

## The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 10am, Birch Court, Ballybay.

**Members Present:** Cathaoirleach Cllr Richard Truell presided, the following members were also present: Cllrs: Pat Treanor, Sinead Flynn, Sean Gilliland and 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 February meeting of Ballybay/Clones Municipal District.

Cllr. Truell commenced the meeting by paying tribute to Monaghan County Council staff on the Storm Éowyn response. Commending the work of particularly our Outdoor Staff and also the local community who in cases cleared roads during this weather event, it was clearly demonstrated that the local authority and community work well together.

Cllr. Coyle concurred and wished to be associated with Cllr. Truell's comments. Commending our frontline services Local Authority, Fire Services, An Garda Síochána, HSE and ESB. Staff on hand in all these agencies extended such courtesy and were helpful and efficient. Cllr. Coyle noted lessons to be learned observing for example water plants should have backup generators as residential properties not only where without power but also water, adding to an already difficult situation.

Cllr. Treanor wished to join in tributes to all involved and commended the work of the Crisis Management Team, noting NBI should have a rep on this going forward. During this storm, weaknesses in infrastructures were apparent. Cllr. Treanor commended all involved in clearing roads, particularly the local community who used their own machinery. The agriculture and poultry industry where greatly affected during this prolonged power outage, enduring the costs of running generators for chicken houses etc. Local/Central Government will take lessons learned from this as the Government did fail with ensuring resilient infrastructure was in place. ESB will need big focus and investment in their infrastructure. The effects of Storm Éowyn are still to be seen with streetlights still out for example in and around Clones Town.

Cllr. Gilliland concurred and wished to be associated with his fellow Councillors commendations. Particularly paying tribute to Ballybay/Clones MD response, which was led by Director of Services Gareth McMahon and MD Co-Ordinator Matthew Lambe. Staff responses to Cllr. Reps. were efficient and prompt and appreciated. Emergency Hubs were an effective idea and greatly appreciated by communities affected by power outages. Communities came together in a united respond to this crisis. For example, GAA Clubs and may more community organisations opened their doors for people to utilise their facilities, showers, charging phones etc. and in general being a meeting place for those affected.

Cllr. Gilliland noted trees are 90% of the cause of power outages, with trees growing too close to powerlines breaking and taking these lines down. Trees along roadways are not being cut or maintained and also private/commercial forestry corridors should be kept clear, this is not ESB's fault it is forestry's whether it is state or private. Those responsible should be billed if their trees take down

lines. Generators should be in place for water plants and communication masts in the event of power outages.

Cllr. Flynn concurred and wished to be associated with her fellow Councillors tributes to all involved in storm response efforts. Cllr. Flynn extended thanks to all staff in their response to Storm Éowyn, infrastructural issues impacted this MD up to 15 days following the storm, seeing areas without power, water and phone/internet coverage. Storms are set to become more frequent and as such we need to prepare the public for such weather events. Trees along roadsides need to be cutback to clear under and around powerlines, water and telecommunication infrastructure need to be upgraded.

Cllr. Coyle concurred noting still at this time after the storm some telephone lines are down, Eir have not addressed them yet.

Gareth McMahon Director of Services thanked the Elected Members for their complements of MD Staff on efficient responses. Staff were available were redeployed to help ESB with the timber crisis. There are case studies of similar storm effects as experienced here in Ireland in other countries, for example the Irish Times ran a piece regarding an '07 storm in Sweden with the country experiencing similar impacts as to those here and documents their lessons learned and measures put in place. Monaghan County Council could use this as an example.

Cllr. Truell advised there have been reports of Anti-Social behaviour occurring regularly in the Village of Newbliss, seeing groups large in number visiting a residential premises in the village, this premises is a council dwelling. These individuals travel on the Local Link to Newbliss and engage in treating behaviour on route, with drivers reporting anti-social incidents and feeling unsafe, acts of vandalism are then carried out by this group in the village and the local shop have ban these people from the premises.

Following discussion, the Elected Members agreed the communities right to quiet and peaceful enjoyment of their homes and environ is being denied due these recurring anti-social incidents and immediate action needs to take place in addressing this matter.

