

## The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 @ 2.30pm, Clones Municipal Office.

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

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sinead Flynn welcomed all to her first meeting as Cathaoirleach of Ballybay/Clones Municipal District, thanking her predecessor Cllr. Richard Truell and commending him on his performance in role of Cathaoirleach. Cllr. Flynn wished A/Director of Services Gareth McMahon all the best in his appointment as Director of Services with Meath County Council noting his professionalism and dedication to his position here in Monaghan County Council which he undoubtedly will take into his new role. Cllr. Flynn wished Martin Taylor congratulations on appointment to his new role as A/Senior Executive Engineer in Monaghan Municipal District thanking him for his dedicated and common-sense approach during his time here in this Municipal District. Cllr. Flynn extended her welcome to the new Executive Engineer in this MD, Craigh Connolly.

All Members concurred and joined in wishing both Gareth McMahon and Martin Taylor all the best in their new roles and also extended their best wishes to Cllr. Flynn in her new role as Cathaoirleach.

Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator on behalf Ballybay/Clones Municipal District staff and also personally expressed his gratitude to A/Director of Services Gareth McMahon and wished him every success in his new role as Director of Services in Meath County Council. Mr. Lambe also wished Martin Taylor A/Executive Engineer all the best in his new role as Senior Executive Engineer with Monaghan Municipal District thanking him for his dedication and precision in his duties with this MD.

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

Proposed by Cllr. Truell 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 the Ministers response on the TB issue is generic and there is a lack of engagement. Members asked Cllr. Gilliland since following his meetings with the Minister has there been a date set for when the Minister can meet with the Elected Members.

Cllr. Gilliland informed the Members he has had discussions with TD David Maxwell regarding a meeting with Minister Heydon and is awaiting a response. The Minister has been engaging with various departments and awaits a response from the Department of Wildlife, he is talking to all stakeholders and taking their response into account. Cllr. Gilliland will continue to seek a meeting with the Minister.

Cllr. Flynn looks forward to confirmation of a meeting date.

Cllr. Treanor proposed correspondence is issued to Irish water expressing the Members serious concerns regarding a burst pipe which occurred three times within six days at Teehill, Scotshouse Road, Clones and urge Irish Water to renew the pipes on this road. Also to seek information regarding the capacity now for new houses or other facilities in Clones following the upgrade at the Wastewater Treatment Plant at Clones

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

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

The Town Team sent their apologies.

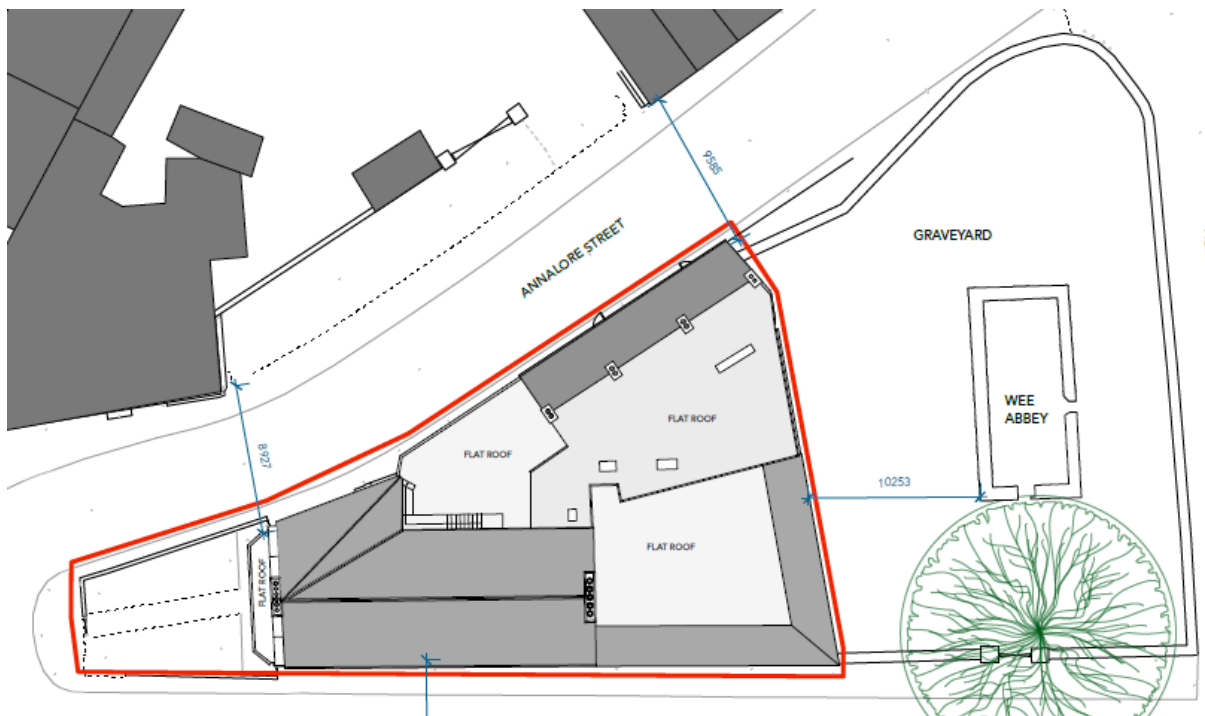
#### **5. Consideration of Lennard Arms Report – Mirador Media, Marc Roosli, Managing Director**

