

## **The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones**

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 2pm, Clones Municipal Office.

**Members Present:** Cathaoirleach Cllr Richard Truell presided; the following members were also present: Cllrs: Pat Treanor & Sinead Flynn.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Sean Gilliland.

**In Attendance:** Gareth McMahon A/Director of Services, Matthew Lambe A/Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Martin Taylor Executive Engineer, Gillian Costello Staff Officer and Kevin Connolly Assistant Engineer.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Richard Truell welcomed all to the April meeting of Ballybay/Clones Municipal District, welcoming Kevin Connolly Assistant Engineer a new member of staff to the MD. Cllr. Truell welcomed confirmation that Ulster Final 2025 will be hosted in St. Tiernach's Park Clones which is a very positive outcome for Clones, and acknowledged the efforts of the County Board, Ulster GAA and Monaghan GAA in lobbying for this. Cllr. Truell wished both teams, Armagh and Donegal the best of luck in the final.

Cllr. Treanor supported Cllr. Turell's sentiments and welcomes the decision to hold the Ulster final in Clones this event is a great boost for both Clones and the surrounding areas. Cllr. Treanor noted that it is disappointing the game is now scheduled for Saturday evening instead of the original Sunday game. Clones need to put their best foot forward to compete to retain the Ulster Final going forward, modernisation of the pitch and facilities and investment in Clones are all necessary for the improvements required. Cllr. Treanor thanked all involved in preparation for weekend matches from parking for cars and coaches to the welcome the people of the town extend. Traffic Management is something we need to work on, can parking be improved this is something we need to address.

Cllr. Flynn welcomes the Ulster Final, noting this is a proud day for Clones which has a special connection with Ulster Football and hopes to see all future games retained here in Clones. Investment in upgrades/modernisation is required.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr. Richard Truell seconded by Cllr. Pat Treanor & unanimously agreed.

### **2. Correspondence Sent**

Correspondence sent was noted.

### **3. Correspondence Received**

Correspondence received was noted and following discussion.

The Elected Members acknowledged receipt of An Garda Siochana correspondence and welcome the policing plan for Ballybay Town Park. The Members wish to invite An Garda Siochana to attend the May Municipal Meeting, to discuss similar plans for all our towns & villages.

Cllr. Flynn welcomed correspondence from the Minister for Health advising the HRT scheme will commence for women from June 1<sup>st</sup> and hopes that reimbursement of costs already incurred are

addressed. Cllr. Flynn noted there is a €5 dispensing fee & hope all agencies will work together to agree an appropriate fee as pharmacies are advising this is not covering costs.

Cllr. Flynn noted correspondence received from the Department of Agriculture and the Marine which has provided no further insight to TB eradication. Ballybay/Clones Municipal District Elected Members have extended an invite on 2 separate occasions to the Department of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries, and the Marine to attend the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District meetings of March and April respectively, to discuss the Bovine TB Policy framework for national disease eradication programmes. Both invitations have been declined.

Cllr. Flynn proposes this correspondence is issued to the Minister Heydon expressing their disappointment that his department did not accept their invitation and request an explanation as to why the Department are refusing to meet with the Elected Members.

*Proposed Cllr. Flynn, seconded Cllr. Treanor*

Cllr. Treanor noted Parks & Wildlife play a central role after herd infection, as they have responsibility for wildlife it is not effective actioning after the event.

#### **4. Consideration of Clones Urban Mobility Plan- Bernadette McArdle, SEE Active Travel.**

Bernadette McArdle SEE presented the Clones Town Urban Mobility Plan for adoption. To date the draft plan was presented to the Elected Members in January and presented to the Town Team online, a public drop-in session was facilitated in February to get community feedback.

Submissions made during consultation were reviewed and taken into consideration & the plan updates are as follows.

