

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday September 15th, 2025 @ 10am, Clones Municipal Office, Clones, Co. Monaghan.

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

Apologies: Cllr. Seamus Coyle

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, Veronica Sherry Clerical Officer, Francis Xavier Assistant Engineer, Hannah McElroy Apprentice Engineer.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sinead Flynn welcomed all to the September Ballybay/Clones Municipal District meeting after our break in August, welcoming Francis Xavier Assistant Engineer, Hannah McElroy Apprentice Engineer and Veronica Sherry Clerical Officer & looks forward to working with everyone and wishing all, the best in their respective roles.

All Members concurred and joined in wishing everyone the best in their new roles.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by Cllr. Gilliland seconded by Cllr. Truell & unanimously agreed.

2. Correspondence Sent

Correspondence sent was noted.

3. Correspondence Received

Correspondence received was noted and following discussion, Members noted

Cllr. Treanor spoke on Uisce Éireann's response regarding continued burst water pipes on the Scotshouse Road, Clones in the townland of Teehill noting this is an ongoing issue and ideally the piping from Teehill to Clones Town should be replaced. The pressure for this replacement needs to be kept on Uisce Éireann as continued interruptions to the water supply is causing great difficulty and inconvenience to the residents. Progress by Uisce Éireann on this matter needs to be monitored.

The Ministers response on the Common Agriculture Policy is welcomed but it is now the Consultative Committee need to act when the draft is been formed and not wait for EU proposals.

Correspondence from the Fort Augustus Irish Descendants Association is acknowledged and its proposal to erect this monument is supported morally and should be considered at County Council level.

Cllr. Truell Concurred with Cllr. Treanor supporting the PEI monument & agreeing this should be considered by County Council for financial support. Cllr. Truell visited Prince Edward Island this year

and noted the excellent hospitality and exchange of ideas reinforcing longstanding community bonds and mutual support for ongoing collaboration.

Cllr. Gilliland; supports this monument and agrees funding should be considered if this is something within our remit and should be researched. Cllr. Gilliland commended Cllr. Truell as a representative for Ballybay/Clones Municipal District while visiting Prince Edward Island.

Minister Heydon's correspondence advised he is committed to getting a deal for Irish Farmers under the Common Agricultural Policy. If beef prices drop there could be importation of beef, Cllr. Gilliland has flagged this with the Minister, and it is on the watch list with a view to ensuring structure for and security of Irish farms. Cllr. Gilliland is in talks with the Minister on matters and concerns relevant specifically to Monaghan and Cavan farmers and what they want and need.

Cllr. Flynn; concurs with Cllr. Gilliland these issues need to be monitored and would encourage our Government and EU MEP's to watch these. Cllr. Flynn concurs with all Members while supporting the PEI monument, funding should be considered by the County Council.

4. Consideration of the first village which will be subject of a Village Plan within this MD in accordance with objectives SHO 5 and VIO 4 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031. As outlined below:

'To prepare Tier 4 village plans during the lifetime of this Plan, with a focus on housing, amenity, infrastructure, transport and the sustainable reuse and regeneration of existing derelict, vacant, or underutilised sites. At least one village plan will be prepared for a village in each of the three Municipal Districts per annum'. Meave McKearney Senior Executive Planner

Planning seeks the Members agreement as to which 3 villages in Ballybay/Clones Municipal District will be selected to proceed with the Village Plan. Currently it will be developed in 2025 with Village Plans produced in Q1 2026, this is an indicative timeline.

Cllr. Gilliland requested that Planning issue correspondence to this MD detailing the list of villages which fall under Tier 4 eligible for consideration, and provide an outline of what the plans are and what is criteria sought in selected villages.

Meave McKearney SEE informed Members this is a Spatial Plan (buildings/infrastructure).