Marc Roosli, Managing Director, Mirador Media presented the visitor experience and business plan for the development of the former Lennard Arms Hotel site in Clones.

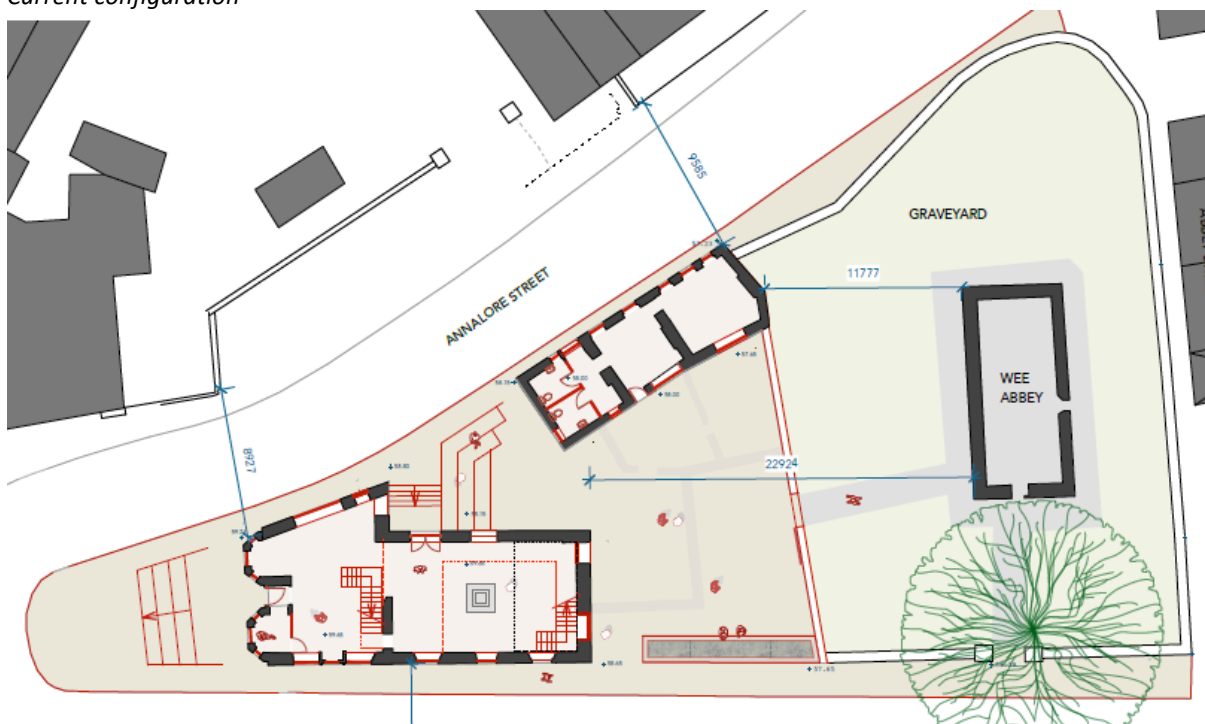
The strategy is to get an overall costing to develop the visitor attraction and associated activities. The proposal for the attraction includes the assessment of the vacant Lennard Arms Hotel, project partners Cooney Architects were tasked with assessing the building's suitability to be turned into a public facility including the identification of works required and costing of same, and issues relating to conservation, planning, and the integrity of the building structure/fabric as well as compliance to fire and disability access regulations. The team was especially concerned with making the proposed visitor attraction as accessible & practical as possible. The resulting outline architectural design was produced to seamlessly integrate with the proposed visitor experience but within the limitations of the already approved Part VIII application.