Urban Mobility Plan Updates	
Plan Section	Update
Active Travel Links	Quiet Roads (Rother Roads) incorporated
	New link between the Peace Link & John Delaney Park incorporated
	New cross border link added
Other Initiatives	Upgrade to pedestrian crossing at Supervalu
	New pedestrian crossing at Largy College
	New pedestrian crossing at the Clones Credit Union
Implementation Plan	Town Centre bus stops enhancements moved from a long-term objective to a short / medium term objective
	Non-vehicular link between the Carn Lane walk to Millbrook Upper via / adjacent to The Peace Link – The timeframe adjusted to short-medium term due to the strong support received
	Traffic calming measures along River Lane moved from long-term to short / medium term due to positive feedback received
	Improved pedestrian / cycle facilities along the Newtownbutler Road moved from long term to short / medium term

Cllr. Treanor welcomed the presentation and public consultation that was undertaken, it was very effective and beneficial to this plan. Parking congestion in O'Neill Park is an ongoing issue and joining these initiatives in the mobility plan with other funding opportunities could bring a road to the back of O'Neill Park to join into the Peace Link is there potential to consider this proposal?

Bernadette McArdle SEE advised this proposal would be outside the plan; this would be developer lead. This funding is focused on Active Travel not new roadways. Should other opportunities present this proposal will be keep in mind.

*Proposed Cllr. Treanor, seconded Cllr. Truell & unanimously agreed.*

#### **5. Vandalism Ballybay Town Park, An Garda Siochana, Inspector Colm McNally.**

Inspector McNally was unable to be in attendance, a update to the Elected Members was submitted in writing and noted as correspondence received.

#### **6. Consideration of Public Lighting Review – Assistant Engineer, Kevin Connolly BCMD.**

Kevin Connolly, Assistant Engineer presented Ballybay/Clones MD Public Lighting Review 2025 for adoption. There is a budget of approximately €26,500 for public lighting projects in this MD.

There are 9 locations on the schedule of works.

BALLYBAY-CLONES MD PUBLIC LIGHTING SCHEDULE OF WORKS							
Ranking	Area	Location	Road Number	Lighting Costs (M&E)	Number of Lights	Ducting (m)	Costs + Vat (Estimated)
1	Aghabog	Latnamard School junction to Carn Resource Centre	LT-24112	€16,500.00	11	0	€21,565.00
2	Ballybay	Meeting House Lane	LT-31003	€4,500.00	3	100	€14,187.50
3	Rockcorry	Trinity Chapel	LS-6320	€10,500.00	7	210	€30,361.25
4	Killeevan	St. Livinius' Church	LT-21521	€6,000.00	4	125	€18,018.13
5	Clones	Newbliss Road	R-183	€12,000.00	8	300	€39,725.00
6	Cremartin	Monaghan GAA Centre of Excellence	LP-3400	€4,500.00	3	100	€14,187.50
7	Corcaghan	Cemetary Road	LT-24022	€7,500.00	5	200	€26,105.00
8	Rockcorry	Cootehill Road to School	R-188	€27,000.00	18	600	€82,287.50
9	Killeevan	Analore Bridge	R-183	€6,000.00	4	150	€20,146.25

Members welcomed the report, Cllr. Treanor enquired about location 5 Clones, Newbliss Road & is there potential to extend the lights to the junction as this is a safety issue. Gareth McMahon Director of Services advised this junction would fall under a safety scheme as opposed to a lighting scheme.

*Proposed Cllr. Truell, seconded Cllr. Treanor & unanimously agreed.*

#### **7. Consideration of Clones Town Team Action Plan – Clones Town Team.**

The Town Team sent their apologies as they are now unavailable to attend today's meeting. They will attend the May MD Meeting to present the Clones Town Team Action Plan.

#### **8. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator**

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

##### Public transport Survey Ballybay to Carrickmacross

Following review of the Ballybay to Carrickmacross Survey submissions, the following recommendations are made

##### **1. Implement a Pilot Service**

- Route: Ballybay → Lough Egish → Carrickmacross
- Peak-time and mid-day services with accessible vehicles.

##### **2. Link to Regional/National Transport**

- Connect with Dublin and Dundalk services in Carrickmacross.

##### **3. Evening and Weekend Services**

- Especially to support social and economic participation.

#### **4. Stakeholder Engagement**

- Involve employers, disability advocates, schools, and Local Link.

There is overwhelming community support for the reinstatement or creation of a public transport link along the Ballybay–Carrickmacross corridor. The need is immediate and backed by evidence following the transportation survey. I would ask Elected members to support the development of a business case and seek funding for a pilot initiative.

