

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday September 16th, 2024, 2pm, 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 September meeting of Ballybay/Clones Municipal District extending welcome to Elected Members, staff and Northern Standard Reporter Veronica Corr.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed July 2024 monthly meeting minutes, Cllr Sinead Flynn 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.

4. Consideration of Section 183, Disposal of Lands Scotshouse Monaghan – Housing

Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator presented Section 183 for the disposal of lands at Scotshouse Monaghan on behalf of the Housing Department. The plot comprises part of Folio No. 19512F and is 273.78 square meters. The person of whom the land is disposed to is Darren Rooney for the consideration of €7,000.

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

5. Consideration of Section 183, Disposal of Derelict Building at Lecklevera, Greenan's Cross, Newbliss – Housing

Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator presented Section 183 for the disposal of a Derelict Building at Lecklevera, Greenan's Cross, Newbliss on behalf of the Housing Department. Comprising of Folio No. MN2381F, site area 0.188 Hectares. The person of whom the land is disposed to is Alan Corley and Jane O'Driscoll for the consideration of €120,000.

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

6. 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 be 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 at construction stage and will be completed in Q4 of this year.

Corrybrennan Park Playpark: –

Works are completed and commissioned; Minister Humphries officially opened the playpark on the 26th of July.

Town & Village Scheme 2023

Market House Ballybay

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

Clones Youth Centre

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

Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2021

Ballybay to Castleblaney Greenway: -

The Route Options Selection for the Ballybay to Castleblaney 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.

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.

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 following a meeting with locals.

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 last month.

Ballybay Wetlands

Funding of €198,833.00 has been granted for the Ballybay Wetlands Public Path Enhancement. At present Engineering staff are preparing tender documents for the appointment of a Civil Engineering Contractor to complete the works.

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.

Dromore Blueway

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

PEACEPLUS Theme 1.4

Peace Link Extension

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

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

The Peace Link 10th Anniversary Celebration

The event will be 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.

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.

Ballybay Market House –

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

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, 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. 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 next steering group meeting is on the 10th of October.

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

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.

Traffic Warden

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

Ballybay Library/Civic Building

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

Carrowbarrow:- Smithborough TIC

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

Ballybay Town Team

The town team meeting is due to take place on the 18th of September.

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

Queens University have been engaged by Monaghan County Council to carry out Town Centre Health checks for the individuals' towns of Clones/Monaghan/Castleblayney. This is being funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Town Centre First Policy.

Town Centre Health Checks provide a baseline, to help monitor and drive the development of town centres going forward. It will build on previous studies previously carried out in individual towns. The work of the Town Centre Health Check will include: -

- Land Use surveys to establish the overall vacancy rates in the town.
- Retailer surveys to establish current levels of commercial activity and outlook.
- Pedestrian counts to establish actual town centre visitor numbers.
- Shoppers surveys to rate visitor experience and satisfaction.

Members of the public and business owners will be encouraged to participate and give their views on their experiences in the town centre. It is an opportunity to shape town centres and strengthen it into the future, to make it an attractive place to work, live and visit.

Survey works commenced on the week commencing 09/09/24 and the surveyors were in Clones on Friday of last week. This will be supplemented by additional fieldwork on 20th September in all towns.

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 is on Tuesday the 17th of September with the Clones Town Team.

Clones Féile Weekend 27th – 29th September 2024

Date	Event	Location	Time	Details
Friday 27 th	Tully and Mick Foster in Concert	Creighton Hotel	9pm	Once in a lifetime truly special and memorable night of beautiful music we bring you the amazing harmonies of Tully with the stalwart Mick Foster €20 per ticket
	Trad music sessions	Pubs	9pm	NA
Saturday 28 th	The SongTales Stage	Diamond or Barry McGuigan Park	4.30 – 7.15pm	Featuring music and singalong songs by some of

				Ireland's top musicians, this show promises an engaging and interactive experience for children and families
	Oriel in Concert	Adamsons	10.30pm	Oriel is a band made up of musicians and singers from the old region of Oriel in North East Ireland. Instruments include uilleann pipes, banjo, accordion, guitar and bodhran. Oriel has performed in USA and various locations across Europe
	Trad music sessions	Pubs	7-9pm	NA
Sunday 29 th	Tradoodle Big Bash	Clones Library	1.30pm	Tradoodle is Ireland's only traditional arts festival dedicated to children and family audiences. Tradoodle is presented by Ceol Connected in association with Monaghan County Council and Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan

	Afternoon of Music	Canal Stores	2.30-4.30pm	NA
	Trad music sessions	Pubs	7-9pm	NA

Ballybay Clones East Erne Partnership

A meeting is scheduled to take place on the 26th of September.

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, staff advised Rockcorry, Greenan's Cross and Scotshouse are all being assessed as part of the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme. There has been engagement with NTA and the process requires evaluation of locations and then to set a list of priorities, this process is currently underway.