The proposed visitor journey was extended to a town level and assessed both from an interpretation and architectural perspective – encompassing considerations for approaches, parking options, pedestrian & bike access to the visitor centre and Clones' many points of interest.

The original design developed by 7L Architects for which planning was granted proposed the demolition of the flat roof 20th century extensions to reveal the original protected structures of the *Lennard Arms* and *Annalore Street* terrace – revealing a courtyard between the two buildings opening up onto the 12th Century *Wee Abbey*.



*Current configuration`*



*Removal of flat roof extensions revealing a new public space as proposed by 7L Architects*

The Elected Members welcomed the presentation, noting that it demonstrates understanding of the needs of the town and also its heritage. This project is a long time in development and the concept of a “Hub for Tourism” is good, as it links with the many heritage sites in Clones and brings investment to the town.

The Members asked what the business case is, it’s not just enough to build it. Mirador Media advised yes the last funding submission did fail, but through collaboration with Fáilte Ireland the project has been developed to be sustainable, and this funding bid has been successful with the key attribute been

to entice people to Clones and then into the surrounding town and region to areas of interest/heritage sites.

Cllrl. Truell noted that the sporting theme i.e. Clones the home of Ulster football and also the home to boxing legend Barry McGuigan are significant themes.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Flynn thanked Mirador Media for the informative presentation and looks forward to progress reports.

Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator advised the next steps are to agree the layout and detailed design.

## **6. 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 –**

As part of this project development funding, a Part VIII Planning was submitted and a there has been several submissions received regarding the proposal. The application was submitted to An Bord Pleanála earlier this year and additional queries were answered last week. 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. A design Consultant Design NID have been appointed and a meeting with members of the Drum Development Association have taken place on site. It is planned to have a consultation event in the coming weeks.

### **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. This project is currently at tender stage.

## **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 a stakeholder's meetings are ongoing.

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

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

### **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. A presentation was made by consultants to the elected members of the Ballybay Clones MD at the June month Municipal District Meeting. This presentation outlined the development of a visitor attraction of scale and interpretative plan.

### **Ballybay Market House –**

The detailed designs are nearing completion. 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 week beginning the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June.

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

##### Peace link Sensory Garden

Works are ongoing and will be completed in the coming weeks.

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

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

Detailed design is ongoing in consultation with Rockcorry Community Centre CLG. Subject to Departmental approval, it is envisaged that we will go to tender for a main contractor to complete the build towards the end of Q2 2025.

#### **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**

Workshops, online & paper surveys, drop-in events, school and business engagement during the public consultation have been completed. Consultants are preparing the draft Ballybay Town Centre First Plan document complete with an action plan. These draft documents were made available to the Ballybay Town Team for their review, and they have confirmed that they are happy with the contents. It is planned to launch the plan in the coming weeks.

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

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

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

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

fundamental element of the Part VIII planning permission application process which submissions or observations may be made.

An urban design and landscape architect has completed the site selection study.

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

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the twinning of Ballybay and Gergweis, Osterhofen. Representatives from Gergweis, Osterhofen have extended an invitation to the Elected members and members of the executive of the Ballybay Clones MD to travel to Bavaria from the June 26-30th.

