

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday July 21st, 2025 @ 10am, Ballybay Wetlands Centre, Ballybay, Co. Monaghan.

Members Present: Cathaoirleach Cllr Sinead Flynn presided; the following members were also present: Cllrs: Pat Treanor, Seamus Coyle, Richard Truell and Sean Gilliland.

In Attendance: Nial O'Connor A/Director of Services, Matthew Lambe A/Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Craig Connolly A/Executive Engineer and Gillian Costello Staff Officer.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sinead Flynn welcomed all to the July Ballybay/Clones Municipal District meeting, welcoming Nial O'Connor in his new role as Acting Director of Services and Craig Connolly in his role as Acting Executive Engineer & looks forward to working with both wishing them the best in their respective roles.

All Members concurred and joined in wishing both Nial O'Connor and Craig Connolly all the best in their new roles.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by Cllr. Coyle seconded by Cllr. Treanor & unanimously agreed.

2. Correspondence Sent

Correspondence sent was noted.

3. Correspondence Received

Correspondence received was noted and following discussion, Members noted

Correspondence received from Brendan Smith TD regarding Driving Test waiting times, advising of a 7-month waiting period, this is not suitable.

Correspondence from Minister Heydon regarding the Bovine TB Polic Framework is welcomed, however the actions referenced are aspirational as this is not happening on the ground. The farming community are reporting badgers as the cause for the spread of TB, as they are finding sets on their lands, the Department has been contacted by farmers regarding snares but advised they are too busy to do this.

Following discussion, all Members agreed action needs to be taken. TB outbreaks take an economic, social and emotional toll on farms affected. There is a clear correlation with policy changes on culling and the increase in TB. There needs to be North/South co-operation. This Council has requested a meeting with the Ministers Department on numerous occasions and to date have not secured a meeting.

Cllr. Gilliland informed the Members the IFA and National Parks and Wildlife Service had extensive discussions with Minster Heydon on this matter. When the new framework is in place a meeting with the Department & this Municipal District will be facilitated. The Minister advised there will be action by the end of the summer.

4. Consideration of Section 183, disposal of 85 Main Street, Ballybay – Kevin McNally, Town Regeneration Officer.

Town Regeneration Officer Kevin McNally presented a Section 183 for disposal of 85 Main Street Ballybay to Darren Bishop for the consideration of €79,000. The Contract of Sale will contain the following condition if the purchaser fails to redevelop the property within 24 months of the date of contract closure, the property will return to the ownership of Monaghan County Council.

Proposed Cllr. Coyle, seconded Cllr. Gilliland and unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Gilliland commended the work of the Regeneration Team in addressing dereliction in Ballybay as this was and is a prevalent problem in the town. As an Elected Member having advocated over the years for action on this issue Cllr. Gilliland welcomes this and looks forward to further progress.

5. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator

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

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 Q3 of 2025.

Clones Youth Centre

Funding of €250k has been received for the refurbishment of Clones Youth Centre and is at detailed design stage.

Outdoor Recreation Schemes 2022

Dromore Blueway –

Planning Permission for this project has been granted earlier this 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. A design Consultant Design NID have been appointed and a meeting with members of the Drum Development Association have taken place on site. A consultation event will take place on Tuesday the 22nd of July at 7.00pm in Drum Presbyterian Church Hall.

Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2023

Measure 2

Ballybay Wetlands

Funding of €198,833.00 has been granted for the Ballybay Wetlands Public Path Enhancement. This work is substantially completed.

Gortnawhinny Lido

Funding of €119,560.00 has been granted for the Gortnawhinny Lido. A contractor has been appointed, and works will commence in the coming weeks.

PEACEPLUS

PEACEPLUS Theme 4.2 Healthy & Inclusive Communities

The MD submitted a funding application with partners from Cavan County Council, Fermanagh Omagh District Council under Peace + for the Ulster Canal Workers Cottages. This application has been successful. There will be an investment by SEUPB of €8.4 million towards the RESTART project under measure 4.2 of the PEACE PLUS programme, Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion. The project, aptly named RESTART, an acronym for Rural Economic & Social Transformation and Resilience Transition Together, will see significant strategic investment in the towns of Newtownbutler, Clones and Belturbet. The project has been designed collaboratively to enable these rural communities to thrive and reach their full economic, social and environmental potential.

The proposed works at the at the Canal Stores site to include the redevelopment of the former Canal workers cottage to extend the meals on wheels service, and provision of additional multipurpose meeting and community space that can also be used to provide services for the Marina adjacent to the site.

