

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

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 10am, The Market House, The Diamond, Clones.

**Members Present:** Cathaoirleach Cllr Richard Truell presided, the following members were also present: Cllrs: Pat Treanor and 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 and Gillian Costello Staff Officer.

Active Travel Team; SUMP, Bernadette McArdle Senior Executive Engineer, Frankie Murphy Executive Engineer, Consultants DBFL Mark McKenna and Élaïne.

Roads; Brian Braniff Senior Executive Engineer

The Elected Members unanimously agreed to move Agenda item 4 “Consideration Of Report On Clones Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, Active Travel” to the first item of business of today’s meeting.

### **4. Consideration of Report on Clones Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan – Active Travel**

Bernie McArdle Senior Executive Engineer advised Members this is a pilot plan with funding and guidance from NTA. The draft plan will go to Clones Town Team for review and feedback and then onto public consultation in February. The plan will be in phased implementation i.e. short, medium and long term.

This Plan proposes a series of sustainable travel infrastructure initiatives and an associated implementation strategy. The objectives are to Identify key active travel desire lines which subsequently facilitate the development of an active travel network

- Enhance permeability
- Create safe routes to schools
- Improve connectivity to Public Transport services
- Improve safety levels across the study area and in particular along school travel desire lines
- Provide urban space to promote sustainable mobility such as improving pedestrian infrastructure and bus stop accessibility, parking relocation, reallocation of space

The Members welcomed this presentation and following discussion staff advised that initially this plan will focus on villages and radiated to outer limits facilitating ingress and egress. Monaghan County Council Community Section are currently undertaking an analysis of cross border links/identifying infrastructural links – there may be potential Peace Plus funding.

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

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

### **2. Correspondence Sent**

Correspondence sent was noted.

### 3. Correspondence Received

Following discussion, the Elected Members unanimously welcomed correspondence received from An Garda Síochána regarding the introduction of additional patrols in Ballybay. Also noting the importance of getting the vandalised town park toilets refurbished and open to the public once again, not allowing anti-social behaviour to disrupt the enjoyment of our amenities. Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator advised during the refurbishment issues with sewerage arose which delayed works, this has now been dealt with, and it is hoped the toilets will be back in operation next week.

Cllr. Flynn noted correspondence received from Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly and expressed her disappointment at the lack of response to questions posed.

*Cllr. Flynn proposed further correspondence is issued to the Ministers office demanding an explanation as to the reasons for the unacceptable delay to the free HRT Treatment Scheme for women. Also requesting details of what steps will be taken to get this scheme up and running and serious consideration must be given to reimbursing women for any HRT costs they have incurred between January and the eventual introduction of this scheme.*

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

### 5. Consideration of Roads Programme 2025, Martin Taylor Executive Engineer.

Martin Taylor Executive Engineer presented the Roads Programme 2025 for the Members Consideration.

There are 5 LT and 2 Regional

2025 Draft Restoration Improvement Programme									
	Road No		Location	Comments	Overall Length of road (m)	Length of RI-Strengthening/ Bitmac	Length of SD only (m)	Average Width of Road as per PMS	Actual area measured and tendered (m2)
1	LS6272		Drumurcher - Coragarry		2873	2873	2873	3.8	10917
2	LT22414		Connors - Clonoooney - Drumsloe - Clonrye	Connors Chapel and School	1690	1690	1690	3.5	5915
3	LT39002		Balladian		1039	1039	1039	2.9	3013
4	LT41133		Laragh	Colemans Pub	636	636	636	6.6	4198
5	LS7101/7100		Annahaia - Tossey to Sra		2234	2234	2234	4.0	8936
6	R183		Doapey Creamery to Swanns Cross	Killyraggy	2000	2000	0	6	12200
7	R162		Ballybay to Monaghan sections		2000	2000	0	7.2	14400

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

### 6. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator

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

#### Town & Village Scheme 2021

Public realm Enhancement Clones: -

**Item 1 Ball Alley:** - A Part 8 VII planning Application for the Ball Alley has been submitted for Planning.

**Item 2 Diamond Area:** - A Part 8 VII planning Application for the Diamond Area has 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.