Cllr. Treanor sought the formal assurance of Planning that villages selected would not be hampered or delayed in current development opportunities if selected for Village Plans i.e. progress would cease until plans are in place. Cllr. Treanor expressed concerns as to lands already zoned in the County Development Plan, will Village Plans affect this? Can Planning ensure BCMD is getting an equal chance at balanced development.

Meave McKearney SEE advised residential zoning is examined across the County as a whole and is done at initial stages before getting into Village Plans. Balanced development needs to be examined in line with current population growth and sufficient allocations of land for development.

Cllr. Gilliland concurred with his fellow Members a balanced approach is required. The scales need to be tipped in BCMD favour as our plan cannot be set out on population growth as the growth is not evident in Ballybay & Clones. There is a housing crisis, there are no houses but housing development in Clones & Ballybay will attract population growth.

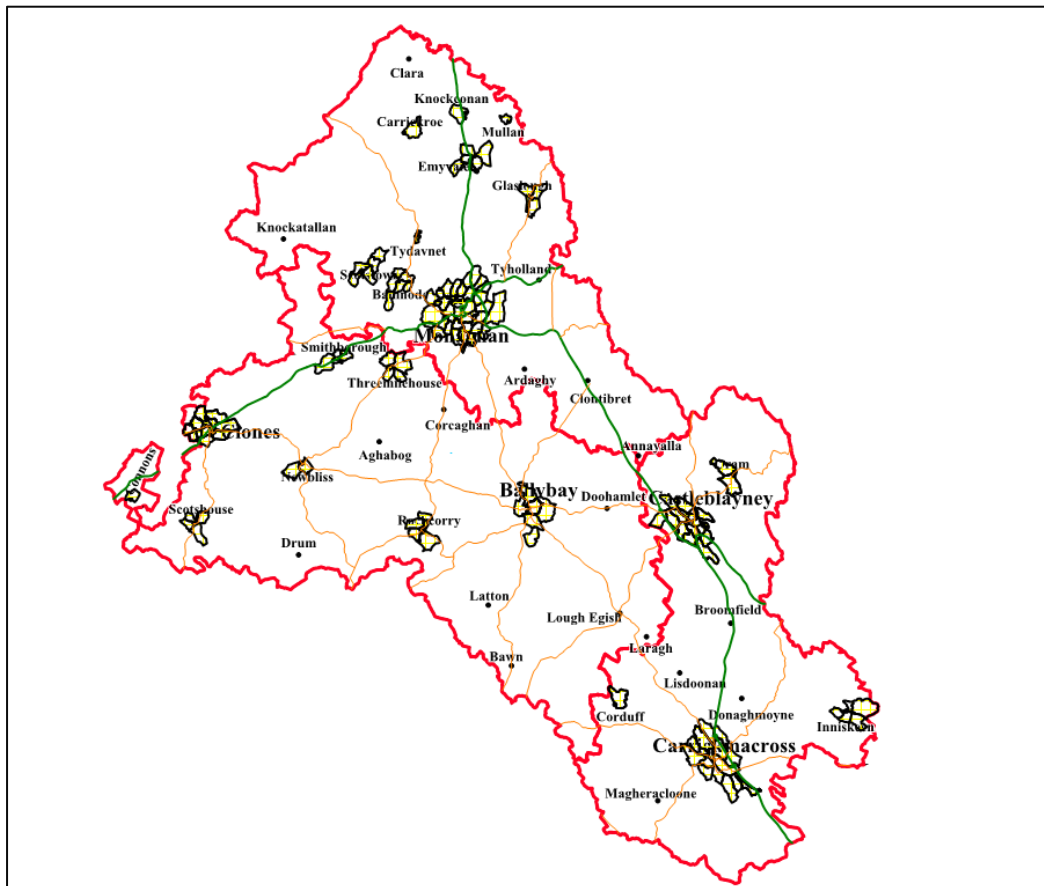
Meave McKearney Senior Executive Planner advised it is the Members decision on which villages to select, ultimately each village will have a plan. The Housing Growth Target up lift has seen an increase in housing provision targets & Planning will be speaking to the Members in the coming weeks on how to address this.