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

An online survey was completed last month responses were received from 80 participants and were analysed to assess the availability, usage, and perceptions of public transport in the region

Recommended outcomes from the survey

1. Introduce a Local Link service stops directly in Smithborough.
2. Increase service frequency—especially between 07:00–10:00 and 15:00–18:00.
3. Expand coverage to long-distance destinations like airports, colleges, and Dublin.
4. Pilot weekend services.
5. Promote safety measures on routes connecting with urban areas.

### **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. It is planned to carry out a consultation event with local teenagers next month.

### **Community Development Fund & the Environment Fund awards night.**

A total of €30,872 was distributed between 32 groups under Community Development fund. A total of €28,800 was distributed between 25 groups under the Environment Fund.

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

Elected Members welcomed this report and the progression of projects. Following discussion; Members sought information on the teen hangout in Ballybay, and Clones. Members requested a presentation on the Restart Project, and information on what people can expect from the Business Hub on Fermanagh St. What can be done to address safety/parking etc. at Erica's Fairy Forest. Cllr. Treanor asked how many projects are awaiting consultancy reports, how much do Monaghan County Council spend on this and can this work be done inhouse. In response to Elected Members queries staff advised.

Design works for the Teen hangout Ballybay will commence next month. The location of the Teen Hangout site Clones forms part of the application, relocation is not an option. There is a meeting of the Restart project next Thursday, a presentation will be organised for our next meeting. Fermanagh St. Business Hub will provide office spaces for hire. Sensory Garden funding calls have not opened yet. Works at Erica's Fairy Forest have been put forward as part of Low Cost Safety funding.

### **7. 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 – Corrygarry (Complete)
  - LT22414 Connors (Complete)
  - LT39002 Balladian (Complete)
  - LT41133 Laragh (Complete)
  - LS7101/7100 Annahaia – Tossey (Complete)
  - R183 Doapey Creamery (Complete)
  - R183 Killyragy (Complete)
  - R162 Monaghan Road Ballybay (To commence end of this week)
- Surface dressing of these roads commenced last week with the LT41133 Laragh, LS6272 Drumurcher – Corrygarry complete from this years roads programme, as well as the L21122/L21123 Stone Bridge – Clough from 2024 RI programme.

### **2025 Restoration Maintenance Programme**

A number of roads have been identified using the Pavement Management System and PSCI ratings for surface dressing in 2025 as part of the Restoration Maintenance Programme. Works commenced last week and will continue for approximately 3 week period, before a return block of works towards the end of August.

### **Low Cost Safety Initiatives**

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

- LP3400/LP3411 Cremartin - €40,000.
  - R183/LS6290 Guardhill Killeevan - €40,000. Currently engaging the services of a designer to design the Vehicle Restraint System to meet current standards.
  - R189/LP2400 Threemilehouse - €30,000. Land has been secured here also from Sean McDermotts GAA to allow for sight line improvements at this location. Currently completing draft design for these works to allow for Road Safety Audit.
  - R183/R162 Approach Roads Ballybay - €25,000. Additional road markings and signage
- In addition, land acquisition has been agreed at Legnakelly at the JCT of LP2130 and N54 to allow for improved visibility at this JCT. The land acquisition is currently going with MCC legal team for the transfer of this land. A funding application for these works was not successful.

### **My CoCo**

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

- 195 entries to date
- 7 entry since May meeting
- 12 of these are in progress
- 183 have the actions completed

### **Drainage Notices**

We are continually inspecting roads to identify areas where water is running from private lands onto the public road, affecting the condition and safety of the road for road users.

We are following up on previous drainage notices issued to landowners.

Technical staff have been making themselves available to meet with landowners to discuss the drainage issues and confirm works requirements, and we are currently engaging with a few landowners to rectify the issues.

- 245 Drainage notices issued to date

- No drainage notices have been issued since the February meeting
- 26 Referred to Roads for following up or legal proceedings. Notices under The Roads Act 1993, Section 76, Sub-Section 6 were sent to these 26 property owners.

### **Road Closures**

There is currently a road closure in place for R162 Monaghan to Ballybay Road with works commencing later this week for resurfacing.