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

##### Dartry Forest

Construction Works have been substantially completed. Outstanding signage will be erected this month.

##### 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 Pleanala last month.

#### **Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2023 Project Development Measure (PDM)**

##### Drum Lough Circular Walkway

Funding of €50,000 has been received recently from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Project Development Measure (PDM) of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2023 for a proposed Circular walkway at Drum Lough. The appointment of a design consultant is imminent.

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

##### Measure 1

##### Dromore West

Funding of €30k has been granted for the upgrading Existing Pathways, Dromore West, through existing Fairy Forest to include widening and re- surfacing/Drainage of Existing Pathways. Restoration of Piers at Entrance and rebuilding of existing Bricks and pointing of same as specified including re-erecting of capping's. Works have been substantially completed.

##### 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.

### **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. This tender is now live with a closing date of the 12<sup>th</sup> of February for the receipt of tenders.

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 is imminent.

#### 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 last month.

#### Active Travel Scheme

Project Code:	Project Name	Comments
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
MN/22/0001	Clones Peace Link AT Scheme	Construction works substantially completed. ESB ducting is completed. ESB overhead undergrounding completed. Public Lighting is complete. Footways to both sides complete. Carriage-way work completed. Monaghan County Council Horticulturist is preparing a design working on design for Coyles/Peacelink location.

MN/22/0004	Lough Egish Village AT Scheme	Construction works nearing completion. Kerbing and footways completed, restatement completed, and accommodation works commenced. Pedestrian crossing commissioned.
MN/23/0020	Urban Mobility/Sustainability AT Plans (Castleblayney, Ballybay, Clones, Carrickmacross)	The Clones Mobility plan is in draft format and a presentation to the elected Members will be made at this month's MD meeting.
MN/24/XXXX	Bus Stop Enhancement Programme.	<p>A programme of bus stop locations and associated works must be agreed with the NTA in advance of any construction commencing. In agreed locations, the NTA's contractor will continue to install bus shelters subject to the advance completion of the necessary groundworks.</p> <p>NOTE: NTA has yet to Finalise internally full criteria for suitable applications.</p> <p>Road Safety Audits to be carried out for altered or new bus stop locations.</p>

### **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**

The steering group had its second meeting last month to firm up a design. It is hoped to be in position to submit a planning application in mid Q1 of 2025.

##### **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: -**

A consultant has been appointed to carry out a survey to examine the feasibility of a CCTV scheme in the town. An assessment of suitable locations for the system in consultation with reps from Monaghan County Council and An Garda Siochana was completed and Engineering staff are reviewing preliminary designs. Data Protection Impact Assessment is being prepared at present for this scheme. Public Consultation on the scheme will commence for the scheme in the coming weeks.

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

A meeting between Engineering staff and the Design Security Consultant took place last month on site to assess suitable locations and we are awaiting a preliminary design. Public Consultation on the scheme will commence for the scheme in the coming weeks.

#### **Ballybay Fire Station**

Construction is ongoing at Ballybay Fire Station and is due for completion by the end of 2024 and operational in Q1 2025.

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

Sander Construction have 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 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. 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 1No. Section 15 Notice of Intention to acquire in CLS/BBY area.

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

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

The consultation was available online from the 18<sup>th</sup> of November until the 1<sup>st</sup> of December and there was a very well attended public drop in event on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of November at the Christmas market in the Market House. There was also a recent workshop completed with students of Ballybay Community College. The second workshop was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January. It is hoped to have a public consultation event to present the draft plan next month.

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

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

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

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

The objectives for this report are:

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

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

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

A presentation will be made on the findings of the report in Q1 of 2025.

### **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. A presentation will be made on the findings of the health check in Q1 of 2025.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Black Pigs Dyke**

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

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

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

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

Next 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.

Following on from the launch of the 'vision' for St. Tiarnach's Quarter in October 2024, Monaghan County Council now wish to undertake Public Consultation to further develop the project and inform the potential funding application. The public consultation event will focus on identifying the facilities that key stakeholders feel should be incorporated into this regeneration project. The Public Consultation should result in the identification of a proposal that 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.