It was unanimously agreed by Members Planning will provide a written list of villages which fall under Tier 4 eligible for consideration and Ballybay/Clones Municipal District will have made selection of the first 3 villages for the October meeting.

5. Update on Municipal District dereliction programme. Kevin McNally, Town Regeneration Officer and Brian Annon, Executive Engineer.

The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community. Issues leading to dereliction & vacancy are property ownership, financial and personal.

The Derelict Sites Act applies to specific urban areas in Monaghan as prescribed by the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (Urban Areas) Regulations 2022 and the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (Urban Areas) Regulations 2023. These regulations define which specific areas within the county are considered urban for the purposes of the Act. The Urban areas are highlighted in yellow on the map while there is ongoing work for more locations to be included.



Schemes and initiatives to deal with vacancy and dereliction include Buy and Renew, Repair and Lease Scheme, Croí Cónaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, Housing Act 1966 and Derelict Sites Act 1990.

There have been 198 derelict/vacant properties identified in Ballybay/Clones Municipal District.

IN COMMITTEE

Proposed Cllr Gilliland, seconded Cllr. Truell

OUT OF IN COMMITTEE

Proposed Cllr. Truell, seconded Cllr. Gilliland

Cllr. Flynn welcomed this report, it is great to see a positive impact in bringing old and derelict properties back to life. While the Croí Conaithia grant is welcomed it is pushing house prices up. When will funding for Clones Town Centre First Plan be applied for?

Kevin McNally Town Regeneration Officer - the Government advised a funding call will take place later this year and an application for Clones will then be made.

Cllr. Treanor welcomes this report as dereliction is a major issue, there has previously been conflict between property owners and Monaghan County Council in addressing dereliction issues. However, the prescribed approach, with the many stages allows ample opportunity for property owners to engage with the Council along the way. There is a recurring issue, in that property owners considering availing of the Croí Conaithia grant do not have the funds upfront to undertake the work. Can there be anything the Council can offer Financial Institutions in way of assurance when grant offers are officially issued allowing borrowing on the grant offer?

Cllr. Gilliland welcomes this report noting Ballybay/Clones Municipal Districts passion in addressing dereliction having for many years prior to this worked to address these issues internally within the Municipal District. There is no hiding from this process, it has been lobbied for over the years and now provisions are in place to help in addressing these issues, with Government money allocated, a dedicated team in place and collaboration with planning. There is a housing crisis and houses cannot lie vacant; there are a suite of options available to property owners finding themselves on the Derelict Sites Register with grant funding available and the housing market is strong so the sale of a property would achieve high prices. Properties qualifying for Croí Conaithia grants need to be monitored for progress this grant is not a time saver, and appropriate action should take place for those not utilising their allocation.

Cllr. Truell welcomes this report, acknowledging the great work of the Regeneration Team there is ample opportunity for owners to get properties in order through engagement with the County Council, availing of funding opportunities and potentially selling the property in what is now a very strong market. Is there a breakdown of the number of properties in all the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District villages on the Derelict Sites Register?

Kevin McNally Town Regeneration Officer, informed Members a guarantee from the County Council of Croí Conaithia grant offers is not accepted by Financial Institutions. Dereliction data is currently

focused on the county as a whole and specific figures broken down by individual villages is not available. In response to Members Kevin McNally Regeneration Officer advised uses for the yard opposite the Digi Hub in Newbliss is not finalised and are open to discussion at present.

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. The undergrounding of overhead power cables is at tender stage.

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. Detailed designs are being prepared, and works will commence in Q2 of 2026. The delay in the commencement of works is due to environmental conditions placed on the project with works only permitted between May and September.

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 Preliminary Design Report has been prepared and Engineering staff are examining same.

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.

