

## The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 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, Sean Gilliland and Seamus Coyle.

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

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sinead Flynn welcomed all to the November Ballybay/Clones Municipal District Meeting.

Cllr Flynn offered condolences to the families and friends affected by the road traffic tragedy in Louth with people from both Carrickmacross and Magheracloone suffering losses of loved ones.

Cllr. Treanor concurred, offering condolences, thoughts are with the families.

Cllr. Gilliland offered condolences, remembering Chloe McGee who was a member of the local football club and known personally to him. She was larger than life, she was involved in the GAA, village & agricultural community, Chloe was a school teacher and highly regarded in her job. Her parents are community people and are suffering a devastating loss, it is a terrible tragedy to see a generation of friends gone. Cllr. Gilliland commended the first responders on their work and efforts.

Cllr. Coyle joined in condolences particularly to Chloe McGee's family and friends, thoughts and sympathies to all.

Cllr. Truell shared in sympathies and condolences on this tragic event.

A minutes silence was observed.

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

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

### **2. Correspondence Sent**

Correspondence sent was noted.

### **3. Correspondence Received**

Correspondence received was noted.

Cllr. Flynn noted correspondence received from Michael Moynhan T.D. regarding School Transport services across the Municipal District of Ballybay/Clones. In relation to the pilot schemes referenced by the Minister these are not operational within this MD. Rural areas like ours with limited bus services are the reason for Members deep concern at the ongoing lack of communication from both Bus Éireann and the Department of Education and call for urgent improvements to the service throughout this Municipal District with an increase in buses and drivers. Members of the public are contacting Bus Éireann with queries and are not receiving responses.

Cllr. Flynn called on Cllr. Gilliland to confirm following his discussions with Helen McEntee T.D., Minister for Education and Youth that it was formally advised Michael Moynhan T.D. will now be looking after this matter and if so, can he please be included in this Municipal Districts request for the stakeholder meeting.

Following discussion by the Members, the pilot scheme with amended criteria is welcomed, with reduction in distance from schools and amendments to requirements for attendance at nearest schools. However, it is not rolled out in this MD, this scheme needs to be introduced nationwide. Issues surrounding school transport, i.e. availability, capacity etc. cause stress annually for families and need to be addressed. Enrolment lists for schools need to be shared with Bus Éireann earlier in the year, to organise in advance. Co-Ordination between school principals and Bus Éireann is necessary.

Cllr. Gilliland advised the Members following his discussions with Minister McEntee the Minister has vowed to introduce changes to the management of School Bus Services, with key stakeholder involvement at key times, designated collection points, review of contract award/confirmation to providers as currently they are reports of contract confirmation as late as August and this will be changed.

Cllr. Truell discussed Killeevan Church funding request for advertisement of their Christmas Tree Festival for which proceeds will be both donated to Crocus and go toward the church repair fund. Following discussion by Members this Christmas event was welcomed and funding support in the amount of €300 for advertising was agreed.

*Proposed by Cllr. Truell, seconded by Cllr. Treanor and unanimously agreed.*

Planning item of correspondence to confirm the name of **An tÚllord, as agreed by Coiste Logaimneacha**, for proposed development of 15 housing units on lands at Aghnahola, Scotshouse Village, Clones, Co. Monaghan for the Housing Department, Monaghan County Council, via a Part 8 process was noted.

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

#### **4. Presentation on proposed development of Biodigester Facility, Drum Co. Monaghan – Morgan Burke Chief Operating Officer and David Mullan Development Manager Stream BioEnergy.**

Morgan Burke Chief Operating Officer and David Mullan Development Manager Stream BioEnergy presented to the Elected Members on a current planning application their company have submitted to Monaghan County Council for the development of a Biogas Plant at Maghernakelly, Drum, Co. Monaghan.

Stream BioEnergy develops and operates biogas projects that use anaerobic digestion technology to produce biogas, which can be used in a number of ways. Anaerobic digestion is a sustainable form of renewable energy production through a naturally-occurring biological process in which micro-organisms break down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen in an enclosed system. The process produces a methane-rich biogas and a nutrient rich fertiliser known as 'digestate'.