The Public Consultation event will be held on the 5th of February 2025 in the Market House in Clones, further details to be posted on Monaghan County Council social media handles in the coming days. Prior to this, our consultants will meet face to face with some of the key stakeholders to ascertain their vision for this exciting regeneration project.

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

A transportation survey was posted on all Monaghan County Council social media handles last week and will be live until the 12<sup>th</sup> of February. The survey was also forwarded to all members of the PPN network. On completion of this survey additional surveys will be completed for other proposed routes later this quarter.

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

Refurbishment works are ongoing to Ballybay Town park following recent vandalism. It is hoped to have the facility opened early next month.

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



Elected Members welcomed this report, following discussion staff advised Ballybay CCTV process requires that it first go to the Town Team and then to Public Consultation. 98 Avenue Clones bus stop includes plans for a pedestrian crossing. Monaghan County Council will take the lead on Tender Documents for Clones Youth Centre for their refurbishment funding for €250k. Funders questions have been answered re. the application for the Ulster Canal Workers Cottages & a decision is awaited. The vacant cinema site in Clones forms part of the site for the proposed Business Hub and this project is currently at tender stage for construction. The Bank Of Ireland Clones Digihub application is currently with SEUPB for assessment.

Cllr. Treanor noted; The development of the road network at the Ball Alley under Public Realm Enhancement will include major changes, i.e. changing to one way traffic and it is vital alternative parking is put in place in advance of these works. The bus stop in Newbliss is currently on or near a dangerous junction and in advance of installation of the official bus stop locals need to be consulted.

Cllr. Flynn welcomes the transport survey currently underway for Ballybay to Carrickmacross. However, noted a survey of Smithborough to Monaghan is also required. With increases in Carbon Tax, insurance costs, NCT's and driving tests the public transport need is greater than ever, local communities are feeling isolated in their villages. Cllr. Truell noted a survey would also be beneficial for the Cavan N54 route to Monaghan.

Gareth McMahon, Director of Services advised Members it is National Policy that where a Bus Eireann Route is in operation a Local Link service is not also required, this does inevitably create transport gaps in routes. Mr. McMahon advised he is liaising with NTA regarding an integrated transport plan for the County in efforts to ensure local commuter needs are addressed.

In response to Members, Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator advised the St. Tiernach's Quarter public consultation on February 5<sup>th</sup> will take the format of a drop-in session, it will run from 11am to 9pm where proposals can be viewed and consultants will be on hand to hear feedback.

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

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

### **Roads Programme**

- We have discussed the new roads programme for 2025.
- Works have commenced with the preparation of these roads for drainage works ahead of the commencement of resurfacing.
- Roads will be measured this week and testing of the road structure in order to allow for the design and tendering of the works.
- Works will be commencing within the next few weeks to resurface a section of the LP2100 Lecky Road at Tiernahinch Clones following the completion of the Active Travel project in this area.
- 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. It is expected that it will be known in late Q1 if these applications have been successful or not.

### **My CoCo**

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

- 175 entries to date
- 1 entry since December meeting
- 4 of these are in progress
- 171 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 Agnacuë 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 Agnacuë 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 Drummuck 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.

### **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 December meeting;

- 5 roads patched with MCC Outdoor Staff

During the recent cold spell, patching was ceased and crews focused on treating urban areas, and assisting with requests across the MD

### **Kilnacran Drainage**

The hydrologist is continuing to work on the study area for Kilnacran Drainage to establish the hydraulic model. The consultant has visited site for a walkover and has met with affected landowners. The consultant 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 will be completed in early February.

### **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.

### **Recent Cold Spell**

Crews were stretched during the recent cold spell to ensure that the agreed salting routes, and urban areas were kept clear. The MD Office and staff were inundated with requests to treat areas and help across the MD. Assistance was offered where possible, and salt was made available to people across the MD to ensure that they could maintain access to their homes and businesses. Additional salt bins were provided across the MD in public areas for use by the communities to treat their areas, and salt stocks at various locations around the MD were replenished regularly.