ORIS 2024/2025: Measure 1 & Project Development Measure Successful Projects

Funding of 49,950 has been received for predevelopment work for a 2.3km walking trail at Cashlan Lough.

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, and the appointment of a detailed design team is imminent.

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

Department approval to proceed to construction has been received. MCC are currently in the pre-commencement phase of the Business Hub Project. Monaghan County Council are engaging with the Most Economically Advantageous Tenderer to ensure all necessary conditions of contract are satisfied before the contract can be awarded. Additionally, the Contractor is scheduled to undertake condition surveys of the adjacent properties. A start date for the project will be agreed once these prerequisites are in place. It is anticipated works will commence in early Q4 2025.

Lennard Arms

A Creative Consultant had prepared a Product Identification/Visitor Experience Plan and Business Plan in respect of a Visitor Attraction of scale at the former Lennard Arms Hotel. Procurement of consultants for the detailed design of the project is in progress. A detailed design team will be appointed in early Q4 of 2025.

Ballybay Market House –

The detailed designs are completed and awaiting departmental approval prior to proceeding 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 will commence this month.

Community Recognition Fund 2024 Window 3

Funding has been received for the following projects: -

Local Authority	City/Town/Village Area	Project Group Name	Project Title	Total Grant Received
Monaghan	Ballybay town park	Monaghan County Council	Provision of basketball court and equipment	€69,161
Monaghan	Ballybay town park	Monaghan County Council	Replacement of pedestrian bridge in the town park	€54,700

Clar 2023 Developing Community Facilities and Amenities

Peace link Sensory Garden

Works are substantially completed.

Community Centre Investment Fund – Rockcorry Community Centre

The Detailed Design Stage is complete. The Decision Gate 2 (Approval to Proceed to Tender) paperwork has been submitted to the Department, and we are awaiting approval to publish the tender documents.

Greenways

Ulster Canal - Clones to Smithboro Greenway: -

Flood modelling has confirmed that 4.1km of the preferred route is at risk of flooding. Alternative construction techniques to provide a flood resilient Greenway, with accompanying cost estimates, have been developed by Monaghan County Council in conjunction with our consultants and presented to TII for review. We are currently awaiting feedback from TII on which option to progress into the next stage.

Ulster Canal – Smithboro to Monaghan Greenway: -

TII have now approved the preliminary design to manage flood risk along the proposed route. Detailed design currently ongoing, target is to have TII approval by year end. CPO and Planning application will commence in Q1 2026.

2024 Community Recognition Fund

An application totalling €200,000 was successful for the Upgrade & Refurbishment of Ballybay Multi-use Community Building. This project went to tender for construction however no contractor provided a costing for the construction of the project. The tender has now been placed on e-Tenders.

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

- Barry McGuigan Park
- Páirc Phobail Séamas Mac Cába /Seamus McCabe Community Park
- Roslea Road Car Park at Junction with Church Hill

Stakeholder meetings were carried out last month with the Gone but Not Forgotten Committee Members and the Clones Town Team Members to hear about their initial views on the 3 sites and their aspirations for the Memorial and Garden.

The Paul Hogarth Company have revisited all the three shortlisted sites and have studied them in greater detail; they will now draft three concept designs of each site which will form part of the public consultation process. The three design will be accompanied by a qualitative questionnaire.

The consultation process will be online and there will be also an opportunity to view the designs in the offices in Clones and complete the questionnaire.

Works have now commenced on the designs for each site, and it is proposed to have them completed later this month and the public consultation will then commence for a period of three weeks.

Ballybay & Gergweis, Osterhofen Twinning 2000-2025

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the twinning of Ballybay and Gergweis, Osterhofen. Representatives from Gergweis, Osterhofen will travel to the county on the 3rd of October as part of the return visit.

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 design will now be devised prior to an application for Part VIII planning permission.