The biogas can be converted into renewable electricity, or it can be upgraded to biomethane for use as a vehicle fuel or for injection directly into the gas network to provide a source of renewable heat. Biogas is an important part of the transition to sustainable energy production and use.

Feedstocks for biogas production include domestic and commercial food waste, industrial organics from the food and beverage processing industry, sewage sludge from municipal wastewater treatment plants, garden waste, and organic residues and animal manures/slurries from the agricultural sector.

Methane is a significant contributor to climate change. More than half of global methane emissions are attributable to human activities in waste and agriculture. In particular, Ireland is one of the highest per capita producers of climate-changing greenhouse gases in Europe, in part because of its methane-producing livestock and dairy farms.

As well as removing these greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and providing a sustainable source of energy to replace fossil fuels, anaerobic digestion reduces the amounts of waste being sent to landfill or spread on the land, thereby helping achieve waste recycling targets. This proposed plant is on the R189 within 3.5km of the GNI gas network.

Digestate provides farmers with a valuable source of organic fertiliser that replaces artificial fertilisers and provides increased biosecurity by avoiding land spreading of untreated manures. The spreading of these manures on the land is having serious environmental effects in terms of too many nutrients entering the ecosystem, which in turn leads to algae blooms and toxins that are harmful to both humans and aquatic life.

Anaerobic digestion provides another income stream, and better control of energy costs for farmers as well as the creation of jobs in the rural economy. It also provides for sustainable smart agriculture with circular economy benefits including the recycling of nutrients to land in a way that safeguards the environment.

An anaerobic digestion plant is the hub of a circular economy where value is created from what would otherwise be waste material – or even a contaminant. Agricultural and food wastes are collected, processed, and turned into useable commodities (in the form of gas, heat and digestate), which can then be reused in the agri-food industry and wider economy.

From start of construction this plant will take 2 years to complete, with up to 30 people employed. The plant will operate 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday.

It will represent capital investment of €120 million and when operational €3.5 million annually and will have commercial rates of €400,000 pre annum. Stream Bio-Energy will invest in the local community and will establish an annual fund to support local community endeavours.

The Elected Members welcomed the presentation on this proposed development. Following discussion and questions in response to the Members queries Stream advised

- Consultation will be undertaken in an open & transparent manner, the starting point was here today and will be followed by public consultation.
- In terms of compensation for residents in the surrounding area, there will be an annual community fund set up with the purpose of supporting community initiatives/energy efficiency upgrades etc.
- In terms of road use impact a full traffic assessment has been undertaken, there will be approximately 25 trucks a day. The entrance to the site is off the local road and improvement works will be undertaken at the junction of the R189 for improved visibility.
- The facility should have no impact on the bakery located in the area.
- This facility will inject gas into the network, GNI in the future might extend the gas network to Monaghan Town.

- There are no restrictions on Stream Energy's behalf with the farming community using the end product back on the grassland, provided it was in compliance with regulations, Nutrient and Fertiliser Management Plans.
- This product will be cheaper per tonnage compared to commercial fertiliser.
- The revenue source is the gas.
- Preference will be given to local farmers to draw to this facility; it will be open to others outside the locality.

The Members unanimously welcome this development to the Municipal District.

## **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 and the undergrounding of overhead power cables area and streetscape of the Market House. The tender assessment process has been completed, and a letter of intent will be forwarded to the successful contractor this week.

#### **Clones Youth Centre**

Funding of €250k has been received for the refurbishment of Clones Youth Centre and is at detailed design stage and will proceed to tender next month.

### **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 completed outlining three route options, 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. A design has been completed, and a contractor has been appointed, and the project will commence early next month.

### **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**

The project remains in the pre-commencement phase. The apparently successful contractor has undertaken pre-condition surveys of the adjacent properties as well as further trial holes on site. The contractor is designing the temporary works based on these findings which will enable the provision of the start date and programme and remaining contract items to be put in place before contract award. It is anticipated that work will commence before the end of the year.

#### **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. Tender assessment has now been completed for the appointment of a detailed design consultant team. A letter of intent will be issued this week, and the appointment should be made in the coming weeks.

#### **Ballybay Market House –**

The detailed designs are completed, and all relevant designs and documents were forwarded to the department for approval prior to proceeding to tender stage. The Department have come back with several queries and at present responses are being prepared.

