

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday October 21st, 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 October meeting of Ballybay/Clones Municipal District extending welcome to Elected Members, staff and Northern Standard Reporter Veronica Corr.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Richard Truell paid tribute to Minister Heather Humphreys who announced she will not run for further election and has decided to stepdown from politics following dissolution of this government. Cllr. Truell wished to recognise and commend Minister Humphreys on her role as Councillor in Monaghan County Council and subsequently as a TD and then a Minister, having always impacted positively in this County and Region in all her roles. Cllr. Truell wished Minister Heather Humphreys a happy retirement.

Cllr. Treanor, Cllr. Flynn and Cllr. Gilliland all concurred and paid tribute to Minister Heather Humphreys commending her on her work ethic and commitment to community projects and the people of those communities. Minister Humphreys has a legacy of projects marking her time in office and was always professional and courtesy in her working relationships. Minister Humphreys departure from politics will be a great loss to this area and national politics. All Elected Members extended their best wishes to Minister Humphreys on her retirement and thanked her for her contribution to the community.

Gareth McMahon Director of Services on behalf of the Executive wished Minister Heather Humphreys all the best in her retirement. Minister Humphreys was always professional and courtesy in her engagement with Monaghan County Council staff there has been a good working relationship which all contributed to the successful role out of many projects in this Council.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Richard Truell discussed the vandalism of the toilets and bowling green in Ballybay Town Park noting the public toilets had to be closed for refurbishment following this incident. Following discussion among the Elected Members it was unanimously agreed that CCTV is necessary in this location to deter such acts of antisocial behaviour. Members also urged those involved to report to AGS as the Garda are going to extensive efforts to apprehend those involved and coming forward now would demonstrate remorse for ill-considered actions.

Gareth McMahon Director of Services informed Members Ballybay Town has been identified as part of the Town CCTV programme, however in order to expedite CCTV installation in the park, this location it will be examined as separately.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed August 2024 monthly meeting minutes, Cllr Sean Gilliland seconded the proposal, and it was unanimously agreed by all.

2. Correspondence Sent

Correspondence sent was noted.

3. Consideration of summary report of Biodiversity Action Plan (2025-2030) – Patricia McCreesh, Biodiversity Officer.

Patricia McCreesh, Biodiversity Officer presented a summary of the Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030 to the Elected Members. Biodiversity encompasses every living thing and where it lives.

The development of Monaghan County Council's plan commenced with issuing a discussion paper in July which was followed by 4 public consultations. A Biodiversity Working Group was created, this group meets quarterly and sits under the Heritage Forum. The groups' function is to steer the creation of this plan and with assist with implementation of actions.

There are 5 overarching themes within the plan.

- Biodiversity Audit
- Leading by Example
- Action for Biodiversity
- Connecting people to nature
- Stakeholder collaboration

It is proposed to have the draft plan ready for this Christmas and launch the plan in February 2025. The Biodiversity Conference will be held in Ballybay Wetlands on November 16th.

The Elected Members welcomed the report and commended work to date in development of this plan. Following discussion among the Members Cllr. Treanor noted that efforts in MCC are being made where it is possible, for example the implementation of pesticide legislation and tidy town committees working toward biodiversity goals.

Cllr. Gilliland concurred with Cllr. Treanor however noted that pesticides are a necessary evil and the legislation bans pesticide use for farmers but fails to offer alternatives. There is an increase in invasive weed species along our hedgerows and in our waterways and no means to tackle the problem.

4. Consideration of Section 183, Disposal of Clones Technology Park Building & Carpark Licence Agreement.

Consideration of draft Section 183 Notice – Disposal of the site on which the Clones Business Technology Park Building is constructed to Monaghan County Enterprise Fund CLG. Monaghan County Council to provide a licence to Monaghan County Enterprise Fund CLG granting access to the adjoining carpark, Monaghan County Council to retain full ownership of the carpark.

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

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.

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 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 Pleanála. 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.

An announcement on whether this funding application has been successful was due last month.

The Peace Link 10th Anniversary Celebration

The event was held at The Peace Link, Clones, Co. Monaghan on Friday 20th September 2024 from 11.30am to 2pm.

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.

The appointment of a design consultant for the Business Hub is imminent. A decision Gate 2 submission has been made to the Department seeking approval to go to tender.