Clones Gaol HTI application

Funding for €140k was received via the Historic Town Initiative for enabling work for the Clones Gaol to stabilise the existing building, walls and intermediate floor and install a temporary roof to protect it from loss and in preparation for a comprehensive conservation led approach to returning the building to use for the community. This project has been tendered, and works will commence later this month.

Active Travel Scheme linking Ballybay Main St and the Town Park and Schools

The National Transport Authority have confirmed funding has been made available to explore the feasibility for the development of an active travel scheme linking Ballybay Main St and the Town Park and Schools. The funding will allow for vegetation removal and surveying of the proposed route; this work will be completed later this year. On completion of surveys the scheme will be developed, and an option selection report will be prepared.

Project Name	2025 Allocation	Comments
Low-Cost Junction Tightening - Newbliss (where R189 meets R183).	€160,000	The Active Travel Unit is exploring the possibility of relocating the existing bus stops to the Clones Road to allow the junction tightening scheme to progress.
Clones Peace Link AT Scheme	€50,000	Construction works are now completed. The Active Travel Unit are engaging with supplier to develop design and costs for garden at Coyle's entrance/Peace link entrance.
Bus Stop Enhancement Programme.	€500,000.00	Monaghan County Council have published a tender for installation of 42No. bus stop flag poles and sockets county wide. 13Nr. Locations are within the Ballybay Clones MD.

Bank Of Ireland Clones

A Part VII planning application will be prepared in Q4 of 2025 to develop the ground floor of the property following receipt of funding via the Peace Plus Programme. The funding is part of an East Border Region led application for Digi

Actions Arising from MD Report

Elected Members welcomed this report and the progression of projects. Following discussion; and Members questions staff advised.

The Lennard Arms project had to be re-examined in relation to the proposed use. This did create delays in progress this review is now completed, and it has gone to detail design and works will commence in Q1/Q2 2026.

Gortnawhinny Lido will be a beach area similar to that which is in Ballybay Town Park.

St. Tiernach's Quarter will be an RRDF application and there are a number of Stakeholders to consult with on development.

Works on 98 Avenue Bus Stop will start this month, works will include a pedestrian crossing from the bus stop to the chemist.

The pedestrian crossing situated at the rear entrance of Super Valu Clones will be examined in terms of safety with pedestrian currently stepping directly out from the shop exit onto the crossing.

Clones Gaol situated at the back of Clones Court House has secured funding under Historic Town Funding enabling remedial works to be undertaken to secure and preserve the building until further funding can be secured to develop the building for use.

Bank of Ireland Clones is being prepared for Part 8 at present the ground floor will be office space and there are currently no plans for upstairs.

Works on Fermanagh Street Business Hub will commence Q4 this year, it will be developed for office space for rent.

Drum Circular Walk is at preliminary design review to choose the best and most viable option.

The formal funding allocation under the Community Recognition Fund for the Basketball Court in Ballybay was received 2 weeks ago, consideration of this development will take into account the Teen Haven.

Works on the replacement of the pedestrian bridge in the Town Park will take place between July 1st and September 30th next year, flood maps will be examined, and the appropriate measures will be taken in consideration of the level of the bridge to ensure it is not flooded during high waters.

Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator will revert to Members with the 13 bus stop locations forming part of the Active Travel Scheme and details relating to the preliminary stages for Newbliss Junction Tightening, a pedestrian crossing is not forming part of the proposed works for this Active Travel project but perhaps can be considered under LCSi.

Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator presented an update on RESTART which is a cross-border initiative under the PEACE PLUS programme aimed at revitalising rural communities that have suffered from historical conflict, economic decline, and social fragmentation. The project targets social inclusion, rural regeneration, and community cohesion through a combination of capital investments and community programmes. Major components of RESTART are social inclusion programmes, building relations through sport, cross-border youth programme, rural regeneration programme and capital investments. Key quantitative outcomes are €8.4 million investment in a jointly developed solution across three areas, for example capital investment will see development of 3 community hubs in Clones, Belturbet and Newtownbutler. Support for 117 enterprises, 9 social enterprises and 19,286 participants accessing new rural facilities, enterprises and community services.