### **Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) - Category 2 Projects**

#### St. Tiarnach's Quarter Regeneration Project

Monaghan County Council applied for Clones Community & Public Realm, St Tiarnach Qtr Regeneration Project in Q1 of this year. Funding of €664,668 has been received.

This funding will Re-engage with community and key partners in a focused manner and develop a cohesive strategy built collaboratively with public and community sector for design concept making best use of the site for a community hub within St Tiernach’s Quarter. Extensive consultation will be undertaken to refine a specific detailed needs to feed into design process. A Final scheme including designs, plan, specifications and details of permission finalised and Part VIII planning applied for provisionally in Q3 of next year 2026.

This works will be carried out in preparation for Cat 1 RRDF application.

**Community Recreation Fund 2023**

98 Avenue Bus Stop: -

A funding allocation of €120,000 has been received. Works are substantially completed.

**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 Council County	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

Both projects are at preliminary design stage.

**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. It remains MCCs intention to publish the Part VIII Planning Application in Q1 2026, subject to TII approvals.

**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. This project has now been retendered and closing date for receipt of tenders is the 20<sup>th</sup> of November.

**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

The consultation process has now closed, and a report will be compiled. There has been a total of 1121 surveys completed.

**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 being 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. Works are ongoing on this building.

**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 works will commence later this month. On completion of surveys the scheme will be developed, and an option selection report will be prepared.

Project Code:	Project Name	Comments
MN/21/0020	Low-Cost Junction Tightening - Newbliss (where R189 meets R183).	ATU discussed with the possibility of relocating the existing bus stops to Clones Road with NTA. Waiting feedback from them and the bus service operators.

MN/22/0001	Clones Peace Link AT Scheme	Construction works completed. Tender issued for garden at Coyles entrance/ peace link entrance to be returned in Oct 2025.
MN/22/0004	Lough Egish Village AT Scheme	Construction works and accommodation works completed. Snagging to be completed. Official opening to be arranged.
MN/23/0020	Urban Mobility/Sustainability AT Plans (Castleblayney, Ballybay, Clones, Carrickmacross)	Clones Urban Mobility Plan completed and agreed by Members on 28th April. Final plan to be incorporated in the County development plan. Tender documents being prepared for Ballybay and Castleblayney plans. To be issued in Q4 of 2025.
MN/25/0001	Bus Stop Enhancement Programme.	MCC have published tender for installation of 42nr bus stop flag poles and sockets. 13nr location within the Ballybay Clones MD Contractor to be appointed in Oct 2025. Pole replacement works to be completed in Q4 of 2025.

### 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 hubs.

The project will have two key elements:

**1) Creation of Mini-Digi Hub:** Fit out of Building in Clones

**2) Programme Delivery;** Provision of Services which will include,

- Data literacy workshops and analytics masterclasses.
- Digital transformation consulting for SMEs.
- Networking events to foster local and cross-border business connections.
- Access to data processing and cloud computing resources

The budget of the project in Clones is €770,354.30, this will include equipment, infrastructure and works and staff costs.

The overall budget including all partners projects is €6,122,966. This will include a mobile Diti hub for the region.

The project will be launched on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November at 10:00 to 13:30 in the Peace Campus in Monaghan.

### **County Monaghan Gift Card**

The new County Monaghan Gift Card is set to launch on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025** in the Peace Campus. It replaces the existing paper Monaghan Town Voucher.

Businesses across the county can register now to accept the new card — no extra equipment will be needed beyond standard payment tills. Businesses have been registering over the past 8 weeks and, as of 12<sup>th</sup> November, 24 businesses, in District have registered to be able to receive the County Card.

Registration will close for a period of 1 week from Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November, to allow Miconex to test the systems before going live, businesses will be able to register following the launch. There is no cost to businesses to register.

### **Christmas Lights Turn on in the Ballybay Clones MD**

Clones will be switching on their Christmas Lights on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 7pm on The Diamond Clones

Clones Town Team will be holding a Christmas Lights event at the Canal Stores Clones on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.

Ballybay Town team will be switching on their Christmas Lights on Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

### **Ballybay Christmas Market**

The Ballybay Christmas Market will take place on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November from 3-7pm in the Market House.

