be completed in Q 4 of 2024.

Drumnate Lake

Funding of €30k has been granted for the improvement of access road to Drumnate Lake, Newbliss. This works was substantially completed.

Ballybay Wetlands

Funding of €198,833.00 has been granted for the Ballybay Wetlands Public Path Enhancement. The appointment of a Civil Engineering Contractor is imminent.

Gortnawhinny Lido

Funding of €119,560.00 has been granted for the Gortnawhinny Lido. At present Engineering staff are preparing tender documents for the appointment of a Civil Engineering Contractor to complete the works.

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 was submitted in July. Presentations were made at the Corporate Policy Group in August and the County Council meeting in September. This funding application has been unsuccessful was due last month.

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. Additional queries were answered last week with the funding body.

Rural Regeneration & Development fund Scheme

Newbliss Digital Enterprise Hub

Works are ongoing and are due to be completed in Q1 of 2025.

Rural Regeneration & Development fund Scheme Fifth Call 2023

Clones Regeneration Hubs (Heritage and Enterprises) Plan.

This MD has received €5.137m 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.

Approval has been received from the Department to proceed to tender for construction for the business hub. A full suite of tender documents is currently being prepared with a view to going to tender next month.

On foot of a meeting with Failte Ireland it has been decided to seek Creative Consultancy Services to prepare a Product Identification/Visitor Experience Plan and Business Plan in respect of a Visitor Attraction of scale at the former Lennard Arms Hotel property in Clones, Co Monaghan. An appointment will be made next month.

Ballybay Market House –

WGG Architects & Surveyors have carried out all relevant surveys and site investigations works. A AHIA is being examined by a Grade 2 Conservation Architect and should all be in order documentation and design will be forwarded for Planning and Sectional review prior to the submitting of for a Part VII application in Q4 2024.

Active Travel Scheme

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)	NTA have requested a review of the location of the pedestrian crossing to the shop with several comments included. MCC & Design team responded to the comments from NTA on the 9th of Sept and await response.
MN/22/0001	Clones Peace Link AT Scheme	Q4 2024	Works are substantially completed.
MN/22/0004	Lough Egish Village AT Scheme	Q4 2024	Construction works continuing site. Shercock Rd alignment completed, and traffic diverted onto new road section. Eir diversion completed. Kerbing and footways nearing completion, restatement and accommodation works due to commence.
MN/23/0005	Clones - Tirnahinch Rd Footpath	Q4 2024	Footpaths completed. Fencing works complete. Awaiting Eir to remove poles. Completion Q4 2024.

MN/23/0018	SRTS - St Tiarnachs	N/A	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)	Q4 2024	Clones Plan is being updated as per TII comments received on 24/07/2024. DBFL proceeding with SEA and AA screening in preparation for public consultation.
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 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. NOTE : NTA has yet to Finalise internally full criteria for suitable applications. RSA to be carried out for altered or new bus stop locations.

Community Recreation Fund 2023

98 Avenue Bus Stop: -

A funding allocation of €120,000 has been received. A Section 38 application will be made in the coming weeks and preparation of tender document for the appointment of a civil Engineering contractor will begin shortly.

Community Centre Investment Fund –

Rockcorry Community Centre

Consultants Hall, Black, Douglas Architects are currently preparing preliminary design drawings based on an accommodation schedule that was agreed by the steering group. This schedule was agreed following a site visit to the Monaghan Peace Campus. It is hoped to go to tender for construction for this project in Q 2 in 2025.

Ulster Canal - Clones to Smithboro Greenway: -

Stage 3 Flood Risk Assessment for the scheme is nearing completion as requested by TII. 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 Síochána 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.

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. Construction works are due to be completed later this month.

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.

Ballybay Town Team

The town team at present are planning a Christmas market on the 24th of November.

2024 Community Recognition Fund

An application totalling €200,000 was successful for the Upgrade & Refurbishment of Ballybay Multi-use Community Building. Building surveying works have commenced and it is hoped to commence refurbishment works in Q1 of 2025.

Town Re-Generation

There have been 84 properties identified as been derelict in the Ballybay and 89 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.

There are 46 properties issued with Section 8 (2) Notice of Intention to Register.

To date there has been Section 8(7) Enter onto the Register notices in CLS/BBY area by the Town Regeneration Team.