Cllr. Treanor proposed writing to the Tenant Laison Officer in the Council dealing with this case and also An Garda Síochána regarding this groups threatening behaviour on Local Link.

*Proposed Cllr. Truell, Seconded Cllr. Gilliland and unanimously agreed.*

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

Proposed by Cllr. Gilliland, seconded by Cllr. Treanor & unanimously agreed.

### **2. Correspondence Sent**

Correspondence sent was noted.

### **3. Correspondence Received**

Cllr Gilliland noted Road Budget correspondence received by the County Council. There has been an increase in the allocation to County Monaghan, can Matthew and Martin prepare figures as to what increase this equated to for the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District. Cllr. Gilliland welcomed the allocation of €100 thousand for Kilncaran and €40 thousand for the junction at Kilmartin under LCSI, commending staff on accommodating a last-minute meeting on this one.

Cllr. Treanor noted the Roads Budget allocation for Monaghan has a small increase on the previous allocation, however this is not efficient to deal with local roads. Cllr. Treanor called for Energia to be

approached regarding contributing to the repair of roads in the Newbliss/Drum area where development of their windfarm took place namely road number L62011 Lislongfield, local residents are adamant these roads were utilised during the construction phase.

Cllr. Treanor wished to bring to the attention of this meeting that a local businessman in Clones has made representations to him regarding a submission he made on Clones Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) and requests that this submission is reviewed and dealt with urgently.

Cllr. Coyle welcomes the Road Budget, are quotes in for planned works? Will this additional funding enable more than planned works to be done?

Cllr. Truell wished to confirm if the patching blitz will be undertaken again this summer.

Gareth McMahon Director of Services advised Members notification of the Roads Budget Allocation was received into Monaghan County Council on Friday last, February 14<sup>th</sup> and has not yet been analysed. Roads Contracts are going to tender so there are no costings for planned works. The budget allocation has a small increase which is welcomed. There is a 5-year strategy for road maintenance going to SPC this month, the strategy sets out how to get more done with our allocation with short/medium/long term investment in the network.

Cllr. Flynn noted correspondence received from the Minister for Health and its generic nature, expressing her disappointment at the non-response to actual questions posed.

*Cllr. Flynn proposed further correspondence is issued to the Ministers letter of January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, asking again for an explanation as to the reasons for the unacceptable delay to the free HRT Treatment Scheme for women. An outline of what steps now need to be taken to get this scheme up and running. Furthermore, serious consideration must be given to reimbursing women for any HRT costs they have incurred between January and the eventual introduction of this scheme. It is unfair to promise a scheme with no intention of delivering it.*

*All Elected Members indicated their support for this motion.*

*Proposed Cllr. Flynn, Seconded Cllr. Treanor and unanimously agreed.*

#### **4. 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 2023**

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 Q1 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 Scheme 2021**

##### Ballybay to Castleblaney Greenway: -

An application for funding to proceed to design stage has been made to the TII for proposed greenway from Ballybay to Castleblaney for 2025. An announcement of funding will be made in Q1 of this year.

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

##### Dartry Forest

Construction Works have been substantially completed.

##### 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 last month. 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 design 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. A contractor has been appointed, and works will commence in Q1 of 2025.

##### 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. The closing date for receipt of applications was Thursday 23rd May 2024 and the MD are liaising with Clones Development Society regarding the application. The funders sought additional clarifications on the application earlier this month.

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

##### Newbliss Digital Enterprise Hub

Works are ongoing and are due to be completed in the latter part of Q1 this year.

## **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. A tender assessment for the appointment of a Construction Contractor will begin next week.

A letter of intent has been issued for the appointment of Creative Consultancy Services to prepare a Product Identification/Visitor Experience Plan and Business Plan in respect of a Visitor Attraction of scale at the former Lennard Arms Hotel.

### Ballybay Market House –

WGG Architects & Surveyors have carried out all relevant surveys, site investigations work and have prepared planning designs. Part VIII planning application has been submitted and a decision on the application will be made by the Planning Authority next month.