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

The Members welcomed this report and following discussion and questions staff advised.

Clones Youth Club Town & Village Project has experienced delays due to issues with the lease agreement between the Church and Youth Work Ireland for the building. Additionally, surveys threw up mechanical and electrical issues contributing to delays.

Tender invites were issued locally for the Community Recognition Fund works in Ballybay, due to varying factors there where no submissions, this tender has reissued under another framework.

The Bus Stop Enhancement Programme does not include bus shelters. This programme is rolled out through the Roads Department for the County, 2026 will see a new plan of works introduced to access the full funding potential under this programme, enabling more works under the programme including bus shelters.

Drum feedback sign will be repaired; parts are on order.

Active Travel 2026 projects will include Ballybay connectivity – Main Street Ballybay walkway to Ballybay Town Park.

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

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

### **Roads Programme**

All roads have been completed.

### **Low Cost Safety Initiatives**

Funding provided for all of the 2025 LCSi Schemes has been committed.

- LP3400/LP3411 Cremartin – The final phase of works to improve visibility are currently ongoing and are due to be completed by end of November.
- R183/LS6290 Guardhill, Killeevan – The Vehicle Restraint System has been ordered and is due to be installed mid December.
- R189/LP2400 Threemilehouse – Road crossing has been completed and waiting on delivery and installation of equipment prior to reinstating footpaths.
- R183/R162 Approach Roads Ballybay – Warning signs have been ordered and are due to be installed by mid December.

### **CLAR Projects**

Contractor has indicated a start date of 8<sup>th</sup> of December.

### **Drainage Notices**

Drainage Notices are continuously being logged and issued by the Municipal District Office.

### **Road Closures**

There is currently a road closure in place on the N54 for rehabilitation works and this is being managed by Roads Section.

### **Bridges**

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

- L63101 at Drumary, Annaghmakerrig. Works duration has been extended due to weather conditions and Contractor has indicated a completion date by end of December.
- R180 Carrickinare. Works have been completed on the parapet wall of the bridge.
- LT24221 at Aghnacue Bridge, Doapey. Works have been completed.

### **Patching**

The MD currently have one patching crew working 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**

Kilnacran Drainage works commenced in September and was completed last week. With the heavy spell of rain last week, the drainage conditions have been greatly improved. These works were carried out by the outdoor staff, and I have to commend them on the great work that has been completed.

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

The Members welcomed this report and following discussion and questions staff advised.

Craig Connolly Executive Engineer will revert to Cllr. Flynn re. details of the regular patching list and if Carrickahoe Road and Killakeer Road are on this.

The closure of the N54 was necessary to accommodate resurfacing works, public notice was published in the local paper and on social media. Councillors observations regarding the distribution to bus services during this time was noted with particular reference to Bus Éireann and Local Link ceasing service to Smithboro and directing the public to utilise the Clones service for the duration of the closure which would prove impossible for those with no private transport. It is suggested future

closures will include direct notifications to public transport services, and such services should ensure transport services continues during such time and communities are not ignored and isolated.

Threemilehouse pedestrian crossing is a level crossing with beacons, 98 Avenue pedestrian crossing when installed will also be a level crossing with lights.

Concerns raised regarding the bridge on the R183 next to Newbliss Community Creche requiring lights will be examined.

Drum traffic calming will be considered under Low-Cost Safety.

Lining on Ballybay roundabout and lower main street will be examined.

Kelly Road Painters installed disabled parking bays in the wrong location in Clones, this item is logged, and the bays will be relocated to the correct locations.

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

## **8. Questions**

Cllr. Coyle will ask:

Question 1:

Can Monaghan County Council outline in detail their plans to address the many issues of concern to road users - farmers, business persons, tourists ,fishermen etc. at the condition of the L20324 Shankhill, Stonebridge, Smithborough, Loch Uanai Na Mullai (Lough Looney Rd.) overall the road is in very poor condition, surface flooding etc, having the very attractive Lough Looney on its roadside?