Funding has been secured, and stakeholder's meetings are ongoing, and tender documents are being prepared for the detailed design of the project.

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

A Teen hang out area at Ballybay Park with access to Wifi facilities, a place to play music, hang out in a dry environment and have access to charging facilities has been approved and the project is now at procurement stage.

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.

Fermanagh St. Business Hub

A tender competition to appoint a main contractor to complete the build has been held, with the Most Economically Advantageous Tenderer identified. The DRCD has approved Monaghan County Council to issue notification letters to the successful and unsuccessful tenderers. Following this, subject to no legal challenge, Monaghan County Council can then proceed to award the contract and commence construction in Q3.

Lennard Arms

A Creative Consultant had been appointed to prepare a Product Identification/Visitor Experience Plan and Business Plan in respect of a Visitor Attraction of scale at the former Lennard Arms Hotel. This project will now proceed to detailed design stage.

Ballybay Market House –

The detailed designs are substantially completed. On completion and subject to departmental approval, the project will proceed to tender stage.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) - Category 2 Projects

St. Tiarnach's Quarter Regeneration Project

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

Community Recreation Fund 2023

98 Avenue Bus Stop: -

A funding allocation of €120,000 has been received. Works are due to commence in the coming weeks.

Clar 2023 Developing Community Facilities and Amenities

Peace link Sensory Garden

Works are substantially completed.

Community Centre Investment Fund –

Rockcorry Community Centre

Detailed design is ongoing in consultation with Rockcorry Community Centre CLG. Pre-tender Cost estimates are being finalised and Departmental approval is required prior to going to tender.

Greenways

Ulster Canal - Clones to Smithboro Greenway: -

Monaghan County Council have received a TII funding allocation of €75,000 to progress the scheme in 2025. The preferred route is currently being reviewed with regards to flood risk. The horizontal alignment of sections of the preferred route may be adjusted to eliminate potential risk of flooding.

Ulster Canal – Smithboro to Monaghan Greenway: -

Meetings with stakeholders is ongoing regarding the amended Flood Risk Assessment and proposed design in areas at risk of flooding. Monaghan County Council have received a TII funding allocation of €75,000 to progress the scheme in 2025 through Phase 3 of TII Project Management Guidelines - Design and Environmental Evaluation.

2024 Community Recognition Fund

An application totalling €200,000 was successful for the Upgrade & Refurbishment of Ballybay Multi-use Community Building. This project is at tender stage.

Ballybay Town Centre First Plan

This plan is now completed and will be launched later this afternoon following the MD meeting. The plan serves as a non-statutory guide for decision-making, funding, and project delivery.

Site Assessment for Gone but Not Forgotten Memorial Garden

Monaghan County Council engaged the Paul Hogarth Company to complete a site selection report in March of this year. The consultant team identified 20 potential sites for a memorial and garden. These sites are all located within the town of Clones.

The following criterion was used to assess each of the 20 sites: -

- **Area:** - Is there adequate space for a memorial and garden and circulation space for occasional gatherings?
- **Visibility:** - Is the site visually connected with its surroundings, giving it prominence while keeping it safe?
- **Accessibility:** - Is it suitable for all users, including potential for wheelchair accessibility and proximity to car park?
- **Setting:** - Would the setting of the location be appropriately attractive and calm in manner that is befitting for a memorial garden?

- **Lack of displacement:** - To what extent would the garden development of a garden minimise the loss or reduction of an important current use of the site?
- **Additionality & Regeneration:** - Could a memorial garden in this location add value to the immediate area and contribute positively to the town as a whole?

Following the assessment of all twenty sites, three sites were short listed to be considered in greater detail: -

- Barry McGuigan Park
- Play Area Garden at Clones Marina
- Roslea Road Car Park at Junction with Church Hill

The report also recommends that consideration is given to a public consultation exercise, including visualisations showing how a garden could look at each location.

Following discussions with the elected members a decision has been made to proceed with further considerations of each site.

Ballybay & Gergweis, Osterhofen Twinning 2000-2025

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the twinning of Ballybay and Gergweis, Osterhofen. Representatives from Gergweis, Osterhofen extended an invitation to the Elected members and members of the executive of the Ballybay Clones MD, a delegation travelled to Bavaria from the June 27-30th.