### 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 are currently reviewing the location of the existing bus stop in conjunction with Active Travel proposals. Location of bus stop is being considered to reflect demand and usage of public transport as well as connectivity to village centre. We are still awaiting a response.
MN/22/0001	Clones Peace Link AT Scheme	Construction works substantially completed. MCC Horticulturist is preparing a design for an area adjacent to Coyles/ Peacelink. The MD are liaising with the Clones Tidy town team regarding planting of the surrounding areas. Official Opening will take place on the 24th of March.
MN/22/0004	Lough Egish Village AT Scheme	Construction works is nearing completion. Kerbing and footways completed, restatement is completed, and accommodation works are ongoing. Pedestrian crossing line marking and Eircom chamber cover and signage to be completed.
MN/23/0020	Urban Mobility/Sustainability AT Plans (Castleblayney, Ballybay, Clones, Carrickmacross)	Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment screening reports are completed. A Public consultant evening was held on the 5th of February. Public consultation period for the plan closes on the 6th of March.

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

#### **98 Avenue Bus Stop: -**

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

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

##### **Rockcorry Community Centre**

A planning application will be submitted in the coming weeks.

##### **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.

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

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

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

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

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

### **Ballybay Library/Civic Building**

Sander Construction have substantially completed works on the refurbishment works to the Ballybay Civic Building to convert to residential for the Ukrainian Humanitarian Response Initiative. It is hoped to have the building occupied shortly

### **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.

### **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 been completed and design layouts are being prepared, and it is hoped to commence refurbishment works in Q1 of 2025.

### **Town Re-Generation**

There have been 84 properties identified as been derelict in the Ballybay and 89 in Clones by the Town Regeneration team. The properties are ranked in term location, prominence of location and intrusiveness. Derelict site notices will be posted via registered post to the owner but will also be attached to the property.

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

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

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

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

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

To date three workshops have been held with the Ballybay Town Team and business owners in the town. A public consultation event to present the draft plan will take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February in Birch Court Ballybay from 13:00-19:00.

### **Digital Town Blueprint 2024 Town Report Ballybay**

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



The report has been prepared for the Department of Rural and Community Development by the Irish Institute of Digital Business, University of Galway, and .IE. and at present Monaghan County Council are awaiting the final document

#### **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 available early next month.

#### **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 to date three meetings have taken place and a fourth meeting will take place tonight.

#### **Ballybay Clones East Erne Partnership**

The next meeting of the Ballybay Clones East Erne Partnership is scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> of February.

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

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

#### **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.

#### **St. Tiarnach's Quarter Public Participation and Engagement**

In October 2024, Minister Humphreys announced a 'Call for Proposals' for applications to the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) - Category 2 Projects. Category 2' RRDF projects are intended to provide funding to allow Project Leads undertake and complete the initial planning, design and technical works required for any large-scale project. This sees potential, large-scale projects developed to a stage allowing for greater certainty regarding scope, cost and delivery timelines to support for further funding. The deadline for applications is the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.

The development of the St. Tiarnach's Quarter Regeneration Project is a project that could potentially be developed through this Funding call.

The Public Consultation event took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> of February and an online survey was live until last Friday, and it is hoped that this process will identify a project that will drive greater



footfall to the area, increase economic activity in the area, support the creation of employment, help revitalise the town and address the needs of the community in Clones.

### **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 month, 124 submissions were received. Members of the executive will examine the submissions in the coming weeks.

### **Toilets at Ballybay Town Park**

Refurbishment works are ongoing to Ballybay Town park following recent vandalism. It is hoped to have the facility opened later this week.

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

Elected Members welcomed this report.

Cllr. Truell welcomed works in Dartrey Forest and directed that an invitation to the March Meeting is issued to Dymrna Condra Tourism Section to provide an update on future planned works for both Dartrey and Erica's Fairy Forest, and an invitation is issued to the Housing Section to attend the March Meeting to provide an update on plans for residential properties CPO'd in Newbliss through Town Regeneration. Cllr. Truell queried as to when Newbliss digital Hub will open. Will the submission referenced by Cllr. Treanor, on Clones SUMP regarding 98 Avenue Bus Stop impact on the project.