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

The Elected Members welcomed this report and commended staff on salting during the inclement weather. Cllr. Truell noted that schools not on actual salting routes but in close proximity were agreed last year to be included on these salting routes.

Martin Taylor Executive Engineer advised while this was discussed by Members, resources are already stretched to salt agreed routes.

Staff advised Cllr. Truell, public lighting is now installed at Killeevan, Threemilehouse and Newbliss. The outages with traffic lights on the Newtownbultor Road, Clones has been logged and will be repaired.

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

### **9. Questions**

*Cllr. Flynn will ask:*

Question 1:

In the MD meeting in September, it was agreed to conduct a survey to accumulate evidence to demonstrate whether there is a need for additional services and routes to be established by Local Link for Ballybay to Carrickmacross, Rockcorry to Monaghan and Smithboro to Monaghan, can the MD please provide an update in this matter.

**Answer:**

***At the November meeting of the Ballybay Clones Municipal District it was agreed to conduct an initial transportation survey regarding a bus service from Ballybay to Carrickmacross via Lough***

***Egish. This survey is currently live and has a closing date of the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2025. This survey can be accessed via: -***

***<https://consult.monaghancoco.ie/en/content/transportation-survey-ballybay-carrickmacross>***

***The link to the survey has been posted on all Monaghan County Council social media handles and the link has been emailed to all members of the PPN in the general vicinity of the affected area.***

***Additional surveys will be completed later in Q1 of 2025.***

Question 2:

Can the MD provide details on the status of the application for a zebra/pedestrian crossing in Threemilehouse and include clarity on whether this application has been assessed, the remedial works proposed and the likelihood of works commencing in 2025?

**Answer:**

***An application has been made for a zebra/pedestrian crossing in Threemilehouse under the Low Cost Safety Improvement funding in Q4 of 2024. It is expected that the application will be assessed towards the end of Q1 2025, at which stage we will know if this application has been successful or not. Should the application be successful, works will be completed in 2025.***

*Cllr. Coyle will ask:*

Question 1:

Can Monaghan County Council outline at what stage are plans for new Car Parking facilities at Lower Main Street, Ballybay. As residences of this area, their families or visiting family members, particularly with young children to a grandparent etc, carers etc. are forced to walk long distances especially in the days of winter endangering themselves to injury in snow covered/frosty conditions on footpaths etc, i.e. the residents of Shamrock Tce., Lake View etc, the chronic shortage of Car Parking facilities is also having a very detrimental effect on businesses operating in this area of the town. Let all remember these are our Rate payers and with the very welcome acquisition of the Market House by Monaghan County Council, which on completion will be marvellous in addition to the Town Park & other facilities available within the Town of Ballybay. The provision of additional Car Parking accessible by short walkways to the above-mentioned facilities/services/homes and properties is an urgent requirement, if not an emergency and be so expediated by all of us Members and Executive?

**Answer:**

***The Executive of the Ballybay Clones Municipal District are actively examining potential sites suitable for the provision of car parking in the vicinity of Lower Main St.***

Question 2:

Can Monaghan County Council outline the progress made on the Street Scaping of Lower Main Street, Ballybay and the provision of a Pedestrian Crossing at Lower Main Street, as a huge volume of traffic passes through the town on a daily basis placing the lives of all persons crossing the Street in this area at great risk of fatality or serious injury?

**Answer:**

***The undergrounding of overhead power cabling will commence in Q1 of this year, and street scaping works in the vicinity of the Market House will be carried out as part of the overall proposed construction project to the building.***

Question 3:

One of the most dangerous junctions is the junction of the LP04201/LP04200/LP03201, Drumlane Cross (or known locally as McArdle's Cross), can Monaghan County Council outline their plans to

address the dangers of this location. Can Monaghan County Council immediately erect additional 'Warning Signage' on each of the four approach roads to the hazardous place as I am aware of numerous families which were almost wiped out by vehicles coming from all sides, but particularly from the R181 side (the Tullynahinera side) or do we have to wait for an accident where there are fatalities. As only recently a mother and her children had their car rear ended grazed by a H.G.V., in which the driver didn't realise he was so close to a road crossing, only applying the lorry 'Brakes System' when he saw the Sign, which was partially overgrown by bushes and grass?