*Proposed Cllr. Flynn, seconded Cllr. Treanor & unanimously agreed.*

#### **Town & Village Scheme 2023**

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###### **Public Realm - 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 Q2 of 2025.

###### **Clones Youth Centre**

Funding of €250k has been received for the refurbishment of Clones Youth Centre. It is planned to go to tender shortly for this project.

##### **Outdoor Recreation Schemes 2022**

###### **Dartry Forest**

Construction Works have been completed. The Official opening took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April.

###### **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. The application was submitted to An Bord Pleanála earlier this year. A decision by An Bord Pleanála for the Dromore River Blueway project is due by Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

##### **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 consultant is imminent.

##### **Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2023**

###### **Measure 2**

###### **Ballybay Wetlands**

Funding of €198,833.00 has been granted for the Ballybay Wetlands Public Path Enhancement. Construction works are ongoing, and works will be completed in Q2.

###### **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**

### **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. This application has been successful. There will be an investment by SEUPB of €8.4 million towards the RESTART project under measure 4.2 of the PEACE PLUS programme, Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion. The project, aptly named RESTART, an acronym for Rural Economic & Social Transformation And Resilience Transition Together, will see significant strategic investment in the towns of Newtownbutler, Clones and Belturbet. The project has been designed collaboratively to enable these rural communities to thrive and reach their full economic, social and environmental potential. The proposed works at the at the Canal Stores site to include the redevelopment of the former Canal workers cottage to extend the meals on wheels service, and provision of additional multipurpose meeting and community space that can also be used to provide services for the Marina adjacent to the site.

### **Peace Plus (Areas for Young People and young people with disability)**

A Teen hang out area at Ballybay Park with access to Wifi facilities, a place to play music, hang out in a dry environment and have access to charging facilities has been approved and design is ongoing. Works will commence in Q2 of this year.

### **Rural Regeneration & Development fund Scheme**

#### Newbliss Digital Enterprise Hub

Construction works are substantially completed. An opportunity to view the building by the elected members will be organised next month.

### **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. The closing date for the receipt of tenders was the 14<sup>th</sup> of February however this has been extended until the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month. The appointment of a Construction Contractor is imminent.

A Creative Consultant had been appointed 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. Works are well under way and a presentation will be made to the elected members at the May meeting.

#### Ballybay Market House –

Part VIII planning permission has been granted and detailed design stage is ongoing. It is planned to go to tender on this project in late Q2 of this year.

### **Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) - Category 2 Projects**

#### St. Tiarnach's Quarter Regeneration Project

The development of the St. Tiarnach's Quarter Regeneration Project is a project that could potentially be developed through this Funding call. Monaghan County Council applied for funding in Q1 of this year and are awaiting.

#### Active Travel Scheme

<b>Project Code:</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
MN/21/0020	Low-Cost Junction Tightening - Newbliss (where R189 meets R183). Possibility of including Annalore Street	NTA public transport section have reviewed current proposal and have confirmed that a new bus route is proposed for the area and the current proposal doesn't cater for the proposed bus route. Scheme currently on hold.
MN/22/0001	Clones Peace Link AT Scheme	Construction works substantially completed. Monaghan County Council Horticulturist working on design for Coyles/Peacelink location. The Clones Tidy town team have planted out the bank area to rear of retaining wall. Official Opening was on the 31st of March.
MN/22/0004	Lough Egish Village AT Scheme	Construction works are nearing completion. Accommodation works underway. Pedestrian crossing line marking and signage to be completed.
MN/23/0020	Urban Mobility/Sustainability AT Plans (Castleblayney, Ballybay, Clones, Carrickmacross)	Public consultation evening held 5th February. Public consultation period closed 6th March. Final plan being presented to Members on 28th April.
MN/24/XXXX	Bus Stop Enhancement Programme.	A Meeting was held on the 28th of January 2025 with NTA & MCC on the programme of bus stop locations and associated works. The NTA is currently preparing a list of bus stops requiring upgrade works which will be circulated to MCC for input along with guidance on how the scheme is to be implemented and managed.

#### **Community Recreation Fund 2023**

##### 98 Avenue Bus Stop: -

A funding allocation of €120,000 has been received. A Section 38 application has been made, and the project is now at tender stage for the appointment of a civil Engineering contractor.