- 7 No. in Clones
- 8 No. in Ballybay
- 4 No. Newbliss

A property that has been issued with a Section 8 (7) is now on Derelict Site Register and will be subject to 7% annual levy from 1st January 2025.

To date there has been 1No. Section 15 Notice of Intention to acquire in CLS/BBY area.

Ballybay Town Centre First Plan

The Town Centre First Plan aims to shape a vision for the future of Ballybay. In collaboration with the town and the Town Team, the Paul Hogarth Company has been commissioned by Monaghan County Council to support the community to develop their plan.

The consultation will be available online from the 18th of November until the 1st of December and there will also be a public drop in event on Sunday the 24th of November from 3-5.30pm at the Christmas market in the Market House.

Digital Town Blueprint 2024 Town Report Ballybay

A Digital town blueprint has been completed for Ballybay this is an entry-level assessment for local authorities, chambers of commerce, and other local community groups interested in understanding the current digital readiness of their town. A draft report has been completed and is subject to change following feedback from Monaghan County Council, Town Regeneration Officers, and other town stakeholders

The DTB has been designed to help towns rapidly and cost-effectively:

- Understand their current digital town readiness and digital competitiveness
- Compare their town against Irish and international benchmarks
- Stimulate stakeholder engagement on digitalisation

The objectives for this report are:

Assessment – to obtain an initial characterisation of the digital readiness of infrastructure and service providers in Ballybay

Comparative Analysis – to undertake a comparison of DTB assessments (a) between an initial selection of towns, and (b) regional, national and EU benchmarks, where appropriate and possible.

The report has been prepared for the Department of Rural and Community Development by the Irish Institute of Digital Business, University of Galway, and .IE.

Town Centre Health checks- Clones

A draft Town Centre Health check has been completed for Clones, this was conducted by students from Queen’s University Belfast on Friday 13th September and Friday 20th September 2024.

The report provides a detailed analysis of the physical characteristics of the town, statistics gathered during the health check, and the perceptions of residents.

The health check is grounded in the context of national, regional, and local planning policy, as well as ongoing plans for public developments, and it is against this contextual backdrop that our findings have been assessed and conclusions reached. The main content of the health check is the collection of quantitative data, which paints a picture of Clones’ land uses, vacancy, parking, footfall, and vehicular traffic. This data is complemented by qualitative analyses of the town’s public realm and its accessibility, as well as maps and figures which clearly detail and give spatial context to the data and analysis.

Further qualitative insight has been provided by questionnaires completed by residents, workers, and visitors to the town. The feedback and discussions, which emerged from these written responses were vital in highlighting the local community’s needs and aspirations for Clones. This collaborative effort

emphasises the importance of community engagement in shaping the future of Clones into an attractive place to work, live, and visit.

The health check concludes with a detailed SCOT (Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis, with the intention of summarising the study findings and highlighting the needs of Clones' residents and workers, whilst showing its key strengths and a pathway towards interventions which can help revitalise the town.

Town Team Capacity building

In addition to the funding for Collaborative Town Centre Health Check in Clones Monaghan County Council has received funding under the Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund for the development of Town Team Capacity building for the Clones town team.

The Council has appointed a consultant, and the first meeting was on Tuesday the 17th of September with the Clones Town Team and another meeting took place on the 14th of November.

Ballybay Clones East Erne Partnership

A next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 28th of November at 18:00hrs.

Black Pigs Dyke

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

Site for Bikers Memorial Garden

A Preliminary Design is nearing completion of the proposed Bikers Memorial Garden at Cara St Clones. When this design is completed, a presentation will be made to the elected members and the public.

Christmas Lights turn on dates in the MD

Clones: Friday 22nd November 2024

6.30 – 8pm

- Commencing at 6.30pm at Marina
- Switch on lights at Canal Stores by Minister Heather Humphreys
- Walk the green way up to The Diamond for the official turn of the Christmas Tree Lights by Minister Heather Humphreys

Ballybay: Sunday 24th November 2024

- Town Team are arranging Christmas Market in the Market House from 3 to 7.
- Santa is there from 5 to 7
- Switch on of lights at 7

Funding has also been provided for Christmas lights in Newbliss, Scotshouse & Rockcorry.