Cllr. Treanor welcomed the report. While public consultation is welcomed for St. Tiernach's Quarter it is noted there is no money to progress this project beyond the consultation stage at present. Cllr. Treanor welcomed the tender for Contractors for Fermanagh Street Business Hub as this project has been slow to progress.

Cllr. Gilliland welcomed funding under the Outdoor Recreation Scheme for Gortnawhinny & Ballybay. There is an issue at Lough Egish Cross the fence along the Ballybay to Carrickmacross road is down can this be repaired. With regard to CCTV in Ballybay it is important to remember its necessity due to anti-social behaviour particularly in the Town Park where the public toilets where vandalised can CCTV be installed in the park also. Cllr. Gilliland welcomed Community Recognition Funding for development of a community area in the new civic building Ballybay as this is eagerly awaited by community groups. Cllr. Gilliland welcomed the transportations survey, which was published, highlighting the lack of bus service from Ballybay to Carrickmacross.

Cllr. Flynn concurred with Cllr. Gilliland welcoming the Transportation Survey and enquired as to when the next survey will be released and what areas this will address.

Cllr. Coyle welcomed the transportation survey, and supports the proposal of a Local Link Service from Ballybay to Carrickmacross via Lough Egish and would ask if this service should be put in place that it would go via Latton also. Will the proposed streetscape of lower main street Ballybay extend to the Riverfront Hotel.

In response to Cllrs. Queries Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator advised that he will divert on a date of occupancy of the Digi Hub Newbliss. The transportation survey for Ballybay to Carrickmacross closed last week and is currently being assessed, following this the next survey will be published. In relation to submissions made under SUMP we will link in with the Active Travel Team before commenting on if there will be project impact in light of submissions. The Public Realm plan for Street Scene Enhancement does not extend to the Riverfront Hotel it will be to the front of the

Market House, Lower Main Street, Ballybay, costs such as underground cabling etc. will require the majority of the budget. Future applications can be considered for streetscape for Lower Main Street.

## **5. 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 and Killygragy (2 sections)
  - R162 Monaghan Road Ballybay
- Works have commenced with the preparation of these roads for drainage works ahead of the commencement of resurfacing.
  - LS6272 Drumurcher – Corrygarra – Works complete
  - LT41133 Laragh – Works currently ongoing
  - LT22414 Connons – Works commenced
- 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.
- Works are complete for the resurfacing of a section of the LP2100 Lecky Road at Tiernahinch Clones following the completion of the Active Travel project in this area – approx. 600m.
- The L62012 and L62013 close to the Drumlins Wind Farm that was resurfaced late last year will be surface dressed in Q2 2025.

### **2025 Restoration Maintenance Programme**

A number of roads will be identified using the Pavement Management System and PSCI ratings to compile a list of roads for surface dressing in 2025 as part of the Restoration Maintenance Programme.

### **Low Cost Safety Initiatives**

Works are completed at all 3 LCSi projects for 2024. The locations are.

- Maghernakelly R189/LT22803 JCT
- Lough Mourne School – LP3131/LP4210/LS8200/LP3134
- Rockcorry – R193/188 JCT

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
- R189/LP2400 Threemilehouse - €30,000. Land has been secured here also from Sean McDermotts GAA to allow for sight-line improvements at this location.
- R183/R162 Approach Roads Ballybay - €25,000

### **My CoCo**

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

- 176 entries to date
- 1 entry since the January meeting
- 4 of these are in progress
- 172 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.

- 248 Drainage notices issued to date
- 26 Referred to Roads for following up or legal proceedings. Notices under The Roads Act 1993, Section 76, Sub-Section 6 were sent to these 26 property owners with registered post with specifications of the works required to be completed to prevent water from running onto the road on 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 are currently no road closures in the MD. There is a lane closure in place at L24221 at Agnacue Bridge, Doapey following the partial collapse of the bridge.

### **Bridges**

Currently we have 5 bridges in the MD that require immediate attention. These are at the following locations.