#### **Clar 2023 Developing Community Facilities and Amenities**

##### Peace link Sensory Garden

Site preparation works have commenced for the development and installation of a sensory garden with a varied array of sensory equipment at the Peace Link. This project will be completed in Q2 of 2025.

#### **Community Centre Investment Fund –**

##### Rockcorry Community Centre

The planning application for this project has been granted. This project is at detailed design stage, and it is hoped to go to tender next month.

#### **Greenway**

##### Ulster Canal - Clones to Smithboro Greenway: -

MCC have requested a 2025 funding allocation from TII to complete Phase 2 Option Selection of TII Project Management Guidelines. The Flood Modelling Report concluded that alternative options should be explored with a view of removing the risk of flooding to a preferred greenway route.

##### Ulster Canal – Smithboro to Monaghan Greenway: -

Further design and flood modelling is ongoing to confirm that the greenway, in its current location, can be designed to be climate resilient without adversely impacting adjacent lands with regards to flood risk. Once confirmed, the scheme can progress to Statutory Processes which are planning approval and land acquisition.

##### Ballybay to Castleblaney Greenway: -

An application for funding to proceed to design stage was made to the TII for proposed greenway from Ballybay to Castleblaney for 2025, however this application was unsuccessful.

#### **Proposed Public CCTV Schemes.**

##### **Ballybay CCTV: -**

Public Consultation on the scheme has been completed.

##### **Clones CCTV: -**

Public Consultation on the scheme will commence for the scheme in the coming weeks.

#### **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. A letter of offer has been received, and the council is reviewing same at present.

#### **2024 Community Recognition Fund**

An application totalling €200,000 was successful for the Upgrade & Refurbishment of Ballybay Multi-use Community Building. Building surveying works and design works are ongoing with FAC and DAC certs being prepared. It is hoped to commence refurbishment works in Q2 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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

To date there has been 5 No. Section 15 Notices of Intention to acquire in CLS/BBY area.

CPO process has started on: -

- 85 Main Street Ballybay, Section 15 issued
- Kincora House, NTB road, Clones. Section 15 issued
- NTB Road, Clones. Section 15 issued
- The Diamond, Clones. Section 15 issued
- 1 Oakview Clones. Section 15 issued

An additional 11 properties in the district will proceed to CPO in the coming months.

The CPO process is completed on: -

Main Street Newbliss, and the property is in the ownership of Monaghan County Council and the Housing section will redevelop.

### **Ballybay Town Centre First Plan**

Workshops, online & paper surveys, drop-in events, school and business engagement during the public consultation have been completed. Consultants are preparing the draft Ballybay Town Centre First Plan document complete with an action plan. This draft document has been made available to the Ballybay Town Team for their review. Following the review and should everything be in order a launch date for the plan will take place next month.

### **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.

Some amendments had to be completed as draft report lacked comparisons with previous surveys. These amendments are near completion and a final report will be soon available.

### **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.

To date four meetings have taken place an action plan is nearing completion, and a presentation will be made to the elected members at next month's MD meeting.

### **Site for Bikers Memorial Garden**

This project has been temporarily paused.



As there were expressions of concern from the community and in the interest of providing a voice to all parties the Elected Members and the executive wish to give due consideration to all options for this proposed project.

The following will be carried out as part of the review process: -

1. A review of the proposed location will be undertaken, as will other potential sites in the town. Each site will be assessed for suitability and a site selection study will be completed.
2. When completed this study will provide a recommendation and this will be presented to the elected members of the Ballybay Clones Municipal District for their consideration.
3. Should the recommendation be approved by the Elected Representatives the project will proceed to detailed design stage and Part VIII Planning Permission. Public consultation is a fundamental element of the Part VIII planning permission application process which submissions or observations may be made.

An urban design and landscape architect has been appointed to carry out the site selection study and this is ongoing. It is envisaged that the report will be available next month.

#### **Ballybay & Gergweis, Osterhofen Twinning 2000-2025**

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the twinning of Ballybay and Gergweis, Osterhofen. The executive met with representatives from both Ballybay and Gergweis, Osterhofen to discuss how to mark the occasion. Representatives from Gergweis, Osterhofen have extended a provisional invitation to the Elected members of the Ballybay Clones MD to travel to Bavaria in and around the dates of June 26-30 in 2025. A return trip to Ballybay would take place in September/October 2025.