Actions Arising from MD Report

Members welcomed this report and project progress in this Municipal District, commending staff.

Following discussions regarding recent vandalism in Ballybay it was proposed to contact An Garda Síochána for an update on actions to address this ongoing issue.

Cllr. Sean Gilliland proposed correspondence issues to the Chief Superintendent Alan McGovern enquiring what the Garda intend to do, what plan is being put in place to deal with the recent spate of vandalism in Ballybay. In recent weeks the toilets in Ballybay Town Park and Corrybrennan

Playpark fence have both been vandalised. There has been significant financial investment in the amenities of Ballybay and this is not sustainable.

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

Considering successes of Youth Work Ireland programmes Cllr. Treanor proposed that this Municipal District reach out to them, to request their engagement with the young people in the locality of Ballybay to encourage participation in their many projects in efforts to address anti-social behavior in the area which may be a contributing factor to the recent acts of vandalism and thus working toward preserving and protecting the amenities of Ballybay.

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

Following discussions regarding Local Link bus service routes and the potential to introduce services for Rockcorry to Monaghan, Smithborough to Monaghan, Newbliss to Cootehill and Ballybay to Carrickmacross - as a member of the Local Link Committee Gareth McMahon Director of Services advised the Members, currently there is a Bus Eireann service for Smithborough to Monaghan and Newbliss to Cootehill and generally this would be considered sufficient and Local Link would not put on another transport service in such areas, but these locations will be looked into. Newbliss to Cootehill and Carrickmacross to Ballybay are not in the Connecting Ireland plan which Local Link are responsible for implementing.

Cllr. Gilliland proposed that Ballybay/Clones Municipal District conduct a survey to establish the need for bus services on these routes to build a case for inclusion in Connecting Ireland. Cllr. Treanor proposed that it would be more fitting for Local Link to conduct such surveys instead of Monaghan County Council as it they would need to formulate the data within their function as a provider of rural transport.

Gareth McMahon advised Local Link are constrained by duty to implement routes of Connecting Ireland, Monaghan County Council will support and assist Local Link with surveys.

6. Report by Municipal District Engineer.

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

Roads Programme

- The adopted 2024 roads programme have the 7 roads resurfaced.
- An additional 1.7km section of the R183 Newbliss to Clones Rd between Analore and Cladown has also recently been resurfaced.
- Energia have completed the resurfacing of sections of road along the L62011, L62012, L62013, L6200 and L6210 at Drumlins Wind Farm as part of their planning consent.
- Resurfacing works have been completed at the remaining sections of the L62012 and L62013 close to the Drumlins Wind Farm. These roads will be surface dressed in Q2 2025.

Works is commencing this week in preparing roads for the 2025 RI Roads Programme.

2024 Restoration Maintenance Programme

Following assessment earlier in 2024, a total of 18 no roads were identified, totaling 27km in length and surface dressed as part of the Restoration Maintenance Programme. Some of these roads required extensive preparation works to include drainage and bitmac patching/regulating.

All line marking at these locations has been completed in recent weeks.

Low Cost Safety Initiatives

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

- Maghernakelly R189/LT22803 JCT to improve sight lines and forward visibility - €25,800
 - Lough Mourne School – LP3131/LP4210/LS8200/LP3134 to improve sight lines - €25,000
 - Rockcorry – R193/188 JCT - €20,780 to provide road markings and high friction surfacing
- All works are complete for the above three projects.

An application has been submitted for 2025 for a number of projects across the MD.

My CoCo

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

- 168 entries to date
- 2 entries since October meeting
- 1 of these are in progress
- 167 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.

- 239 Drainage notices issued to date
- 26 Referred to Roads for following up or legal proceedings. Notices under The Roads Act 1993, Section 76, Sub-Section 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.

Road Closures

There are currently no road closures in the MD.

Patching

The patching blitz has ended for the year. All 35 no roads on the original patching blitz list for the MD have been patched.

In addition, MCC currently has 2 patching crews on site continually patching the roads within the MD. Since the October meeting;

- 14 roads patched with MCC Outdoor Staff
- 4 no roads extensively patched by TH Moore using hot bitumen.