- LT24221 at Agnacue Bridge, Doapey following the collapse of a section of it. Bridge is currently being assessed for replacement/repair.
- R162 Duffys Mill, Edenforan. This was caused by an RTC on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024. A quotation has been obtained for the repairs of this bridge, and we are currently in discussions with An Garda to recoup the cost of the repairs from the vehicle insurance.
- R188 Drummock Corcaghan. This was caused by an RTC on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2024. A quotation has been obtained for the repairs of this bridge, and we are currently in discussions with An Garda to recoup the cost of the repairs from the vehicle insurance.
- LS6290 Guardhill, Killeevan. A quotation has been obtained for the repairs of this bridge.
- LS6210 Cornawall, Doohat. Bridge has been assessed and is structurally sound. Awaiting a quotation for the repair of this bridge.

Works to repair these bridges have been tendered and McCabe Masonry are due to commence works on site this week starting on the R162 at Edenforan, subject to no objection from inland fisheries.

### **Street Lighting**

Recent new street lighting has been installed at Killeevan, Newbliss and Threemilehouse. Works are due to commence to install lighting at Lough Mourne School.

### **Patching**

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

- 3 roads patched with MCC Outdoor Staff

During the recent storm clean up, patching was ceased and crews focused on the cleanup operations, and assisting with requests across the MD.

### **Kilnacran Drainage**

The hydrologist is continuing to work on the study area for Kilnacran to establish what is required to improve the drainage issues in this location.

The consultant has confirmed that all survey work has been completed and that modelling is underway and set to be completed for the end of January. The report and recommendations are expected this week.

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.

### **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.

### **Storm Eowyn**

Following the recent storm on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025, many locations across the Municipal District was affected. More than 150 trees were dealt with on more than 50 roads. All crews were utilised following the storm and subsequent clean up, and assistance was provided by a contractor to provide an additional crew for the weekend following the storm. A specialist contractor was also utilised to deal with the difficult trees and half fallen trees.

Staff have been liaising with the utility providers where cables etc have come down with trees.

Trees were not able to be cleared until these cables were terminated by the utility providers.

The Municipal District also provided staff by way of chainsaw operators and equipment to ESB for a 2-week period to assist them with the storm clean up and to get power restored.

There is still a considerable number of locations affected by the storm where signs were blown over, fences blown over and roads affected where trees and roots had damaged banks and undermined roads. We are continuing to carry out works to make good these areas and should be complete in the coming weeks. Gangs are now getting back to continue with work programmes, however these have been delayed as a result.

With power restored, there has been a widespread issue with public lights. We have been in contact with the maintenance contractor, and they are making progress in getting these issues resolved.

We must be clear that trees are the responsibility of the property/landowner. Following the storm, staff have been busy assessing roads and making contact with property owners to make them aware of trees that the property owner will need to arrange the removal of where trees have been deemed as dangerous.

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

The Elected Members welcomed this report.

Cllr. Truell enquired will there be LCSi works in Doohamlet Village, and is signage on Regional Roads being reviewed? Will there be cushion ramps installed in Drum Village?

Cllr. Truell noted that roads in the Connons area need attention, and Shared Island Funding should be examined, correspondence should be issued to Fermanagh/Omagh District Council and Shared Island. Cllr. Coyle concurred and supported this proposal.

Cllr. Treanor requested if this could be held off until after the BCEEP meet, as this is an established Cross Border Partnership, which should be utilised, and correspondence should be issued jointly to Shared Island. It was agreed correspondence will be issued to Monaghan County Council only at present.

*The Elected Members directed that Ballybay/Clones Municipal District write to Monaghan County Council requesting the Council engage with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council to make an application under the Shared Island Initiative for funding for the restoration of roads in the Connons/Drumully area of County Monaghan.*

*Proposed Cllr. Truell, seconded Cllr. Coyle, unanimously agreed by all.*

Cllr. Gilliland noted the approach to the Kilnacarn Junction is very dangerous and enquired if the speed limit signs being installed on the approach road will be electronic? Martin Taylor Executive Engineer will look at available funds for this.

Cllr. Gilliland, asked if Ballybay/Clones Municipal District will be first, second or third on the tarring programme this year? When planning the commencement date for LCSi works at Lough Mourne School can we liaise with the Principal Adrian Kelly please.