### **Bridges**

Awaiting contractor to carry out works at the following location;

- LT24221 at Aghnacue Bridge, Doapey following the collapse of a section of it. Contractor has been appointed to repair this bridge.
  - Works are due to commence on the bridge at the L63101 Drumary, Annaghmakerrig.
- In addition,
- R180 Carrickinare. Awaiting quotation from contractor to repair this bridge.

### **Patching**

MCC currently has 1 patching crew on site continually patching the roads within the MD. In addition, the services of a velocity patcher has been in use across the MD in the past number of weeks.

### **Kilnacran Drainage**

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

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

Works identified by the study include;

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

Next steps are;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Low Cost Safety scheme at Legnakelly was unsuccessful in its funding application to TII but will be resubmitted. The land acquisition has been agreed and will proceed, money for the works will come

later. Cllr. Treanor noted the importance of responding to reports of potholes and the importance of patching. Staff advised that patching up until now was 2 gangs but due to surface dressing it is currently 1 gang, the velocity patcher is out, and the list is continually updated. The vehicle restraint at Guard Hill will be a crash barrier.

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

NA

#### **9. Questions**

Cllr. Treanor will ask:

##### **Question 1:**

**What is the timeline for the delivery of the Business Hub (Old Cinema site), Fermanagh St, Clones?**

##### **Answer:**

A tender competition to appoint a main contractor to complete the build has been held, with the Most Economically Advantageous Tenderer identified. Confirmation was received from the Department last week, confirming approval to proceed to construction. Notification letters will issue this week to the successful and unsuccessful tenderers. Subject to no legal challenge, MCC can then proceed to award the contract in the next 14 days. Construction is expected to take 18 months.

##### **Question 2:**

**Has Waterways Ireland given a timeline for the opening of the Ulster Canal from the Marina to Lough Erne?**

##### **Answer:**

Waterways Ireland will meet representatives from Monaghan County Council next month to provide an update and progress of Ulster Canal project, current priorities and the overall plans for the project.

##### **Question 3:**

**What is the holdup in delivering social housing units in the derelict sites on Cara Street and Mc Curtain Street?**

##### **Answer:**

Initially Monaghan County Council proposed to demolish the old buildings and houses on Cara Street and Mc Curtain Street and construct new apartments in their place in a similar manner to phase one of the Clones Renewal Scheme. Following consultation with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to the projects, Monaghan County Council was asked to examine the possibility of retaining and reusing the buildings as they have heritage value and to reduce the environmental impact of redevelopment. More detailed structural surveys were carried out and design work was done to ascertain whether or not the buildings could be retained and reused.

#### **12 Cara Street**

The buildings at 12 Cara Street were originally 3 private houses converted into 2 private houses some considerable time ago, it has now been established that 12 Cara Street can be converted back into 3 houses and extended to provide good quality modern accommodation while preserving the external walls and streetside appearance of the buildings.

#### **10 Cara Street**

The building at 10 Cara Street is in very poor condition, it has been re-examined by a Structural Engineer, it is practically impossible to save the building, it would be prohibitively expensive. Monaghan County Council intends to make a further submission to the Department seeking approval to demolish the building at 10 Cara Street and to construct 2 houses in its place.

#### **7 to 9 Mc Curtain Street**

The 3 houses at 7 to 9 Mc Curtain Street are in exceptionally poor condition, they been re-examined by a Structural Engineer, it is practically impossible to save the houses, there is a possibility that the front walls of the houses could be saved or recreated however it would be expensive to do so. Monaghan County Council intends to make a further submission to the Department seeking approval to demolish the houses at 7 to 9 Mc Curtain Street and to construct 3 houses in their place including significant extensions to provide good quality modern accommodation while recreating the streetside appearance of the houses.

#### **Question 4:**

**Can we have an update, please, on progress with developing the Old Lennard Arms?**

#### **Answer:**

A presentation was made by consultants to the elected members of the Ballybay Clones MD at the June month Municipal District Meeting. This presentation outlined the development of a visitor attraction of scale and interpretative plan.