#### **Transportation Survey – Ballybay to Carrickmacross via Lough Egish**

A transportation survey was posted on all Monaghan County Council social media handles and closing date for submissions was the 12<sup>th</sup> of this March, 124 participants took part in this survey. Presentation on the findings of the survey was made to the elected members.

#### **Transportation Survey – Smithborough to Monaghan**

Transport Needs Survey is now available on MCC Consultation Portal and all Monaghan County Council social media handles, it has also been forwarded to all members of the PPN – the consultation will run from 25/04/2025 to 16/05/2025.

#### **Ulster Championship GAA Games**

Monaghan County Council staff have assisted an AGS with the provision of car parking regarding access and egress matting on three Ulster Championship GAA Games to date on 6 sites in the vicinity of the town.

#### **Traffic Warden**

A full-time traffic warden for Ballybay & Clones MD will commence next month.

#### **1% Arts Funding Ballybay Projects**

Monaghan County Council recently completed three Social Housing Project in the town, as part of these construction works 1% arts funding was provided. The theme for the Art pieces was Ballybay Fair Day a mural was completed at the entrance to the New Car Park and a grey mare sculptor was erected on the green area at An Clos.

#### **Actions Arising from MD Report**

Elected Members welcomed this report and the progression of projects. Following discussion; in response to Elected Members queries staff advised.

There is no opening date set for the Digi Hub in Newbliss yet. A traffic warden specifically for Ballybay/Clones will commence work on Monday May 12<sup>th</sup>. Rockcorry Community Centre had to go back to planning, it is now at Detail Design Stage, will go to tender in Q3 and go to sight early next year. Junction tightening in Newbliss is held up due to negotiations with stakeholders. The Clones to Smithboro Greenway is under review with TII due to flooding issues. The Members noted if the Canal is further developed it would be important to keep walkways close and maybe boardwalks could be considered to address flooding issues. Staff advised a full assessment of the routes & options will be undertaken nothing is ruled out.

## **9. Report by Municipal District Engineer.**

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

### **Roads Programme**

- Roads programme has been adopted for 2025 with 5 no Local roads and 2 no Regional Roads included.
  - LS6272 Drumurcher – Corrygarra
  - LT22414 Connons
  - LT39002 Balladian
  - LT41133 Laragh
  - LS7101/7100 Annahaia – Tossey
  - R183 Doapey Creamery
  - R183 Killyragy
  - R162 Monaghan Road Ballybay
- Works are complete on 6 of these roads for drainage works ahead of the commencement of resurfacing.
  - LS6272 Drumurcher – Corrygarra – Works complete
  - LT22414 Connons – Works complete
  - LT39002 Balladian – Works complete
  - LT41133 Laragh – Works complete
  - LS7101/7100 Annahaia – Works ongoing
  - R183 Killyragy – Works complete
  - R183 Doapey Creamery – Works substantially complete
  - R162 Monaghan Road Ballybay – Works complete
- Roads have been measured to allow for the design and tendering of the works.
- Survey works and testing have been carried out on the roads to enable the design of the overlays.
- Tender process has been completed and TH Moore appointed for the works.
- Works are commencing this week at LT41133 Laragh followed by LS6272 Drumurcher – Corrygarra for resurfacing.
- Ballybay Clones Municipal District are second this year for resurfacing of the Regional roads with works expected to commence in June/July.

### **2025 Restoration Maintenance Programme**

A number of roads have been identified using the Pavement Management System and PSCI ratings for surface dressing in 2025 as part of the Restoration Maintenance Programme. These roads are currently being assessed before finalising the Restoration Maintenance Programme.

### **Low Cost Safety Initiatives**

A funding application has been submitted for 2025 for a number of projects across the MD. Confirmation has been received that funding has been secured for the following locations;

- LP3400/LP3411 Cremartin - €40,000.
- R183/LS6290 Guardhill Killeevan - €40,000. Currently engaging the services of a designer to design the Vehicle Restraint System to meet current standards.
- R189/LP2400 Threemilehouse - €30,000. Land has been secured here also from Sean McDermotts GAA to allow for sight line improvements at this location. Currently completing draft design for these works to allow for Road Safety Audit.
- R183/R162 Approach Roads Ballybay - €25,000

In addition, land acquisition has been agreed at Legnakelly at the JCT of LP2130 and N54 to allow for improved visibility at this JCT. The land acquisition is currently going with MCC legal team for the transfer of this land. Roads Section have applied for funding for these works.