Tender documents are being prepared for the appointment of a design consultant for the Heritage Hub. This appointment will be made in Q4 of this year.

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 | Q3 2024 | Construction works continuing site. ESB ducting is completed. Public Lighting 95% complete. Footways to both sides complete. Carriage-way excavation 50% complete and based. Michael Carroll working on design at Coyles/ Peacelink location. Programme for completion Mid Oct. |
| MN/22/0004 | Lough Egish Village AT Scheme | Q3 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 | Q3 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, | 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. |

| | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|------|--|
| | Ballybay, Clones, Carrickmacross) | | |
| 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. The appointed design consultant and Engineering staff are at present concluding a design in conjunction the National Transport Authority. 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

The first meeting of the steering group committee met on the 8th of August to discuss the appointment of a design team for this project. Hall, Black, Douglas Architects have been appointed as the Design Architects for the project. The consultants are reviewing the existing design at present and are preparing a recommendation on how best to proceed with the project.

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.

The public toilets in the service block at Clones Marina are operating on an automatic locking system and are accessible to the public from 8am – 8pm, 7 days a week. Outside of these hours the toilets and showers are accessible by smart card. These cards are available for purchase at www.waterwaysireland.org/shop

Benches and additional dog fowl bins have recently been installed around the walkway.

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 has been appointed.
- Lot 2: Catering Concession Clones Development (Canal Stores) has been appointed.

A presentation will be made at the November meeting regarding progress.

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 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.

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 in November of this year.

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 45 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.

- 3No. in Clones
- 7No. in Ballybay
- 2No. 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 Paul Hogarth Company has been appointed as consultants for the preparation of a Town Centre First plan for Ballybay.

The Town Centre First Policy, is a major cross-government policy that aims to tackle vacancy, combat dereliction, and breathe new life into our town centres. It advocates for a holistic, place-based approach to sustainable rural development. Irish towns are facing significant challenges and opportunities that require a coordinated and comprehensive response.

The Ballybay Town Centre First (TCF) Plan will be non-statutory community level plan produced by the local Town Team, who represent the local community and business representatives, with the support of Monaghan County Council. It will identify the challenges, actions, and integrated responses across several themes (such as business/commercial; housing; built environment; community/cultural and heritage).

An introduction presentation was given to the elected members on the 9th of September and to members of the Ballybay Town Team on the 10th of September. This presentation outlined the scope of works and proposed dates for Workshops, details of online & paper surveys, drop-in event, school and business engagement during the public consultation.

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 is planned on the 4 or the 5th of November.

Clones Feile Weekend 27th – 29th September 2024

Feedback from the Feile weekend has been positive from the Clones Town Team.

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.

Actions Arising from MD Report

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

Following discussion by the Members, Cllr. Treanor noted when funding announcements are made it is expected by the public that works will start imminently and the process of engaging consultants and preparatory work delays the actual works on the ground. If there is anything MCC can do to speed up these processes, we should be doing so.

Cllr. Treanor noted feedback from patrons of the Marina Clones are positive, seating along the marina is still required and dog fouling bins are necessary. Martin Taylor Executive Engineer advised these bins are now in place and MCC maintain the bins while Water Ways Ireland maintain the walking area. There has been a good working relationship established.

Cllr Gilliland congratulated Ballybay Town Team on their success in securing funding for the development of a teen hangout area in Ballybay Town Park. Cllr. Gilliland also welcomed funding in the amount of €200,000 which has also been secured for Ballybay and will be used for the development of a multiuse area for e.g. ICA, First Responders, Drama Society etc. this area will be essential until the Market House is completed.

Cllr. Flynn requested an update on Clones Health Check which was completed as part of the Town Centre First Policy. Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator will have a report for November's meeting.

Elected Members commended the community, MD Staff & Library Staff on the successful roll out of Clones Féile weekend, it is hoped to build on this and roll it out annually.

6. Report by Municipal District Engineer.

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

2024 Roads Programme

- The adopted 2024 roads programme have the 7 roads 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 |

- An additional 1.7km section of the R183 Newbliss to Clones Rd between Analore and Cladowen is currently being prepared and is to be resurfaced. Extensive excavation works and road strengthening has been carried out on a section of this road at Glear to combat an ongoing issue with the road sinking at this location.
- 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 are ongoing at the remaining sections of the L62012 and L62013 between Cornwall and Dunseark close to Newbliss in the vicinity of the Drumlins Wind Farm. These roads will be surface dressed in Q2 2025.