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. Surveys were completed last week following clearance works that had to be organised to facilitate the surveys. The flood mapping is substantially complete and Mc Cloy Consulting Ltd are now aiming to have the Flood Mapping/ Flood Hazard Mapping and Final reports by the end November 2024 due to the delay in obtaining the survey data.

Japanese Knotweed

All areas of Japanese Knotweed across the MD have received the final treatment in the past few weeks. Visual inspections show that the regular treatments over the past 3 years are working as the areas at the majority of the sites are greatly reducing.

Verge Trimming

The final cut for 2024 along the N54 verges, and the junctions along the Regional Roads is complete for 2024.

Weed Control in Towns and Villages

Shaffrey Landscapes have completed the final treatment using environmentally friendly hot foam weed control in Ballybay and Clones towns for 2024.

MCC Outdoor Staff are continuing to use mechanical means in other areas across the MD.

Actions Arising from Engineers Report

Members welcomed this report and commended staff on works in the Municipal District. Following discussion by the Members, staff advised the 2024 – 2026 Road Programme was adopted by the old council for the years 2024 & 2025 as there is now a new Council the 2026 Road Programme still has to be adopted, this will be done at the December meeting.

Cllr. Truell noted the need for ramps on Lower Main St. Newbliss as there have been 2 collisions in this location in recent months, Cllr. Treanor agreed with this. Cllr. Truell requested telegraph poles are removed at Drumkeen Presbyterian Church Newbliss, staff advised Eir owns these poles.

Cllr. Treanor requested if there is any funding available under Roads budgets, that the section of unfinished road between Bells Cross & Clones Golf Club on the Scotshouse to Clones Road is completed.

7. Matters arising from previous minutes.

Following discussion by the Elected Members the Members commended staff on completion of roads on the Patching Blitz programme.

Staff advised; discussions have taken place with Ballybay Town Team re. funding secured for the Teen Hangout Area and project work will be progressed when the official letter of offer is received from the Department by this MD.

Staff advised a request has gone to Cavan County Council re. potential sites on the County Bridge for parking at Erica's Fairy Forest. An application for the Upgrade of toilet facilities will be submitted under Town & Village when the funding call opens.

8. Notice of Motion

Motion received from Cllr Coyle:

“That Ballybay/Clones express disappointment with a 21% cut in funding for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027, as from the previous programme by the Department of Rural & Community Development. While welcoming the allocation to County Monaghan for the programme, the enormous benefits to County Monaghan of LEADER since its inception have been exemplary, to communities, individual businesses etc, Minister Heather Humphreys TD, the current government, the incoming government and all General Election Candidates and Parties be requested to give a commitment and increase the funding to the levels of the previous programme in line with inflation in the building and works sector.

(Motion if adopted to be forwarded to all Oireachtas Members and General Election Candidates in the Cavan-Monaghan Constituency.)

Cathaoirleach Cllr Truell proposed as Councillor Coyle is absent this motion will be carried over to the next meeting, it was unanimously agreed by all.

9. Questions

Cllr. Flynn asked:

Question 1:

Can you please provide me with an update in relation to traffic calming measures planned for the stretch of road R183 between Ballybay and Doohamlet village?

The Ballybay Clones MD have no plans currently in place for traffic calming along this stretch of road. Traffic surveys have been carried out and details from these surveys have been passed on to An Garda for consideration.

Two separate funding applications have been submitted under Low Cost Safety Improvements for 2025 for Ballybay approach roads which includes the R183, and also Doohamlet Village.

Question 2:

The white line outside the school of Doohamlet is a broken white line which may giving the impression that motorists can pass at this area. Can we please assess and if possible, ensure a continuous white line through the village of Doohamlet?

The Ballybay Clones MD will look at this location and consider if the road markings need to be changed. This area is within a 50km/hr zone, and in addition, have flashing school warning signs in place.

Cllr. Coyle asked:

Question 1:

The junction on the Tullycorbet-Scotscorner road in the townland of Derrylusk of the L7410/L7311 is extremely dangerous as traffic exiting from either of the side roads on to the Tullycorbet-Scotscorner road has very poor visibility of oncoming traffic which can be travelling at great speeds as this is a very heavily vehicularised road, will Monaghan County Council immediately have design works carried out for safety improvement works and seek funding for these urgent improvements to be carried out?.