### **My CoCo**

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

- 186 entries to date
- 6 entries since March meeting
- 3 of these are in progress
- 183 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.

- 245 Drainage notices issued to date
- No drainage notices have been issued since the February meeting
- 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 is currently a lane closure in place at L24221 at Aghnacue Bridge, Doapey following the partial collapse of the bridge.

### **Bridges**

We have recently got works carried out on 4 bridges across the Municipal District, 2 of these bridges damaged as results of RTC's.

- R162 Duffys Mill, Edenforan - caused by RTC and following up with vehicle insurance company.
- R188 Drummock Corcaghan - caused by RTC and following up with vehicle insurance company.
- LS6290 Guardhill, Killeevan.
- LS6210 Cornawall, Doohat. Contractor was appointed last week to repair this bridge.

Currently we have 2 bridges in the MD that require attention. These are at the following locations;

- LT24221 at Aghnacue Bridge, Doapey following the collapse of a section of it. Contractor has been appointed to repair this bridge.
- R180 Carrickinare. Awaiting quotation from contractor to repair this bridge.

### **Street Lighting**

Recent new street lighting has been installed at Killeevan, Newbliss, Threemilehouse, and at Lough Mourne School. Issues with lighting caused by Storm Eowyn are all believed to have been resolved by now. Revised public lighting review for 2025 presented separately.

### **Patching**

MCC currently has 2 patching crews on site continually patching the roads within the MD. Since the March meeting;

- 14 roads patched with MCC Outdoor Staff

### **Kilnacran Drainage**

Following a funding application in 2024, we have successfully secured funding of €100,000 under the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works Fund to carry out further works at this location.

The hydrologist has completed all modelling of the study area has issued a final report.

Works identified by the study include;

- In stream dredging
- Upgrade and upsizing of some of the structures/pipes
- Raising of sections of the road
- Widening of the channel
- Possible creation of storage locations

Next steps are;

- Stakeholder engagement with local landowners and residents
- Detailed Option Assessment
- Environmental Assessment
- Permission and Approvals from OPW and this will include Section 50 application for some of the works listed above.

Current funding in place will not allow for the completion of all these phases/works.

### **Weed Control in Towns and Villages**

MCC Outdoor Staff are continuing to use mechanical means in other areas across the MD. Works are currently ongoing cleaning footpaths in the MD. The use of environmentally friendly weed control as used in previous years in Ballybay and Clones will be tendered out in the coming weeks.

### **Storm Eowyn**

Following the recent storm on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025, many locations across the Municipal District was affected. All locations along the road network are complete. There are a small number of off-road locations where clean up works are still to be completed.

### **Actions Arising from Engineers Report**

The Elected Members welcomed this report. Following discussion; in response to Elected Members queries staff advised.

In response to Cllr. Truell staff advised.

CCTV will include Ballybay Town & Town Park but will not extend to Corrybrennan Park. A patching blitz will be undertaken again this year, for short term intervention measures. There is no money set aside for these works and discussions are underway with the Department to use surpluses in this way.

Cllr. Flynn noted following last weeks heavy rain there was a fallen tree outside Smithboro effecting powerlines. This particular location has many trees that will come down on lines and ESB are advising it is the Local Authorities responsibility to clear trees. Cllr. Flynn will provide the Eircode and this matter will be looked into.

#### **10. Matters arising from previous minutes.**

NA

#### **11. Questions**

Cllr. Coyle will ask:

Question 1:

As Carparking continues to be a major issue for residences and businesses at Lower Main Street, Ballybay particularly in the evening time and at weekends/bank holidays when residences are at home from work, can Monaghan County Council outline what progress has been made on securing additional carparking in this area of Ballybay Town in addition to the existing demand for carparking. Plans have to be made for Car Parking for events taking place at the very welcome renovations/refurbishment works on the historic Market House which will include the town Library and be the location for many community events?