Urban Mobility/Sustainability AT Plans, require review by the consultant based on TII feedback. When this stage is completed, it will then go to Public Consultation.

Cllr. Pat Treanor queried if there any further steps which can be taken to inform residents of the Part VIII relating to Public Realm Enhancement, Ball Alley Clones as this represents significant change for residents in this location with changes to a 1-way traffic system.

7. Report by Municipal District Engineer.

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

2024 Roads Programme

- The programme for the 2024 roads programme has been adopted to include for 7 roads to be resurfaced.

2024 Draft Restoration Improvement Programme

Road No	Location
LP3401	McNallys cross to McVickors Cross
LS7330	Terrygeely - 3 Roads - Mullanabattog - 4 Roads
LP2232/3	Drum village
LT21122/23	Stone Bridge - Shankill
LT71011	Carrickinare - 3 Roads South - Annahaia- 3 Roads
R212	Clones - Scotshouse Sections
R190	Ballybay to Cootehill Section

- Resurfacing works have been completed on all of the roads.
- Surface dressing works are ongoing this week on LT21122/23 Stone Bridge.

- Side filling to be completed at LP3401 McNallys Cross to McVikars Cross, and LT21122/23 Stone Bridge – Shankill.
- An additional road R183 is to have a section resurfaced in October between Analore and Cladown. This road was on the 2025 programme.

2024 Restoration Maintenance Programme

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

Surface dressing in Ballybay Clones MD commenced on 21st May for 3 weeks with all 18 no roads now have been completed.

The remaining line marking will be completed in the coming weeks.

Road No	Location	Overall Length of road (m)	Length of SD only (m)	Width of Road (m)	Area Of SD Works (m2)
LT20322	Kilcorran Selloo	1468	1468	3.3	4844
LP2150	Magherarney - Carnowen	1723	1723	3.8	6547
LP2151	Carnowen - Killygorman	2141	2141	3.8	8136
LP2152	Killygorman - Shanco	1927	1927	3.8	7323
LS6250	Munnilly - Clonmore	1387	1387	3.6	4993
LT22102	Corconnolly (R212 - Ture)	668	668	3.3	2204
LT22414	Annaghraw Connons - Border to Border	1394	504	3.3	1663.2
LT22413	Annaghraw Connons - Border to Border	512	512	3.3	1689.6
LP2241	Drumhillagh	2946	420	3.6	1512
LT22412	Killynure	1505	442	3.3	1459
LP2320	Carson Monument - Doohat	2137	2137	3.8	8121
LS7040	Latto 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 currently underway at Maghernakelly and Lough Mourne School. Works are substantially complete at these sites with the exception of the fencing and any planting.

My CoCo

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

- 162 entries to date.
- 9 entries since July meeting,
- 5 of these are in progress,
- 157 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 has been a road closure advertised for R183 Clones to Newbliss for October to facilitate resurfacing.

Patching

With surface dressing works ongoing, MCC has 1 patching crew in the area.

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

- 12 roads patched with MCC Outdoor Staff
- 26 roads sealed with Velocity Patcher

Bitmac Patching

John McQuillan has been appointed and has commenced works in the MD to carry out bitmac patching in the MD. Works are completed at 15 different locations/roads across the MD that are being patched with these large cut out patches.

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 week commencing 29th July 2024. The flood mapping also commenced on week commencing 29th July 2024. Mc Cloy Consulting Ltd indicated an 8-to-10-week duration for completion of Flood Mapping/ Flood Hazard Mapping which will then require decisions on what works are required.

Final reports from Mc Cloy Consulting Ltd are due by start of 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.

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 Patching Blitz roads which were listed for works and not yet done will be patched plus a further 10 roads which will close out this programme.

Cllr. Treanor addressed resurfacing roads in housing estates and noted if Monaghan County Council cannot resurface these roads can patching works be undertaken. There is a demand for a Local Link service from Newbliss to Cootehill and Cllr. Treanor proposed as Gareth McMahon Director of Services sits on the Local Link Board that he would take this proposal to the Board for consideration. Cllr Flynn requested that a request for a Local Link service from Smithborough to Monaghan is also included in this request.

Gareth McMahon Director of Services advised that the National Local Link Network Map has been agreed by NTA and this is where their priorities are, in getting services to these locations. It is noted Bus Eireann operate a bus service from Smithborough to Monaghan, where a Bus Eireann service exists Local Link will not put on a competing service.

Cllr. Gilliland sought an update on a prior request by this Municipal District to Local Link for the provision of a bus service from Ballybay to Carrickmacross. Gareth McMahon Director of Services advised correspondence issued to the NTA regarding this connection, and they have informed Monaghan County Council this is not included as a route in the NTA Connecting Ireland plan. To get this route included we will be starting at the basis to demonstrate this is a key location and gather evidence to bring to the NTA. Consideration of how to gather this information will be required to build a case and & demonstrate a need for this route.