Ballybay Clones MD have submitted a funding application under Low Cost Safety Improvements for 2023 and 2024 for this junction however the applications were unsuccessful. Ballybay Clones MD will continue to apply for suitable funding for this location to enable the visibility plays ta this junction to be improved.

Question 2:

Having raised on many occasions before the urgency of the need for Safety Improvement works at Drumlane Cross (on road from Tossey Cross to Reilly's shop),LP04201,known locally as Phil McArdles Cross, the junction of the LP04201/LP04200/LP03201,this is an extremely dangerous Black Spot, there have been many accidents at this point, only recently a mother and her family had the rear of her car scraped by a lorry travelling from the Tullynahinera side, the driver unable to stop as he descended the brea, had the lorry hit the car one can only imagine the horror of the outcome. Can Monaghan County Council immediately prioritise funding opportunities to have these essential Safety Improvement Works carried out?

Ballybay Clones MD have submitted a funding application under Low-Cost Safety Improvements for 2025 for this junction. Discussions have taken place with locals in this area about this junction, and also with landowners at the cross.

Question 3:

The junction known locally as Veldins Cross, Latton has been the scene of many accidents over the years, unfortunately in one case resulting in a fatality, but many others major damage to vehicles and injuries to the persons involved, this is the junction of the LP03000/LP03001/LP07001/LS07000, the nature of the junction leads to cars also crossing the hedge and dropping a significant distance into the field, such an incident happening only recently. Can Monaghan County Council immediately prioritise this location for major Safety Improvement Works?

Additional signage and road markings have been placed in the past at this junction.

This crossroads would require major works as the elevation of the junction needs to be raised, and the approach roads needs lowered in order to improve it. The works would require substantial land take required to construct embankments due to the level differences. Currently there is no funding available for such works. In the past, the Specific Improvement Grant was suitable for such works, however this funding stream was stopped by the Department in recent years.

Question 4:

When will the seven houses on the Clones Road/Hall Street, Ballybay be fully occupied, with the number of families in the area seeking housing, it's very unfortunate that these houses have been vacant for so many years?

Housing Section has forwarded nominations for these houses from the Social Housing list to the Approved Housing body (North and East Housing Association). The AHB has been in touch with all nominees, to conduct pre tenancy training, and it is expected they will move into their new homes shortly

Question 5:

Can Monaghan County Council give a detailed report/update on works on the new Ballybay Fire Station, when is the target date for completion, are works on schedule, target date for occupancy by the Fire Fighters. What is the predicted final financial cost figure and details of all facilities in the building and on site?

The new Fire Station in Ballybay is due for completion in Q2 and planned to be fully operational in Q3 of 2025 and has an overall project budget cost of €3.3m. The new Fire Station will provide a modern and functional building that will incorporate a Muster Bay, Lecture & Watch room, Kitchen, Appliance Bay, Breathing Apparatus Compressor & Storage room, Toilets and Showering facilities and drying room. Externally the site will accommodate car parking for fire personnel and visitors, and also include an integrated drill tower and multi-functional training yard. The new Fire Station will also facilitate the latest Information Communication Technology to enable delivery of an effective Command & Control system.

10. CE Orders

Noted.

Cllr. Treanor was advised works in Beechgrove will entail resurfacing and the new public lighting contractor will be monitored.

11. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

Déaglán Ó Doibhlin and Brian Mac Domhnaill.

Receiving the award for best event in the Irish language category @ Heritage Week Event (address these to c/o Kara Ward Heritage Officer MCC)

Largy College Clones

Largy College Teaching Staff & pupils both past & present for getting shortlisted for the Pride of Place Awards with their powerful project "We are all Human"

Pat & Rachel O'Shaughnessy Clones

Winning Grand Championship titles in Tang Soo Do World Championships

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

Shane McLoughlin Clones

Congratulations on setting a new Guinness World Record by pulling a 25-tonne truck, completing the challenge at the Cavan Crystal Hotel on Saturday, October 26.

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

12. AOB.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Richard Truell invited the Elected Members to Christmas lunch on Monday December 16th following conclusions of the final meeting of 2024.

New member of staff Daniel Kerr, Assistant Engineer was formally introduced to the Elected Members and welcomed to Ballybay/Clones Municipal District.

Meeting concluded.

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed _____
Meetings Administrator
Date, December 16th, 2024