Transportation Surveys – Smithborough to Monaghan & Ballybay to Carrickmacross Via Lough Egish

Following recent online survey, a meeting took place between reps of Monaghan County Council and LocalLink. Local link Advised that in relation to the Smithborough to Monaghan route they are aware of the demand for a connecting route from Clones to Monaghan via through Smithborough. LocalLink are actively discussing with the National Transport Authority a possible solution and should a resolution be obtainable a route would be operational in early 2026.

In relation to the Ballybay to Carrickmacross Via Lough Egish route, a route through Lough Egish forms part of the Connecting Ireland Plan issued in 2021. LocalLink have advised that the introduction of this route remains a key target a of this plan. The proposed Connecting Ireland Plan proposes an aligned service from Castleblayney to Lough Egsih to Carrickmacross three times daily. At present Localink are examining how to align Ballybay into this route.

Making spaces for Teenagers Clones Teen Haven: Where Stories Unfold

An application was made earlier this year to the Department of Children Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for the development of a safe, inclusive and welcoming space for teenagers of all backgrounds into the local community. This application has been successful and funding of €125k has been received. Consultation events have taken place and a detailed designed will now be devised prior to an application for Part VIII planning permission.

Actions Arising from MD Report

Elected Members welcomed this report and the progression of projects. Following discussion; Members sought information on the design of Gortnawhinny Lido and what it will look like, Members wish to invite the Restart Team to attend the September Municipal District meeting to give a presentation on the Peace Project. Progress with Local Link service routes is welcomed, will Ballybay also be connected into this service? As planning is now granted for the Drumore Blueway what are the next steps? What is the status of Newbliss junction tightening.

Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator advised now planning is granted for Drumore Blue way there is a 6-week period in which required reports will be completed, it is anticipated that works will commence Q2 2026. Local Link are examining options to include Ballybay into the Connecting Ireland Plan routes Castleblayney/Lough Egish/Carrickmacross. The NTA have put a hold on the Junction Tightening works in Newbliss as there are queries on the pedestrian crossing location. Gortnawhinny Lido will take on the same design as Lough Major, parking/picnic area etc.

Members unanimously agreed as per the recommendation of the Site Assessment for the Gone but Not Forgotten Memorial Garden further considerations of each site short listed will be considered in greater detail: -

- Barry McGuigan Park
- Play Area Garden at Clones Marina
- Roslea Road Car Park at Junction with Church Hill

Proposed Cllr. Gilliland, seconded Cllr. Coyle and unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Flynn updated the Members on Ballybay/Clones Municipal District twinning visit to Osterhofen in Bavaria to celebrate 25 years of twinning between our two towns.

“It was a truly special trip, filled with friendship, culture, and unforgettable memories.

A huge thank you to Bürgermeisterin Tomas and his fantastic team for the incredibly warm welcome and hospitality. They hosted a lovely event in our honour where we were proud to present gifts from Monaghan, a handcrafted bowl made from Monaghan clay and a beautiful image of the Ballybay Wetlands.

In a lovely gesture, Tomas presented us with a beautiful glass sculpture engraved with the names Ballybay and Osterhofen. It’s a gift we will always treasure, and it will hold a very special place in our hearts and in our community. We were delighted to also be joined at this event by Irish Consul General James O’Shea and his aid Tara Baynes.

A heartfelt thank you to Karl Heinz, Roma, Jon, and the wider Bi-Irish family, who went over and above to introduce us to their family and many friends. Their kindness and warmth made sure we experienced the true spirit of the area and helped make the trip truly unforgettable.

We enjoyed attending local festivals and exploring some incredible sights, including the breathtaking Asambasilika Altenmarkt–Osterhofen Abbey, the town park, and the surrounding countryside. The picturesque villages of Gergweis and Galgweis, along with the rich agricultural landscape, made us feel very much at home.

The weather was beautiful, the food was fantastic, and the company was second to none. We made new friends, deepened connections, and created memories we’ll never forget.

We’re now looking forward to returning the welcome this October when we host a delegation from Osterhofen in Ballybay/Clones and return the warm hospitality they gave us.”

The Elected Members welcomed Cllr. Flynn’s report complementing the delegation on their representation and look forward to reciprocating this hospitality when welcoming the visiting delegation in October.

6. Report by Municipal District Engineer.

Craig Connolly, A/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 – Corrygarry (Complete)
 - LT22414 Connons (Complete)
 - LT39002 Balladian (Complete)
 - LT41133 Laragh (Complete)
 - LS7101/7100 Annahaia – Tossey (Complete)
 - R183 Doapey Creamery (Complete)
 - R183 Killyragy (Complete)
 - R162 Monaghan Road Ballybay (Complete)
 - R180 Laragh (Due to commence in August)
 - R184 Tullycorbet (Due to commence in August)
 - LT79003 Corsilloga (Due to commence in August)

- Surface dressing of these roads have all been complete.