**A site has been identified for additional car parking in the vicinity of the Market House in Ballybay and there are ongoing discussions with landowners regarding the development of the site. Should the discussion prove successful the site will be developed for car parking subject to relevant statutory processes and funding availability.**

Question 2:

The roadway in Lisdrumclave Housing Estate, Latton Estate which comprises of eight houses is in a terrible state of disrepair, potholed, broken surfaces etc, while four houses were built originally the additional four were constructed in the mid-1990s, the roadway in the estate was never properly surfaced on the completion of the last four houses and ever since has remained in very poor condition. Can Monaghan County Council now prioritise the immediate works to address the dangers to residences and their families of falls/injury to themselves off the terrible road surfaces and also have the Housing Estate Roadway placed on a Roads Restoration Programme.

**A CIS application was submitted in 2024 for Lisdrumclave Housing Estate in Latton following a meeting with Engineering Staff and representatives from the location. Patching was completed in Q3 of 2024 at this location.**

Question 3:

A number of issues have been identified by residences as requiring immediate repairs/maintenance in Loch Mor Avenue, Ballybay i.e.-

- Broken/unpainted seats.
- Broken fences.
- Unpainted walls.
- Grass on Banks/around flower beds not been mowed/strimmed.

Can Monaghan County Council immediately have these concerns addressed?

**These locations have been assessed and have been added to the list of works for completion within the coming weeks**

Question 4:

As Community Facilities in Latton continue to expand the issue of Speeding Traffic is ever increasing. Scoil Mhuire, Resource Centre, O'Rahilly GAA Centre and Club Playing Fields, St. Mary's Church and Car Park, shop and Post Office, Lisdrumclave Housing Estate etc, the Safety of all is of concern with large numbers of pedestrians walking in the village area particularly on the LS07000/LP03012. Can Monaghan County Council immediately examine the installation of Traffic Calming Measures in the Village & also a Pedestrian Crossing and Footpath from St. Mary's Church to the carpark as the current surface is very broken/potholed and very dangerous for all walking on it, its condition is also leading to water flowing into an adjoining property?

**Ballybay Clones Municipal District will arrange for a traffic count and speed survey within the village of Latton. The information obtained from this survey will be used to determine if traffic calming is required in line with the adopted traffic calming policy.**

**There is currently no funding in place to allow for a pedestrian crossing in the village of Latton. A need for the crossing will be assessed along with options, and cost estimates completed to allow for a future funding application should a crossing be considered necessary and meets the criteria. The current road surface outside the Church will be added to the patching list. The surface water drainage will be examined along with the source of water.**

Question 5:

When do Monaghan County Council hope to be in a position to commence Safety Improvement Works at Drumlane Cross, known locally as McArdle's Cross, Tullynahinera, as this is one of the most dangerous junctions in the Country with many accidents and very frightening near misses occurring at this accident black spot?

**A funding application was submitted for this junction in 2024; however, this funding application was not successful. This location was discussed at the February 2025 Municipal District meeting, and it was agreed that additional road markings and signage are erected using MD resources later this year when the road marking contractor is appointed and carrying out works in the Municipal District. Additional signage has recently been erected to warn of the stop ahead at this junction.**

Cllr. Truell will ask:

Question 1:

I wish to request that Monaghan County Council examine the current parking provisions provided at Erica's Fairy Forest (on the border of Co. Monaghan and Co. Cavan)? This amenity area is highly utilised and due to the high numbers of people visiting the park, there are issues with car parking in the area. There is a constant overflow of cars, especially at weekends, parking on both sides of the road (the R188 Regional Road), along the road edge or in the grass verge outside of the small car park located directly opposite Abbotts factory. As a result, there is a high number of pedestrians crossing at numerous locations along this stretch of road which is dangerous. Could Monaghan County Council examine if additional off-road parking could be provided for the Forest Park in the area and ask Cavan County Council on their side to look at extra parking.