**Answer:**

***Ballybay Clones Municipal District have applied for Low-Cost Safety Improvement funding for this location. Ballybay Clones Municipal District also have met with the landowners and discussed the land take requirements for any designed proposal. Should funding not become available for this junction, alternative solutions will be explored. Existing signage will be checked and any obstructions to these signs cleared.***

Question 4:

In the Village of Scotshouse there are major concerns for the 'Safety' of Villagers and visitors to the area, which has many attraction's and with the construction of additional housing in the area, in particular while many locals have raised specific issues with me 'Scotshouse Development Association' a voluntary group of local people comprising it's Officership and Membership, there only reward will be a safer and better community for all young and old can Monaghan County Council examine and have placed in the Village of Scotshouse the following-

- Pedestrian Crossing.
- Ramps on the Roads leading IN and OUT of the Village.
- Footpaths on all Roads leading IN and OUT of the Village, especially the Road leading to the marvellous facilities of the 'Currin Sons of St. Patrick GAA Club grounds
- Bus Shelter (to accommodate the Local Link/Schools bus services etc.

I would appreciate if you can examine each of the above and in your answer outline the opportunities of funding for each of the following?

**Answer:**

***Monaghan County Council have discussed the location with NTA who have confirmed that they are no longer supplying funding for one off pedestrian crossings at such locations. Following a Representation seeking traffic calming in the area, in line with the adopted traffic calming policy, Ballybay Clones Municipal District carried out a traffic survey within the village, and it was found that speeding was not an issue at this location.***

***The Currin football pitch is situated 1.2km from the end of the footpaths in Scotshouse village. Monaghan County Council do not own the land adjacent to this road. Estimated costs to provide a footpath to this facility to current standards would exceed €0.6M. Funding streams are currently not available for such proposals.***

***This location has been assessed and forwarded for consideration for the bus stop enhancement programme.***

Question 5:

The R184-9 Scotscorner to the Clontibret Round About(McPhillips Garage) is a heavily vehicularised Road(leading from the Ballybay-Clones M.D. to the Monaghan M.D.),a very dangerous junction on that Road is it's(R184) junction with the side roads of the L7410-L7311,known locally as 'Pat Joes Cross', huge volumes of traffic are entering/exiting from each roads as many employers, large/small/farmers/poultry units, huge numbers of houses/school/places of work etc, visibility is extremely poor/dangerous. Can Monaghan County Council immediately examine and have the necessary works carried out to improve Safety at this junction. There is a real danger to the lives of

all who enter/exit numerous times per day, as do all their essential services (post persons/farm machine/services/business's etc, etc, etc)?

**Answer:**

***Ballybay Clones Municipal District have applied for Low-Cost Safety Improvement funding for this location last year, however funding was unsuccessful for this location. Ballybay Clones Municipal District will continue to seek funding opportunities to allow for a project to be completed at this location.***

**10. Notice of Motion**

It was unanimously agreed in the absence of Cllr. Coyle his Notice of Motion will be deferred to the February meeting.

**11. CE Orders**

Noted

**12. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.**

Cllr. Sinead Flynn proposed a vote of congratulations to participants who took part in the UCWDC World Championship in Orlando recently - Caoimhe Hurson, Lauren & Leah Rice, Sarah, Ciara and Annie from Ballybay and Ella from Cremartin.

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

**13. AOB.**

It was unanimously agreed by the Elected Members that due to upcoming bank holidays

- The meeting of February 17<sup>th</sup> will take place in **YWI Meeting Room, Birch Court, Ballybay @ 10am.**
- The Ballybay/Clones Municipal District meeting of April 21<sup>st</sup> will fall on Easter Monday, this meeting is now rescheduled to **April 28<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm.**
- The Ballybay/Clones Municipal District meeting of March 17<sup>th</sup> will fall on St. Patrick's Day, this meeting is now rescheduled to **March 24<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm.**

Meeting concluded.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator

Date, February 17<sup>th</sup> 2025