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. Some outstanding line marking is currently being completed over the past and coming days.

| 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 | Annaghray Connons - Border to Border | 1394 | 504 | 3.3 | 1663.2 |
| LT22413 | Annaghray 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 | Lattin 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
- Lough Mourne School – LP3131/LP4210/LS8200/LP3134 - €25,000
- Rockcorry – R193/188 JCT - €20,780

All land has been acquired, and works are complete at Maghernakelly and substantially complete at Lough Mourne School. Works have commenced at Rockcorry with road markings and high friction surfacing.

My CoCo

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

- 166 entries to date.
- 4 entries since September meeting,
- 10 of these are in progress,
- 156 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.

- 228 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.
- 74 Opened/outstanding.

Road Closures

There is a current road closure for R183 Clones to Newbliss to facilitate resurfacing.

Patching

The patching blitz from earlier this year has re-commenced with the remaining roads on the agreed list being completed. TH Moore Contracts Ltd are currently on site and have extensively patched 3 of these roads.

In addition, MCC currently has 1 patching crew on site continually patching the roads within the MD. Since the September meeting;

- 9 roads patched with MCC Outdoor Staff

Kilnacran Drainage

The brief for Kilnacran was to study the area, survey the area and produce a hydraulic model.

The topographical survey is due for completion on 21st October 2024. Mc Cloys Consulting Ltd who have been appointed as the hydrologist anticipate delivery of a drawing no later than Friday 25th October 2024.

Japanese Knotweed

Areas of Japanese Knotweed have been treated across the MD 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 have commenced by the appointed contractor. This shall be complete within the coming weeks.

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 a list of roads completed under the patching blitz initiative will be circulated to Members for their information. Upon further investigation putting the existing lights at Newbliss Church onto the grid presents difficulties as the setup of these lights are not compatible with the grid. The most efficient way to proceed will be to put in new road lights independent of the church lighting system.

Cllr Truell requested an update on the bus shelter initiative, relating to Scotshouse, Newbliss, Rockcorry and Greenan's Cross. Gareth McMahon Director of Services advised there is funding

through NTA for upgrade of bus shelters. €500 thousand is available under Active Travel, this funding is for the entire county over a period of 3 years. Currently an Engineer is being appointed to roll out this programme.

In relation to Local Link routes Elected Members unanimously agreed that requests for a Newbliss to Cootehill, Rockcorry to Monaghan and Smithborough to Monaghan bus service is essential. While it is noted Local Link have previously responded on these requests advising presently it is not possible as they are not identified in Connecting Ireland and Local Link are currently working toward providing bus services to routes identified within this plan.

Gareth McMahon Director of Services advised that he would continue to work with Local Link to examine these routes. Local Link do not prioritise routes on which a Bus Éireann service exists, both Rockcorry to Monaghan and Smithborough to Monaghan have a Bus Éireann service. It is noted that there is a disconnect between Local Link & Bus Éireann and there is a requirement for an integrated transport system for the county.

Cllr. Gilliland addressed the necessity for a bus service from Ballybay to Carrickmacross, noting there is an elderly population in Ballybay who are heavily reliant on bus services to attend medical appointments in Dublin. There are 4 towns in County Monaghan and Ballybay is the only one with no connecting bus service. Cllr. Gilliland thanked Gareth McMahon DOS for his efforts in trying to progress this matter.

Gareth McMahon Director of Services informed the Members requests for a meeting with NTA regarding this matter have been made and to date there has not been a response. It is noted that this route is not in the Connecting Ireland Plan, but he will continue to advocate for this and undertake work to build a Business Case for this route.

It is proposed that correspondence will issue to NTA requesting a meeting with the Director of Services Gareth McMahon regarding the necessity for a bus service between Ballybay & Carrickmacross Co. Monaghan. Currently there is no bus service between these locations.

Proposed Cllr. Sean Gilliland, Seconded Cllr. Sinead Flynn and unanimously agreed by all.