Cllr. Gilliland noted it is now hedge cutting season and he has received rep.'s from school bus services as their routes are becoming impassable. It is essential follow up with landowners to cut hedges is undertaken.

8. Matters arising from previous minutes.

Noted, no matters arising.

9. Questions

Cllr Truell asked:

Q1: I request that Monaghan County Council contact Eir in relation to the telegraph poles at the junction of the LT24124 on to the R183 at Drumkeen church. These poles are creating a safety concern

for traffic approaching the R183 regional road from this junction. Can these poles be repositioned so that they aren't blocking site lines at this junction.

Answer:

This location will be assessed and if the poles are deemed to be an issue, it will be raised with Eir.

Q2: Can Ballybay/Clones MD examine extending the speed limit on the Clones Road out of Newbliss by the Bridge adjacent to the Newbliss Child Care facility.

Answer:

This request will be forwarded on to Roads Section of MCC. Extending the speed limit at this location is something that will need brought to the next speed limit review.

Q3: I request that Ballybay/Clones MD give an update on road signage for our regional roads i.e. updating the existing signage and adding more where needed.

Answer:

Following the implementation of a new signage app, some of the regional roads have been surveyed within the MD and the total signage captured. There is a tender to go out this year for the county wide to upgrade all the signage on one regional road in each MD.

Q4: Can Ballybay/Clones give an update on the recent traffic speed survey through Drum village as this road through the village was recently resurfaced, on which a good job was done but now traffic is speeding through the village and if there are violations, could some cushion ramps be installed.

Answer:

There had been speed surveys carried out at this location in 2022 showing 33% violations. ADT was 351 vehicles and the 85th percentile speed was 55km/hr.

Following the resurfacing of the road through the village, the traffic survey was completed again between 8th and 19th August 2024 within the 50km/h zone. The 85th percentile speed for this survey is 67km/h with an ADT of 491 vehicles. The violations recorded at this location was 67%. The MD will forward on the report to An Garda for consideration, and will follow the adopted MCC traffic calming policy for this location.

Q5: Can Ballybay/Clones MD request landowners along the R189 from Greenans Cross to Rossmore Forest Park to have their roadside hedges cut as overgrown trees and branches are causing a safety concern and causing damage to cars, HGVs and Buses.

Answer:

The Ballybay Clones MD will assess this road like all other roads within the area, and identify any locations that are causing issues in the interest of road safety. These property owners will be identified and tree/hedge cutting letters served on them to have the works carried out within 14 days.

Cllr. Treanor will ask:

Q1. What is the timeline for the completion of Phase 3 of the Ulster Canal construction?

Answer:

Waterways Ireland have advised that it is expected that the Ulster Canal Phase 3 would be completed in 2028/29 however this project timeline is currently under review.

Q2. Following the recent announcement of funding for the development of the Old Lennard Arms hotel and the Old Cinema site, when will work begin and be completed?

Answer:

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. At present Engineering staff are in the process of appointing detailed design teams for both hubs. Construction is proposed to commence in Q2 of 2025 with completion on Q2 2027.

Q3. Will Monaghan County Council consider removing the bad corner at Doohat, Newbliss, on the R189 Newbliss to Cootehill road? The sightline exiting the LT63103 is very dangerous.

Answer:

This area will require considerable works and land take due to the geometry of the R189, a considerable portion of the garden to a domestic house is required to be removed to provide sight lines and forward visibility. Due to the nature and extent of these works, funding would need to be applied for under the Low-Cost Safety Initiative scheme.

Q4. When will work begin on constructing houses at Ard na Gréine, Roslea Road, Clones (Old School site)?

Answer:

The purchase of the Old School site on the Roslea Road, Clones was only completed on 15 July 2024 because approval of the Charities Regulator was required. The solicitor appointed by Monaghan County Council is now dealing with the registration of the property, it is hoped that the property will be registered in Monaghan County Council's ownership shortly.

In the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 the Old School site on the Roslea Road, Clones is zoned for Community Services / Facilities however in the "DRAFT MONAGHAN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2025 – 2031" it is shown as zoned for residential development. Monaghan County Council has now appointed an Architect led design team to prepare designs and work towards seeking funding approval for the development of social housing. Subject to zoning it is hoped that construction will commence in 2025 when the new Monaghan County Development Plan is in place.

10. CE Orders

Noted.

11. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

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

Cllr. Pat Treanor proposed a vote of congratulations to Shane McLoughlan on his success in achieving a Guinness World Record for pulling a 20 tonne Lorry.

Cllr. Sinead Flynn proposed a vote of congratulations to Eve McCrystal on her success on winning silver in the Cycling Paralympics.

12. AOB.

Meeting concluded.

The meeting went in committee proposed Cllr. Sean Gilliland and seconded by Cllr. Richard Truell.

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed _____
Meetings Administrator
Date, October 21st, 2024