Cllr. Flynn welcomed the increase in the Roads Budget allocation, and the funding secured for works at R189/LP2400 Threemilehouse. Will works be done on Red Bog Road and Anamartin Lane this year? Cllr. Flynn requested a speed limit check is undertaken in Cherry Park as there have been reports of speeding.

Cllr. Treanor welcomes the works undertaken at Drumlins Wind Farm but would ask that the L62011 is followed up on as the community are adamant this road was also used during construction and should be resurfaced also. Works undertaken on Lackey Road are welcomed, this road borders with Fermanagh and there is a section of Road approximately consisting of 100 yards which needs attention, can we patch this?

Cllr. Coyle addressed the issue of dangerous trees along the roadside, noting that placing responsibility on landowners is unfair. The requirements to safely cut trees along the road include road closures etc. and responsibility should lie with the Local Authority and relevant agencies.

Road signage in some areas is missing or pointing the wrong way, Cllr. Coyle requests that the MD review this.

Cllr. Coyle welcomes the LCSi programme, and enquired if a pedestrian crossing is included in the Threemilehouse works, it is disappointing that Phil McArdle's Cross, Drumlane is not included. Lights are still out in Ballybay following the storm.

Cllr. Gilliland advised he has been in consultation with the IFA and it is confirmed trees along the roadside are the responsibility of landowners. At the last County Council meeting there was a Motion re. the Ash Dieback Scheme that landowners may be compensated for cutting these trees.

Cllr. Gilliland advised the IFA agree that the Local Authority should be funded to do these works which would entail;

- Conducting a survey of dangerous trees along roadsides
- Notifying the Landowner
- Engaging the services of a contractor to carry out the works
- Organising the Road Closure, Traffic Management Plan etc.

The Local Authority need to get proactive on getting this done, emergency funding is required to undertake these works as there is no provision for this in the budget.

Cllr. Gilliland suggested this should be a pilot programme in this MD and will formulate a Motion for Government which will be proposed at our March meeting.

Cllr. Treanor agrees with Cllr. Gilliland however motions went to Government on this issue before, another element is ESB Service, they used to keep their lines clear as should Eir/Telecom – these are all paid for services by their customers and these providers should play a role.

Gareth McMahon Director of Services advised Members this is going to be National Level Agreement & other agencies need to be responsible also. This will be a response issue as part of the Storm Meetings.

Cllr. Gilliland noted stakeholders will welcome this, and taking action here will force the Government to bring Local Authorities and relevant Agencies together.

Martin Taylor Executive Engineer advised the Elected Members, the LCSI application for Doohamlet Village was unsuccessful and will be resubmitted next year. Regional Road Signage review is underway with many done, but due to Storm Éowyn resources are not available for this at present. Ballybay/Clones MD are second on the Tarring schedule this year. Works at Loughmourne have been held up due to the storm & landowner negotiations, the school will be notified of commencement of works. Red Bog Road was submitted under the Climate Adaptation Fund and was unsuccessful, Anamartin Lane is on the 2026 programme, this road has issues with water on the road from private land. A speed check will be undertaken at Cherry Park.

A meeting has taken place with the contractor of Drumlins Wind Farm re. the L62011, there is no evidence this road was used, this road was in bad condition prior to any construction on the Wind Farm. There are drainage issues on this road from private landowners, the MD has opened outlets and patched. CIS documents were sent out to the community on this road, and nothing has been received back in yet.

Dangerous trees along the roadside are currently the responsibility of the landowner. The LCSI Threemilehouse has no design yet, so there is no decision on the pedestrian crossing. Phil McArdle's Cross, Drumlane was not successful in the application for LCSI but the MD will get additional road markings & signage out of our budget for this location. A speed survey was conducted in Drum Village and it does not meet the criteria for installation of ramps.

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

The dates of June 26-30 in 2025 are the confirmed dates for the Town Twinning trip to Osterhofen Germany, Elected Members are requested to advise the Executive if they will be traveling in order to allow arrangements for the trip to be put in place.