**Following an assessment of this location, due to the geometry and speed limit at this location, Monaghan County Council would not consider constructing car parking along the sides of the R188. Off road parking is the only safe solution at this location. Monaghan Co Co are not in possession of any land at this location off the road, so forestry land would have to be acquired**

**from a third party to allow for the construction of any car parking including a new vehicular site entrance which would be subject to planning permission.**

Question 2:

Could Monaghan County Council examine proposals for traffic calming measures especially cushion ramps to be installed going through Drum village especially at the Wee Drummers crèche facility and at the Gospel Hall. This area is considered very dangerous for pedestrians and traffic users alike.

**The last traffic survey at Drum village was completed in August 2024. In line with the adopted traffic calming policy, and now that time has passed following the resurfaced road in 2024, a new traffic and speed survey will need to be carried out. The data of this survey will be used along with the adopted traffic calming policy to determine what if any traffic calming measures are required.**

Question 3:

I wish to request that the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones assess the parapet wall of the bridge on the Drum to Scotshouse roadway just outside Drum village (known locally as the wooden bridge) as this bridge needs upgrading and repaired.

**A visual inspection of the parapet walls of this bridge was conducted earlier this month. Visually what could be seen of the bridge due to some vegetation cover, it appears to be in reasonable condition with no repairs required. A full assessment of the bridge including the structure below the road has been requested of which will identify any required works, along with a timeframe of when such works would need to be completed.**

Question 4:

I wish to request that the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones provide an update on when the public lights at Aghabog Church of Ireland will be erected? These lights received approval under the CLAR programme. Can the MD of Ballybay-Clones confirm what other works will take place under this scheme at this location.

**Following the securing of funding under CLAR, Ballybay Clones Municipal District agreed to carry out the works at this location to include drainage works, kerbing, public lighting, patching and surface dressing at this location. In order to tie in with other surface dressing works, these works would be planned to take place in Q2/Q3 of 2025.**

Question 5:

I wish to request that the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones provide an update on the installation of public lights at Rockcorry National School Cootehill Road to the speed limit to Rockcorry Village.

**Included in Public lighting review as presented at April 2025 MD meeting.**

## **12. Notice of Motion**

Motion received from Cllr Coyle:

That the Taoiseach, Minister for Agriculture and the Government be immediately requested to instruct the Department of Agriculture to drop the proposal in the proposals to deal with the ever increasing in many areas across the County of Monaghan and the Country of the outbreaks in TB in farm animals. The proposal to restrict the Sale in Mart's of Dairy Cow's from herds that have an outbreak of TB, in the previous 3 years, this is ludicrously gone mad, milk production is essential for the Economy, our dairy industry must be supported in every way, in recent years farming and in particular dairy farming



has changed massively, numbers of farmers exiting milk production has increased on massive numbers of farm's not alone in County Monaghan but throughout Ireland, as standard's changed for milk production, cow numbers on farm's ever increased, however the numbers employed in Ireland's Dairy have been ever increasing, one of the largest employers in this Country, directly or indirectly is the Dairy Industry, the billion's, upon billions of pound's now Euro's is enormous, the only sufferer in the process was the famer, the real carrier of the disease was wild life, deer ,badger etc, let those involved in eradicating the scourge/curse of TB in Ireland, really deal the problem, Wild Life, not make the Farmer suffer any more.

Every person born in any part of the Western World depends on a Milk related product and indeed through the World. This Democratically Elected Local Authority demand of all Oireachtas Member's to as requested in this Motion, as if this proposal was allowed to be adopted as part of the New Regulations, for control of the spread of TB, the remaining Cows in that Dairy Herd could only exit the Herd by being slaughtered, having huge impacts on the Marts sector and the numbers employed, across the sector, we the Members of this Local Authority offer our support to the Dairy Industry, Dairy Processing Industry, Marts Sector all Farm Organisation's in having this proposal removed from the New Regulations.'.

(If the above Motion is adopted by Ballybay-Clones M.D., it be forwarded immediately to all Current Monaghan/Cavan Oireachtas Members, all County Monaghan, Dairy Production Farm Organisations and to the Monaghan County Council Meetings Co-Ordinator for the Agenda of the next Meeting of Monaghan County Council.)

It was unanimously agreed in Cllr. Coyle's absence at today's meeting this Motion will be carried forward to the May Meeting.

### **13. CE Orders**

Noted

### **14. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.**

N/A

### **15. AOB.**

Meeting concluded.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator

Date, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025