2025 Restoration Maintenance Programme

The roads identified through the Pavement Management System and PSCI ratings for surface dressing in 2025 have all been complete as of 16th of June.

Low Cost Safety Initiatives

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

- LP3400/LP3411 Cremartin - €40,000 – Negotiations with landowners and the procurement of Vehicle Activated Warning Signs are ongoing with a completion date by end of October.
- R183/LS6290 Guardhill Killeevan - €40,000. Procurement of a Vehicle Restraint System Risk Assessment and Design is in progress.
- R189/LP2400 Threemilehouse - €30,000. Land agreement is being finalised, and works will be due to commence in August. Survey to be carried out and design to be produced for location of pedestrian crossing.
- R183/R162 Approach Roads Ballybay - €25,000. Procurement of Vehicle Activated Warning Signs are ongoing and drawings for roads markings are currently being produced.

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 landowners to rectify the issues.

- 248 Drainage notices issued to date
- There have been 3 notices logged since the start of July. New members of staff will be given training, they will be encouraged to log new drainage issues where road deterioration is a problem and on roads placed on future road programmes.

- New staff members are currently assessing the 26 Notices Referred to Roads for following up, any issues which have not been addressed will be recommended for progressing to legal proceedings.

Road Closures

There is currently a road closure in place for R188 Monaghan to Cootehill Road at Stanoodan. This road closure is for the Low-Cost Intervention works being managed by Roads Section.

Bridges

Awaiting contractor to carry out works at the following location;

- LT24221 at Aghnacue Bridge, Doapey. To commence at end of August
- L63101 at Drumary, Annaghmakerrig. To commence at end of July
- R180 Carrickinare. A quote has been received and waiting for a works programme from the contractor

Patching

The MD currently have 1 patching crew continually patching the roads within the area. In addition, the services of a velocity patcher has returned to maintenance on roads. A weekly list will be provided to the contractor going forward or until budget capacity is reached.

Kilnacran Drainage

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

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

Works identified by the study include;

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

The Area Engineer and GSS are currently engaging with landowners to agree works on removing dense vegetation within streams on private property and cleaning and removing debris from culverts.

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

Weed Control in Towns and Villages

MCC Outdoor Staff are continuing to use mechanical means in other areas across the MD. Works are currently ongoing cleaning footpaths in the MD. Tenders have been received for the use of environmentally friendly weed control, and the first application will be completed by end of August.

Actions Arising from Engineers Report

The Elected Members welcomed this report. Following discussion; Cllr. Gilliland raised the issue of hedge cutting and drainage, having received numerous calls regarding cars being damaged due to overgrown hedges action needs to be taken were landowners are failing to maintain hedges & undertake drainage works. All Members concurred while acknowledging this Municipal District is proactive in issuing notices however the steps involved are time consuming to bring a case to conclusion. Cllr. Gilliland requested that we change the process, with non-responsive landowners can the MD cut the hedges/do drainage works and put the charge on the landowner as opposed to taking legal action which is time consuming.

in response to queries staff advised.

A list of surface dressing roads will be circulated to the Members, LCSI list of roads previously submitted were found not to be suitable, Clonfad and Drumgar are now on the Low Cost Safety Initiative. Aghabog Church of Ireland Clár scheme is due to commence, there is a project meeting this week. Hedge Cutting and Drainage notices are continually issued the crews are opening outlets on drains. The Patching list is continually updated, the list is examined and reviewed in deciding where to despatch the velocity patcher to, these are addressed case by case there is no set rule. Congestion of traffic on Guard Hill is being addressed, a meeting took place with stakeholders in attempts to negotiate acquisition of land to widen the road however the landowner is not interested in selling land. There is potential the Killeevan Sarsfields GAA development may address this issue.

7. Matters arising from previous minutes.

Cllr. Coyle welcomes news of funding being secured to carry out traffic calming measures on the Castleblayney Road Ballybay(R183) as the speed of traffic along this road is unacceptable.

Cllr. Treanor requested that further to this Municipal Districts correspondence of 26th May 2025 Uisce Éireann are again contacted requesting a response on the matter of a burst pipe which occurred three times within six days on the Scotshouse Road, Clones in the townland of Teehill and capacity of Clones Sewerage Plant, has it sufficient capacity to deal with the recent new builds or any future development in the area.