**Answer:**

**This road was recently patched and has been placed on the next 3-year Roads Programme for consideration.**

Question 2:

Can Monaghan County Council examine what additional safety improvement works can be carried out in the area of the junction of the R190 (Ballybay-Cootehill Rd.), and the LP03000 (Latton/Veldins Cross ) junction known locally as Eileen McKenna's shop junction, as it can be a very dangerous junction, especially for vehicles turning right off the R190 onto to the Latton/Veldins Cross direction, coming from the Cootehill side. While works were carried out by Monaghan County Council many decades ago, for a vehicle indicating right checking clearance coming from Ballybay, putting their vehicle into movement gear with the speed of oncoming traffic it can be highly dangerous and unfortunately there has been at least two fatalities in recent years. I cordially ask Monaghan County Council to consider road markings, indicating the approaching dangerous junction and further trimming the bank/clay to the left.

**Answer:**

**Engineering staff will review this junction in relation to visibility and signage requirements and determine if any works are required. Where significant works are required, it will be included on a programme for Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme.**

Question 3:

Can Monaghan County Council have road resurfacing works carried out in the Village of Doohamlet on the R183 (Ballybay-Castleblayney Rd.) as there has been road sinkage, particularly in front of a local business premises which is leading to splashing of water/gravel/pebbles etc. up on to the

premises/vehicles parked in front of the door of the premises and also the splashing of customers entering and leaving the premises?.

**Answer:**

**Engineering staff will review this section of road and determine what works are required to alleviate the issue.**

Question 4:

Can Monaghan County Council give a full update on progress towards the targets of having the New Ballybay Fire Station fully commissioned and operational, outlining the complete services available in the building itself and on the entire site at Corrybrennan, Ballybay. The numbers of Fire Fighters available to the facility, plans for further recruitment, as the Ballybay location is central to the entire County and surrounding Counties. The estimated final Government Funded investment in the New Ballybay and any other information relevant to this marvellous addition to the infrastructure of the town of Ballybay.

**Answer:**

**The new Ballybay Fire Station at a construction cost of €3.1 million has now been fully commissioned, with both the Building Control Management System and Operational transition process commenced.**

**Designed to modern standards, the two-storey facility incorporates a range of features to enhance operational capability, safety, and the overall well-being of fire personnel. Key elements of the new station include:**

- **Two Fire Appliance Bays to accommodate fire engines and other emergency vehicles**
- **Integrated training drill tower**
- **Training yard and lecture room**
- **Confined-space training capability**
- **Muster bay, kitchen, office, and welfare facilities**
- **Fleet and equipment storage, providing secure, organised space for firefighting gear, tools, and operational equipment**
- **Dedicated decontamination areas to support safe cleaning of gear and equipment after incidents, reducing exposure to hazardous materials**

**The station's eco-friendly design incorporates solar panels, rainwater harvesting systems, and energy-efficient materials to minimise environmental impact and reduce ongoing operational costs.**

**Fully compliant with Government Turnout Policy, the new Ballybay Fire Station represents a significant asset to the community of Ballybay and surrounding areas. It will strengthen emergency response capabilities while supporting ongoing training, readiness, and the professional development of fire service personnel.**

Question 5:

Will Monaghan County Council immediately prioritise seeking special government funding for essential Safety Improvement works at the junction that is known locally as 'Veldins Cross', Mountlodge, Lisnalong, Latton, the junction of the LP03000/LP03001/LS07000/ LS07001, this is an exceptionally dangerous junction. Many accidents have occurred at this location including fatalities, it's no longer acceptable to the huge numbers of road users who on a daily basis place their lives at risk by passing through what can only be described as an accident blackspot. School buses, school going children, persons going and coming to work, accessing all the local community facilities etc. etc., let's not wait for multiple tragedies, as has been the case at other locations, special Monaghan County

Council and Government action is needed for immediate Safety Improvement Works at Veldins Cross, Mountlodge, Latton?

**Answer:**

**Engineering staff will review this junction to ensure the appropriate signage is in place and will search for funding streams to carry out the significant works to improve the junction's arrangement.**

Cllr. Treanor will ask:

Question 1:

What were the results of the traffic survey on Cara Street to the border (N54)? What proposals are recommended to slow the traffic down and make it safer for residents and children? When will they be implemented?