Members welcomed this report and look forward to the future progress of each project element. Cllr. Treanor noted the Canal Stores Clones have been seeking funding for the Old Cottages and development of their enterprise, their SEUPB application is very robust, and this will produce something valuable to the community, Cllr. Treanor welcomed this update and looks forward to future progress reports.

7. Report by Municipal District Engineer.

Craig Connolly, A/Executive Engineer, presented his report to the Elected Members.

Roads Programme

- **Road Improvement Programme** for resurfacing that was adopted for 2025, with 5No. Regional Roads and 7No. Local roads, have now been completed.

Road Improvement Programme		
Laragh	LT41133	646
Drumurcher - Coragarry	LS6272	2903
Connons -Clonooney	LT22414	1690
Balladian	LT39002	1039
Annahia - Tossey to Sra	LS7101/7100	2234
Drummons	LS6011	1686
Corsilloga	LT79003	203

Corkeeran	R162	1635
Laragh	R180	850
Tullycorbet	R184	785
Aghadrumkeen	R183	2056
Killycraggy	R183	510
	Total	16237m

- Road Maintenance Programme for Surface Dressing that were selected by Engineering Staff, have now been completed.

Road Maintenance Programme			
1	Stone Bridge - Shankill	LT21122/23	3113
2	Carnowen - Lisarrilly	LT21511	2034
3	Cornawall	LT61603	3207
4	Cashlan	LT61312	1767
5	Windfarm Road	LT62012	2761
6	Windfarm Road	LT62013	1255
7	Drumurcher - Coragarry	LS6272	2903
8	Connons -Clonooney	LT22414	1690
9	Lacky Rd Clones (2nd Part)	LP02101	979
10	Newbliss - Scotshouse	LP02220/21/33	5970
11	Ture-Drumaghakeel	LP2340	772
12	Tattintlieve	LS6402	1323
13	Annahia - Tossey to Sra	LS7101/7100	2234
14	Lough Egish to Tossey	R180-3	900
15	Bowelk to Tamlat	LT30102	2404
16	Balladian	LT39002	1039
17	Rockcorry Back Lane	LT26001	884
18	Enagh Lane	LT67001	1967
19	Corbyfin	LT34032	2289
20	Drummons	LS6011	1686
21	Corsilloga	LT79003	203
22	Corderryduff - Tullycarragh	LT32102	1695
		Total	43075 m

- Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement and Low Cost Interventions works that were selected by Engineering Staff, have now been completed.

RAP and LCI		
RAP - Corlea	LS7310	2238
LCI - Clonfad	LT62631	738
	Total	2976m

Low Cost Safety Initiatives

Funding provided for 2025 LCSi Schemes are well underway and are required to be completed by mid-November

- LP3400/LP3411 Cremartin – Road Markings have been installed and negotiations with landowner are ongoing. Public Lighting has been procured and installation will commence by end of September. Procurement of Vehicle Activated Warning Signs has been completed with an installation date in mid-October.
- R183/LS6290 Guardhill, Killeevan – Procurement of a Vehicle Restraint System Risk Assessment and Design is in progress.
- R189/LP2400 Threemilehouse – Land agreement is being finalised, and works will be due to commence by end of September. Design has been sent for a Road Safety Audit and installation of Pedestrian Crossing envisaged to be installed by end of October.
- R183/R162 Approach Roads Ballybay - €25,000. Procurement of Vehicle Activated Warning Signs are ongoing and drawings for roads markings are currently being produced.

CLAR Projects

Tender Documents for works at Aghabog Church are currently being prepared with and will be advertised by end of September.

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 6 notices logged since the start of July with no correspondence from offending landowners. The Engineering Staff have been trained in the Defects App and have been instructed to log drainage issues when actively monitoring the district.

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 and are due to commence by end of September.