#### **Question 5:**

**When will we see work starting on the Bank of Ireland Digi hub?**

#### **Answer:**

Monaghan County Council & Enterprising Monaghan, in partnership, have combined with East Border Region (EBR) and five public bodies to secure PEACE plus funding for a new Digi-Hub in Clones. Monaghan County Council intends to redevelop the ground floor of the former Bank of Ireland in Clones as a state-of-the-art Digi Hub. The Council are currently seeking to procure a design team and intends to have a design in place in 2025 and to proceed to construction in early 2026. The Clones Digi-Hub aims to focus on data literacy and analytics, offering workshops, seminars, and training sessions aimed at empowering local businesses, social enterprises, community leaders, and residents. Its goal is to promote the use of big data and analytics for social and economic development.

Cllr. Flynn will ask:

#### **Question 1:**

**Could the Municipal District outline the current measures in place to address speeding in Smithboro village? Additionally, could consideration be given to installing a push-button pedestrian crossing at the existing crossing point to improve safety for local residents, particularly schoolchildren and older people?**

#### **Answer:**

The current provision of pedestrian crossings in Smithborough is that two controlled crossings are located on the Clones side of the village, one being a Zebra Crossing closest to the petrol station and the second: a toucan crossing, 210mtrs further west.

The National Road's Office do not have any plans to upgrade the existing Zebra Crossing at the location to a push button controlled crossing.

#### **Question 2:**

**Can the Municipal District provide an update on the progress made in developing youth hubs within the district? Furthermore, they should outline the plans in place to prioritise the delivery of these much-needed facilities in rural areas.**

**Answer:**

Youth services are not generally provided by the LA. Youth Work Ireland Cavan/Monaghan have drop in facilities in both towns where they provide a range of services to young people.

Foroige are slightly different, the young people they work with are referred into their service and they do not provide services to the general community. The Healthy Monaghan Fund supports the Foroige “You Thrive – Youth Mental Health Initiative”.

The Healthy Monaghan Fund also supports the “Planet Youth – Increased leisure Time Initiative” which is coordinated by CMETB. The initiative centres around utilising school facilities and youth club settings out of hours to deliver a range of sporting and creative type activity sessions on a weekly basis.

The aim of the initiative is to increase the leisure time opportunities available to young people - resulting in increased physical activity levels and improved mental wellbeing of young people across the county.

This is the list of activities CMETB have run in Ballybay / Clones area over the last six months, supported via Healthy Monaghan Fund.

School	Location	Class
Ballybay College	Ballybay	Fitness
Largy College	Clones	Self Defence
Largy College	Clones	Dance Class
Include Youth Service - Clones	Peace Campus	Soccer
	Clones	Get into Golf
	Clones	Dance Class
Include Youth Service Ballybay	Ballybay Park	Soccer
		Circuits
		Tanagh trip

**Question 3:**

**Can the Municipal District outline any plans to develop sensory gardens and inclusive recreational facilities in the area? These facilities would better support children with additional needs and promote accessibility and inclusion across our communities.**

**Answer:**

Below is a list of all public playparks in the Ballybay Clones Municipal District. There is a sensory garden at Scotshouse play area and at present there are no plans to establish sensory gardens in the remaining play parks.

Municipal District	Location
Ballybay/Clones	Barry McGuigan Park, Clones
Ballybay/Clones	O'Neill Park, Clones

Ballybay/Clones	Cherry Park, Clones
Ballybay/Clones	Cara Street, Clones
Ballybay/Clones	Carn Heights Clones
Ballybay/Clones	Mulladuff, Smithboro
Ballybay/Clones	Lisdarragh, Newbliss
Ballybay/Clones	Scotshouse
Ballybay/Clones	Threemilehouse Outdoor Gym
Ballybay/Clones	Crann Mor, Rockcorry
Ballybay/Clones	Ballybay Town Park, Ballybay
Ballybay/Clones	Corrybrennan Park, Ballybay
Ballybay/Clones	Cois Locha, Doohamlet
Ballybay/Clones	Cois Cill, Doohamlet
Ballybay/Clones	An Cluain, Bawn, Shantonagh

Cllr. Coyle will ask:

**Question 1:**

**The junction on the Tullycorbet-Scotscorner road (R184-9) in the townland of Derrylusk of the L7410/L7311 is extremely dangerous for traffic exiting from either of the sideroads onto the Tullycorbet-Scotscorner (R184-9) as visibility is very limited/poor of oncoming traffic which can be travelling at great speeds as this is a very heavily vehicularised road linking major centres of population intensive farming and business activities, HGVs etc can Monaghan County Council immediately examine possible Safety Improvement works and source special funding to have these essential Safety Improvements carried out?**

**Answer:**

Engineering staff have examined the site, and the junction will be included in the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme application for 2026.