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

8. Questions

Cllr. Treanor will ask:

Question 1:

Following the imposition of the traffic calming measures in Rockcorry village last year, can the Council organise another speed monitoring check? The residents are still very concerned about the risks to children and churchgoers from speeding traffic through the village.

Answer:

Engineering staff will carry out a 2nd traffic speed survey. It is good practice to conduct such surveys when schools are open, and the MD will aim to have this completed at the start of September this year.

Question 2:

Has the Council progressed any of the 6 proposals suggested to address the parking issues at O'Neill Park and Carn Heights, Clones. Congestion in the nighttime and at weekends because of the lack of parking spaces create a risk that emergency service vehicles may have trouble reaching a household needing of them?

Answer:

Preliminary designs were examined with representatives on the O'Neill Parking Residents Association regarding the provision of additional parking in the vicinity of Mollys Corner. A funding application will be made under the Clár funding scheme.

Question 3:

What progress has been made to carry out improvements and patching on the LT 21101 at Tiernahinch Near, Clones? This road has deteriorated badly, and agricultural contractors and local residents are damaging their vehicles regularly?

Answer:

The velocity patcher has returned to carry out works in the MD and will carry out velocity patching repairs in this road in the next 2 weeks, weather permitting.

Question 4:

What plans are in place to do a proper patching job on the LT 22312/11, at Drumreenagh, Scotshouse? This road was further damaged by a fallen tree during storm Eowyn, which lifted/weakened the structure of the road. There are serious humps and hollows created by what appears to be the road collapsing in places.

Answer:

The velocity patcher has returned to carry out works in the MD and will carry out velocity patching repairs in the Scotshouse Area in the next 2 weeks weather permitting. This road will be placed on the list of roads rated 1 to 4 for consideration for future road improvement programmes.

Cllr. Flynn will ask:

Question 1:

Can the Ballybay Clones MD confirm whether there have been any discussions with Local Link or Bus Éireann regarding plans to increase the frequency and coverage of public transport services to the villages of Rockcorry and Smithboro?

Answer:

Members of the executive met with Localink to discuss recent transportation surveys for Ballybay to Lough Egish and Smithborough to Monaghan. No discussions took place in relation to the provision of transport services in Rockcorry village. This item can be discussed at the next meeting.

Question 2:

Has Ballybay Clones MD explored funding or planning routes to develop a safe walking/cycling link between Smithboro village and local amenities, including schools and sports clubs, to support active travel in the area?

Answer:

At present there are no plans to develop a walking and cycling link as funding and resources are concentrated on the development of the Ulster Canal Greenway between Smithboro and Monaghan. The proposed scheme will be placed on a list for proposed Active Travel schemes for future funding opportunities.

Question 3:

Can the MD provide an update on measures being taken to address ongoing issues of speeding in Ballybay town, particularly on routes leading into the town from Doohamlet and Monaghan? Also what measures are being taken to prevent speeding on approach roads within Doohamlet village?

Answer:

The MD were successful in obtaining Low-Cost Safety funding to implement traffic calming measures on the Castleblayney Road, Ballybay. There have been discussions with AGS in relation to relocating the speed limit on the Castleblayney Road, Ballybay in the upcoming Speed Limit Review. Low-Cost Safety measures will be completed by end of the year. In relation to Doohamlet,

AGS has confirmed that a Go Safe vehicle will be in operation intermittently from Q3 of this year. An application for Low-Cost Safety Improving funding for traffic calming measures in the village will be made later this year.

Cllr. Coyle will ask:

Question 1:

Will Monaghan County Council immediately examine the installation of Safety Measurers on the Rockcorry-Cootehill Rd.(R188-7) in the area of Rockcorry Presbyterian Church as church worshipers park their vehicles opposite the Church and have to walk across the very heavily vehicularised Regional Road. They are very concerned for their safety with the speed of traffic. Can Monaghan County Council place across the road Speed Cushions/Ramps/Speed Control Measurers for the safety of all, as there are huge Safety Concerns in the adjoining Boyher Housing Estate and the Crann Mor Estate for the safety of children particularly travelling to Scoil Mhuire, Rockcorry and Rockcorry National School?

Answer:

Engineering staff will carry out a 2nd speed survey to determine if a reduction in speeding has been achieved. If a reduction has not been achieved, the MD will consider applying for further funding for the design and implementation of additional traffic calming measures under the Low-Cost Safety Scheme.