## **7. Questions**

Cllr. Flynn asked:

Question 1:

Following Storm Eowyn can the MD please provide clarification on what strategies are in place to assist the elderly & vulnerable in the event of further power outages or water shortages as a result of further storms.

**Answer:**

**In addition to the Community Section, Fire, Civil Defence, Housing & the MD's provide much needed support to our vulnerable communities. As a result of the recent storm a new committee has been formed that will be looking at what supports & strategies are needed going forward. However, this is something that will need to be done in partnership with agencies such as the HSE and An Garda Síochána.**

Question 2:

Can the MD please confirm the amount of social housing tenancies throughout the MD, who are wholly reliant on electrification and what plans are in place to ensure minimal disruption to their heat & light going forward as a result of storms.

**Answer:**

**All central heating systems (oil, gas, solid fuel with back boiler and heat pumps) rely on electricity to function. As part of the review into Storm Éowyn, Housing intends to conduct an initial assessment of our housing stock to determine what level of resilience against power/water loss exists and what measures could be taken to increase same.**

Question 3:

Can the MD please provide clarification on the Ash Die Back scheme and what's plans are in place for the removal of affected trees?

**Answer:**

**The Ash Dieback replanting scheme provides financial support to help replant forests affected by the chalara ash fungus. The grant is for forest restoration and is available to eligible private forest owners to restore forests affected by ash disease by supporting the removal and destruction of trees and leaf litter affected. It provides funding to replant forests with an alternative species to ash and to ensure all leaf litter is adequately destroyed.**

Cllr. Coyle asked:

Question 1:

Can Monaghan County Council give a full update on the status/position of the applications by the owners/occupies for their Estates to be Taken-in-Charge by Monaghan County Council in the following Estates and also an explanation as to why the process has taken the length of time since the applications were submitted, some of them are now a number of years-

**Answer:**

**(A).Carrabarra, Smithboro.**

**Council inspections have been completed and legal advice sought on the matter of a bond. There are deficiencies in terms of water / wastewater services. The Planning Authority are liaising with Uisce Eireann (with contact made as recent as January 2025) in an effort to progress the taking in charge.**



**(B).Sruthan Caddagh, Meeting House Lane, Ballybay.**

**Works comprising the installation of service marker posts / plates were completed by Monaghan County Council in early February 2025. The Planning Authority have confirmed completion of such works with Uisce Eireann and we are awaiting the agreement of Uisce Eireann to progress the matter for formal taking in charge stage. Upon Uisce Eireann's agreement the intent to take in charge will be publicly advertised.**

**(C).Dartry Court, Boyher, Rockcorry.**

**Works comprising the installation of service marker posts / plates were completed by Monaghan County Council in early February 2025. The Planning Authority have confirmed completion of such works with Uisce Eireann and we are awaiting the agreement of Uisce Eireann to progress the matter for formal taking in charge stage. Upon Uisce Eireann's agreement the intent to take in charge will be publicly advertised.**

**Question 2:**

**Can Monaghan County Council examine the installation of a Pedestrian Crossing and Footpath to the Car Park at the rear of Scoil Mhuire, Latton(LS07000) from St. Mary's Chaple, Latton as it is currently in a very dangerous condition, potholes/broken surface etc, also can the installation of traffic/speed control measurers be examined as this is a very heavily vehicularised area, as there are many community facilities in the immediate village area, Scoil Mhuire, Resource Centre, GAA Club facilities, walking Track etc.?**

**Answer:**

**The Municipal District will carry out an examination of this location to include traffic counts to enable designed solutions and will explore funding opportunities to provide the funding for a pedestrian crossing at this location.  
The road will be checked and added to the list for pothole repairs.**