Bridges

Bridge works that is being carried out by Contractor at the following location;

- L63101 at Drumary, Annaghmakerrig. Works have commenced with completion date of 3rd of October
- R180 Carrickinare. Works Commenced on 12th September
- LT24221 at Aghnacue Bridge, Doapey. To commence at end of September

Patching

The MD currently has one patching crew patching the roads, 3 days per week within the area. Any road requiring patch repairs should typically be reported to the Municipal District and logged on the Defects App prior to patching.

Kilnacran Drainage

Vegetation works along the water course in the area of Kilnacran are due to commence in October. This involves clearance of overgrown vegetation along the banks of the water course, removal of any overhanging trees, removal of trees which contain Ash Dieback Disease and localised clearance of material where water has become stagnant for approximately 1km of the water course. Where funding allows, there may be a section of road raising carried out at the Junction of the LP3300 and LP3310.

Actions Arising from Engineers Report

Elected Members welcomed this report and the progression of projects. Following discussion; and Members questions staff advised the 2025 roads programme is now completed. A contract is in place for bridge repairs opposite the football pitch Smithboro, Agahbog Clár Project will go to tender at the end of September, Drum driver feedback signs that are not operational will be examined. Craig Connolly EE will revert on progress on patching of the LP4021, bridge repairs at Magherarny Smithboro, water on the road at Kilnacran. In reply to queries on response times to the patching list, staff advised there is 1 patching crew active 3 days a week. In preparing the Roads Programme for the next 3 years it is evident that there is only financially a fraction of what is needed. Consideration of possibly doing sections of roads i.e. only the area necessary rather than the full road would see more roads addressed. RI & RM budgets do not allow for patching so there is only Own Resources to cover this.

Cllr. Treanor proposed co-ordinated attempts to deal with cross border roads should be examined. Monaghan and Fermanagh/Omagh District Council should put together a proposal for a project under Peace Plus/Shared Island to address border roads. Cllr. Truell concurs with Cllr. Treanor noting it is not good enough that border roads are partially resurfaced and it is disappointing communication by Fermanagh/Omagh District Council on their recent resurfacing works on border roads. Cllr. Treanor requested that the patching crew is sent out to Noel Hall's as this road is in bad disrepair.

Members welcomed reports that more roads were done this year than last year, however although this is positive it is still not enough, and we need to lobby for more funding. Possibly reclaimed asphalt can be considered, staff advised there is potential to lower volume matter on roads, test schemes are still being assessed. Members requested that more test schemes are rolled out in this MD.

Staff advised works have been completed as per the recommendations of the Hydrologists report on flooding at Killnacran there is no additional funding for this. Further funding streams will be examined.

8. Matters arising from previous minutes.

Following discussion by the Members, staff advised works for the wall at Dartrey going into Erica's Fairy Forest is being priced. Cavan County Council have been approached regarding the footpath from the Holy Family School, and a response is awaited.

9. Questions

Cllr. Flynn asked:

Question 1:

Can Ballybay Clones MD provide an update on the schedule for the implementation of traffic calming measures throughout the MD, in particular those planned for Cremartin, including anticipated timelines, specific measures to be installed, and whether additional locations across the MD are scheduled for similar works in the current or upcoming year in particular whether there is a schedule of works or plan for traffic calming measure at Aughnamullen Community Centre.

The MD have, to date, installed road markings in Cremartin and the Castleblayney Road, Ballybay. Engineers are currently working on procuring a contractor for the installation of Vehicle Activated Speed signs in Cremartin and Ballybay. All Low Cost Safety Improvements Schemes shall be completed by Q4 of this year.

Question 2:

Can the MD provide an update on when Monaghan County Council intends to take CarrowBarrow Estate in Smithboro in charge? Is there a timeline in place, and where exactly in the process is the estate at present?

The Planning Authority are awaiting the agreement of Uisce Eireann to progress the taking in charge application at 'Carrowbarra Island' in Smithborough, with contact made as recently as end of June 2025.