Cllr. Truell will ask:

Question 1:

In light of the current hedge cutting ban, I respectfully request that the Council Executive of Monaghan County Council examine the necessity for hedge maintenance along the following routes:

- Road LP02241
- Road LP02240 leading into Scotshouse Village
- Road R212 from Scotshouse to Bell's Cross

Given the potential implications for road safety and visibility, I ask that an assessment be carried out to determine whether exemptions under the Wildlife Acts are applicable in this instance. Where cutting is deemed necessary, I further request that all affected landowners be formally notified and advised of any required actions.

Answer:

The MD will have the hedges along these roads assessed to determine if hedge cutting notices are to be issued to relevant landowners.

9. Notice of Motion

Motion received from Cllr Flynn:

That this Municipal District notes the Government's commitment in its Programme for Government to reduce the cost of childcare to €200 per child per month through the National Childcare Scheme, along with its pre-election promise that no family would pay more than €200 per child per month, a promise that has not yet been delivered. Families across the Ballybay Clones Municipal District continue to face unaffordable childcare costs and limited access to services. As Budget 2026 is being prepared, this Municipal District calls on the Government to honour its commitments by urgently investing in a publicly funded and delivered childcare system, increasing direct funding to childcare providers to ensure affordability for families in rural communities, fair pay and conditions for workers, and to help address the disproportionate care responsibilities placed on women.

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

Motion received from Cllr Truell:

I ask Monaghan County Council to draw attention to a recent serious incident at the notable bend on the R188 heading toward Cootehill from Monaghan at the location of Erica's Fairy Fort. A vehicle collided with the stone wall, fortunately without injury to pedestrians this time. However, this section is a documented accident hotspot, having tragically seen a fatal heavy goods vehicle collision in 2023. To prevent future incidents, I request that Monaghan County Council urgently:

1. Install a robust crash barrier (steel guardrail) at the bend to shield vehicles from colliding with the stone wall or overturning into footpaths or private property.
2. Erect active flashing warning signage to clearly signal the upcoming hazard and reduce speeds upon approach.
3. Implement targeted traffic calming measures, such as rumble strips or speed limit reductions in the affected stretch.

These actions would significantly enhance road safety at a known "black spot" that still poses a real danger. Thank you for your attention. I would appreciate confirmation that this location will be inspected and that residents, landowners, and road-users will be informed of proposed safety enhancements and timelines.

This motion was welcomed by Members and following discussion the following additions were proposed

- Cllr. Coyle proposed the addition of a request to incorporate a road crossing to this Motion.
- Cllr. Treanor proposed correspondence is issued to Cavan County Council and Bailieborough/Cootehill Municipal District to request a joint project for the proposed Road Crossing as this will be on the Cavan/Monaghan border and seek an update on proposed works for the footpath from the Holy Family School to the park.

Proposed Cllr. Truell, seconded Cllr. Gilliland and unanimously agreed.

Motion received from Cllr Coyle:

The Elected Members of Monaghan County Council, Ballybay/Clones Municipal District request that An Taoiseach Micheal Martin, the Minister for Agriculture Martin Hayden TD and the Government completely reject and change the EU proposals for the 2028-34 budgetary programme.

This budget if agreed will see the ending of the two-pillar approach to a single fund, which will be detrimental to the agricultural sector and a great threat to food security in Europe.

The impact on County Monaghan and Ireland would be disastrous, the removal of farm payments to older farmers, cuts to area-based payments, the ending of the Leader Programme and overall an approximate cut of 30% in all farm supports is not acceptable.

Proposed Cllr. Coyle, seconded Cllr. Treanor and unanimously agreed.

10. CE Orders

Noted

12. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

The Elected Members extend their congratulations to;

- The organisers & committee and Canal Stores for organising and hosting the Vintage Flea Market in the Ulster Canal Stores. Patricia Knight The Diamond Clones (organiser & committee) and Hugh Tunney (Canal Stores – Hosting event).
- Congratulations to the County Monaghan Clay Pigeon Shooting Team on their success at the All-Ireland Competitions

12. AOB.

Cllr. Coyle sought information on development of Latton Community Plan, Staff advised this will be investigated and they will revert.

Cllr. Gilliland requested that traffic calming measures at Loughmourne School are examined as this is extremely busy at drop off and pick up.

Meeting concluded.

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed _____
Meetings Administrator
Date, September 15th, 2025