Cllr. Treanor requested an update on the Public Lighting Programme in relation to Annalore Lower Road at Scarvy. Martin Taylor Executive Engineer advised that 10/12 sites are adopted under this programme and currently 4 sites are being reviewed. Scarvy is not being reviewed presently.

7. Matters arising from previous minutes.

Cllr. Truell requested that further steps are taken in efforts to address traffic calming in Rockcorry in addition to those works already completed under the Low Cost Safety Scheme in.

Martin Taylor Executive Engineer advised in addition to road markings completed under this scheme, road signs on approaching roads have been cleared of vegetation and in 6 months' time another traffic count can be undertaken.

8. Notice of Motion

Cllr. Sinead Flynn proposed That Ballybay/Clones Municipal District write to the Minister for Education urging her to scrap plans to spend €9 million on mobile phone pouches and to allocate this funding instead to special education provision.

Proposed Cllr. Flynn, Seconded Cllr. Treanor and unanimously agreed by all.

Cllr. Richard Truell proposed that the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District undertake the following works at Dartrey Forest (at Dawson Grove Demesne, Co. Monaghan):

- Provision of traffic calming measures on the R188 at Dawson Grove Demesne (on corner leading up to the Monaghan/ Cavan border). Previously, there have been road traffic collisions in this area, ad-hoc parking of vehicles on the road edge by patrons of the forest and the nearby Coffee Dock (Walkabout Coffee Shop) in Dartrey forest and speeding vehicles approaching this area with pedestrians crossing the road. This location is an accident black spot, and the onus is on Monaghan County Council to conduct safety surveys and subsequently, install traffic calming measures in the area.
- Monaghan County Council should investigate the possibility of providing additional car spaces for Dartrey forest, perhaps working in collaboration with Cavan County Council. I understand the significant restraints that are on site however, as this amenity becomes more and more popular and to combat the dangerous and illegal parking of vehicles along the road edge, investigations should be undertaken by Monaghan County Council to see if any additional car parking spaces can be provided for the facility.
- Grant funding to be provided to the Local Area Development committee to upgrade the public toilets adjacent to the coffee dock in Dartrey Forest. The existing toilet facilities are not fully accessible by disabled persons and welfare facilities at this location should be provided for all patrons of the forest. A permanent solution for the disposal of wastewater from these toilet facilities should also be investigated by Monaghan County Council as currently all wastewater from these facilities is periodically emptied and tankered from the site, at a significant cost to the Local Area Development Committee.

Dartrey Forest is an amenity that attracts large numbers of visitors to the area and is a very important aspect of Monaghan Tourism hence Monaghan County Council should grant these requests.

Proposed Cllr. Truell, Seconded Cllr. Gilliland and unanimously agreed by all.

Martin Taylor Executive Engineer informed the Members a funding application has been submitted for a crash barrier on the R188. An application has been submitted under Town & Village for the upgrade of the toilets and with regard to provision of additional parking this will require a suitable location/site.

9. Questions

Cllr. Flynn:

Question 1:

There is a great need for traffic calming measures in the vicinity of the Cremartin GFC grounds. The club have carried out a survey which showed the huge amount of journeys to and from this wonderful facility weekly. Many of these involve children getting in and out of cars on what is a very busy road. Can the Council assess and produce an appropriate traffic calming plan for this area?

Answer:

Ballybay Clones Municipal District have carried out speed surveys in this vicinity and are also in the process of getting traffic and pedestrian surveys carried out at this location. Ballybay Clones Municipal District have introduced traffic calming solutions at this location in the past, and recently have met again with members of the club and discussed further possible solutions by way of road

Clones Municipal District have a good working relationship with Coillte and will assess the hedges and trees along their property on the R188 and R189 and issue notices where required.

10. CE Orders

Noted.

11. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

Cllr. Flynn proposed the following vote of sympathy, unanimously agreed by all.

Sympathies to the McElroy Family on the passing of Patrick McElroy, Smithbrough Co. Monaghan.

12. AOB.

Dates for your diary:

- Launch of Clones Film Festival on Thursday October 24th @ 8pm in Clones Court House.
- Fermanagh Omagh District Council visiting delegation on Friday November 22nd @ 12 midday.

Meeting concluded.

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed _____
Meetings Administrator
Date, November 18th, 2024