**Question 3:**

**The roadway from Veldins Cross, Latton the LS07001, passing through the townlands of Mountlodge, Clonacullion and Dunmakenna to the Cavan Border is in terrible condition, with a number of seriously dangerous problems. The roadway in its entirety is subsiding /sinking it is a very heavily vehicularised road, very serious issues are the ongoing flooding at Fermoy Lake, in the past 2 years the roadway has been impassible for lengthy periods, fortunately there has been no fatalities, so deep was flooding along an open Lake shore. Also there is a very dangerous corner/bend, known locally as Myles Corner, can Monaghan County Council immediately have a full Engineering examination of the Roadway (LS07001),with a view to having a complete Road Surface Restoration carried out to correct the subsidence/sinkage/sumps on the Fermoy Lake flooding, can Monaghan County Council, as water levels fall in the coming months identify the blockages and have the necessary works carried out to avert a repeat of the flooding of particularly the past 2 years. Also can Monaghan County Council have road improvements carried out on the extremely dangerous corner, known locally as Myles Corner, before it causes a serious accident with resulting fatalities?**

**Answer:**

**This road passes through an area of boggy land and as a result, the road has subsided at a few locations. The edge of the road at Fermoy Lake was highlighted by the installation of delineators. The road is known to flood due to the level of water in the adjacent lake. The road will be submitted for future funding under the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works Funding.  
The area known locally as Myles Corner is a local secondary road with a speed limit of 60km/hr. There are no plans in place to acquire land to realign the road at this location.**

Question 4:

Serious flooding issues have arisen on the LT39003, Lisgorran, Ballybay can Monaghan County Council have the causes checked immediately and have the necessary works to address the problems, as they are causing damage to private property?

**Answer:**

**Monaghan County Council are aware of the issues on this road LT39003. There is a wetlands area along the road with water levels maintaining a high level. The natural topography forms a basin at this location, with the nearest drain some 300m away. There are a lot of lanes sloping towards the road along this road with high levels of water running down these onto the road. A number of drainage notices have been sent to the property owners, and Monaghan Co Co will continue to follow up on these drainage notices. The road will be submitted for future funding under the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works Funding.**

Question 5:

Can Monaghan County Council immediately examine and have the necessary works carried out on a very dangerous sump/subsidence on the LT30104, Drumhilliagh, Ballybay off the R162(Ballybay-Shercock Rd.) as it has caused an accident involving a mother with young children in the car, also can this roadway (LT30104) be prioritised for a Road Restoration Programme?

**Answer:**

**The speed limit on this road is 60km/hr. The road surface is good with it being resurfaced in recent years. There is a slunk hat has formed close to the JCT with R162 that will be included in a patching contract later on this year.**

## **8. Notice of Motion**

Cllr. Coyle proposed

That the Taoiseach, Minister for Agriculture and the Government are immediately requested to instruct the Department of Agriculture to drop proposals to restrict the movement of cows out of herds with TB reactors. In many areas across County Monaghan and the Country there are outbreaks of 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 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 large numbers of farm's, not alone in County Monaghan but throughout Ireland.

As standards 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 pounds now Euro's is enormous, the only sufferer in the process was the famer, the real carrier of the disease was wildlife, 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 throughout the World.

This Democratically Elected Local Authority demand of all Oireachtas Member's, removal of this proposal to restrict the movement of cows out of herds with TB reactors as requested in this Motion.

If this proposal is allowed to be adopted as part of the New Regulations, for control of the spread of TB, the remaining Cows in affected Dairy Herds could only exit the Herd by being slaughtered. This would have 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.)

*Following discussion and with the agreed amendment as follows:*

*"That this Council express our deep concern at the increased number of dairy herds affected by T.B. That we write to the Taoiseach, Minister for Agriculture and the T.B. Forum, demanding an effective programme to eradicate T.B. and it is properly resourced."*

*This Motion was Proposed by Cllr. Coyle, seconded by Cllr. Treanor & unanimously agreed.*

#### **9. CE Orders**

Noted

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

Cllr. Coyle proposed a vote of sympathy to the O'Neill Family Castleblayney on the passing of Cecelia O'Neill.

#### **11. AOB.**

Cllr. Gilliland advised there currently are reported cases of bird flu in poultry farms North of the Border. Although there have been no cases yet in the South it is worth while taking the necessary precautions, i.e. housing all free-range birds and correctly disposing of dead wild birds discovered and notifying the appropriate agencies.

All Elected Members agreed and noted an all-island strategy is required to tackle this.

Meeting concluded.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator  
Date, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025