**Question 2:**

**Huge concerns are feared by the residents and their families of the Castleblayney Road Ballybay(R183) for the safety of their families and pedestrians/walkers/cyclists etc, as a result of the speed of traffic particularly HGVs, Motor Bikes etc on this stretch of roadway. 12 accidents have occurred over recent times, 2 fatalities and only in the last weeks a motorist had to be airlifted from Ballybay Pearse Brothers GAA Grounds to a specialised Dublin located Hospital such were the seriousness of his injuries. This stretch of roadway has huge numbers of**

walkers/runners/cyclists etc as it forms part of the fabulous Townpark Walkway, leads to the Pearse Bros. GAA Grounds, major housing estates, the Town Park and pedestrians in general. Will Monaghan County Council immediately prioritise the installation of appropriate Traffic Calming Measurers on this stretch of roadway i.e. speed cushions, flashing lights etc and extend the continuous white line and speed limits for a distance on the Castleblayney side of the entrance to Pearse Park GAA Grounds, safety for all is the priority for the residences of the Castleblayney Road Ballybay.

**Answer:**

Funding has been secured to carry out traffic calming measures on this section of pavement. This works will be completed in Q3 of this year. A recent traffic and Transportation survey was completed and results of same has been forwarded to An Garda Siochana for review and discussion with the MD engineering staff.

**Question 3:**

**The junction on the Ballybay-Castleblayney(R183) road for the LP03200-Ballintra – Drumhowan is very dangerous as visibility is very limited/poor vehicles turning right off the Ballybay-Castleblayney have very poor view of approaching traffic from the Castleblayney side and for all vehicle exiting from the Ballintra-Drumhowan direction are in great danger. Can Monaghan County Council immediately examine and have immediate works carried out to have safety for all prioritised?**

**Answer:**

Engineering staff have examined the site, and the junction will be included in the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme application for 2026. Previous attempts have been made to acquire lands at the junction to improve visibility have been unsuccessful.

**10. Notice of Motion**

Motion received from Cllr Coyle:

"That Ballybay-Clones Municipal District demand of the Minister for Climate, Environment, Energy and Transport, Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister at the Department of Transport ( Road Transport, Logistics ,Rail and Ports. Sean Canny TD and the Government, the immediate expedition of Driving Tests with the immediate appointment of additional testers, an increase in the number of Test Centres, as the current waiting times is totally unacceptable to persons for whom driving and a vehicle are essential and not a luxury

(This motion if adopted to be circulated to all Oireachtas Members for Cavan/ Monaghan).

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

**11. CE Orders**

Noted

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

The Elected Members extend their congratulations to;

Anthony Hand and copilot David McCrudden on winning Class II R at the 2025 Donegal Rally.  
Eire Og U14 GAA football team and Management on winning the Division 4 Shield Cup.  
Cathair Corley on winning the title of U12 National Dancing Champion 2025.  
Justin Smyth and Kieran McGorman on their success in at the 2025 Donegal Rally.

**13. AOB.**

Members requested weeds etc. on the derelict site on Fermanagh St. are tidied up, that Monaghan County Council would make presentations to Cavan Co. Co. regarding the L6086 border road asking that they patch their side. During Storm Éowyn there were trees down along the Shantonagh to Lacken Road and while they have been cleared there is still some remaining along the verge which pose a danger.

Staff advised representatives from the Planning Department will be in attendance at the July MD meeting to discuss the derelict site on Fermanagh St., details of patching required on the border road with Cavan will be passed onto Kevin West, Senior Engineer, Roads. The MD will clear remaining trees from the verge on the Shantonagh to Lacken Road.

Meeting concluded.

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator  
Date, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025