Question 3:

Can the MD provide an update on any proposed new public transport routes within the Municipal District, with particular reference to proposed Local Link services in Smithboro and Rockcorry, as well as the proposed Ballybay to Carrickmacross route via Lough Egish? Can details be given on the current status, expected timelines, and engagement with the NTA or Local Link regarding these services?

"Following recent online survey, a meeting took place between reps of Monaghan County Council and Local Link. 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. Local link 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. Local Link have advised that the introduction of this route remains a key target of this plan. The proposed Connecting Ireland Plan proposes an aligned service from Castleblayney to Lough Egish to Carrickmacross three times daily. At present Local link are examining how to align Ballybay into this route".

Question 4:

Can the MD Executive provide an update on the request to change the location of the push-button pedestrian crossing in Smithboro? Has an assessment been carried out, and what is the current status or proposed timeline for any relocation works?

In order to determine what alternative solution can be provided for at the pedestrian crossing, firstly a Traffic Count is to be undertaken at the site in Smithborough. This will form the basis of the assessment to determine what solution can be provided in the village. The assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the TII document The Treatment of Transition Zones to Towns and Villages on National Roads. Additional survey will be carried out in house to progress the assessment and if necessary, consultation will be sought from the Road Safety section of TII.

Question 5:

Dog fouling is an issue across the county, can the MD confirm the current programme to tackle this issue, including the installation of fouling bins and boxes with fouling sacks in key locations and provide details of how many fines for dog fouling offences have been issued in the first 6 months of this year?

In February this year, Monaghan County Council launched the Green Dog Walkers initiative, a friendly, non-confrontational way of tackling dog fouling in our County. Since then, the demand for dog fouling bags has increased across the County, which highlights the success of the initiative. No dog fouling offences have been issued in the first 6 months of this year.

10. CE Orders

Noted

11. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

The Elected Members extend their congratulations to; Clones Athletics Club on their 50th Anniversary.

Vote of sympathy

Stephanie McMenamin, MCC employee on the passing of her father Stephen Kelly Threemilehouse.

12. AOB.

Cllr. Flynn expressed her continued support for the anti-pylon campaigners for EirGrid to underground the North-South interconnector. Cllr. Flynn emphasised the importance of listening to rural communities and engaging with the government to encourage them to work with these communities.

Following discussions all members concurred with Cllr. Flynn. Cllr. Gilliland noted that EirGrid maintain an underground system will not work for this electricity transmission development. EirGrid need to stop maintaining that systems will not work for this scheme, it is working in other locations across Ireland, they need to go back and talk to communities affected.

Cllr Flynn proposed, Ballybay-Clones Municipal District write to Cathal Marley, Chief Executive of EirGrid; the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD; the Tánaiste, Simon Harris TD; and the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation, Jack Chambers TD, as well as their respective offices, demanding that they listen to local communities throughout our Municipal District and commit to undergrounding the power lines along the North–South Interconnector, in line with best international practice and the clear wishes of the people we represent.

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

Cllr. Treanor discussed the 2-hour parking in Clones town, noting that a member of the public traveling to Dublin on Bus Éireann parked on The Diamond as this is the pickup point by the bus. However, as she exceeded 2-hour parking she received a ticket, Cllr. Treanor proposed that Bus Éireann is requested to do pick ups from the bus stop on 98 Avenue where there is all day public parking.

Cllr. Gilliland requested that the crash barrier on the R181 Castleblayney is reinstated as soon as possible. There have been numerous collisions into this barrier, seeing replacement on 3 separate occasions and it is yet again the location of a collision with the barrier flattened. The family residing along this area are reporting fears of further collisions and potential tragedy. Cllr. Gilliland is requesting traffic calming measures on the approach hill are examined.

Meeting concluded.

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed _____
Meetings Administrator
Date, October 20th, 2025