**Answer:**

**The traffic survey will be completed by mid-December and will be reviewed in conjunction with Roads Section. Any traffic calming measure to be implemented will have to be agreed and approved by the TII for the National Road.**

Question 2:

When will the trees at Legnakelly cross be removed, as they are limiting the sight view for traffic exiting on to the N54 and are a risk to drivers?

**Answer:**

**A funding application for Legnakelly was unsuccessful under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme in 2025. Land acquisition is ongoing and on completion of same the Municipal District will seek costings for the works in Q1 of 2026.**

Question 3:

The Beechgrove Residents group have requested that a number of trees are trimmed, an extra light is installed in the bottom left corner of the estate, traffic congestion, access to a small derelict space to the right, and a raised pedestrian crossing on Analore Street. When will this work be carried out?

**Answer:**

**The trees outlined by residents in Beechgrove have been trimmed. Engineering staff will review the Beechgrove estate and make an application for funding to carry out works.**

Cllr. Flynn will ask:

Question 1:

Can the MD confirm if a lighting survey can be carried out in Clones town and Smithboro as concerns have been raised that the newly upgraded public lighting appears dim and may not provide adequate illumination for road users and pedestrians?

**Answer:**

**Roads Section look after the maintenance of the existing public lighting. They do not carry out surveys or install new lighting in any of our towns and villages, unless it's part of a larger works package.**

**In general, the council replaced the old Public Lights with the new LEDs a number of years ago. The LED lights were installed to provide the recommended illumination for the relevant public areas.**

Question 2:

Can the Executive provide an update on what progress has been made in relation to tree maintenance across the Municipal District, in particular in the areas of Ard Chluain, Clones; Beechgrove, Clones; and Smithboro village?

**Answer:**

**Some tree maintenance works has been carried out recently and is currently ongoing. Trees that are recommended to be unsafe and need to be removed, will take priority.**

Question 3:

Can the MD provide an update on the Local Link bus service for the village of Smithboro? With a population of over 500 residents and very limited public transport options, it is imperative that Smithboro is adequately served by Local Link. In addition, can the MD confirm if there are any plans to extend or improve Local Link coverage to the villages of Rockcorry and Corcaghan? Given the ongoing increases in carbon taxes, it is more important than ever to ensure our citizens have access to sufficient public transport options that allow them to travel freely between our towns and villages.

**Answer:**

**Smithboro and Rockcorry have now been included in the Connecting Ireland Sustainable Mobility plan going forward for service upgrade, a timeframe for when this will happen will be confirmed in the new year.**

## **9. Notice of Motion**

Motion received from Cllr Coyle:

That Ballybay-Clones Municipal District demands the extension by the EU of Ireland's Nitrates Derogation, as the current derogation ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2025, as Ireland is totally dependent on grassland-based production system, economically the consequences for the entire Irish economy of a non-continuation of the derogation would be disastrous. Approximately 8000 dairy farmers are totally dependent on the derogation, with huge numbers employed in agricultural related industries across the economy.

Farmers/Agricultural Sector are being very harshly singled out for blame for emissions, while there are many other contributors to the challenges of water quality etc. Ireland has been very actively and progressively working on this issue, including the current government establishing a Cabinet Committee on Water Quality, chaired by An Taoiseach, Michael Martin T.D. incorporating all sectors to coordinate water quality improvements, which clearly is successful, as recent data published by the EPA showed nitrates concentration in our rivers reduced nationally last year by over 10% in most regions.

Government and farmers are taking unprecedented action to improve water quality, for example, the Farming for Water European Innovation Partnership (EIP) with a budget of 60m euro commenced last year led by the Local Authorities Waters Programme (LAWPRO), working in partnership with Teagasc and Dairy Industry Ireland. This EIP is providing financial support for specific targeted actions, beyond regulatory requirements, over 3,600 farmers have applied for support under the farming for Water EIP. The project aims to support up to 15,000 farmers over 5 years up to 2029, DAFM is providing TAMS grant aid support for low emission slurry spreading equipment and manure storage. Since 2015 a total of 138m euro has been paid to farmers supporting significant investments on Irish farms in manure storage and low emissions slurry spreading technology, with over 54,000 farmers participating in ACRES, also a water quality protection measure.

Clearly, very decisive and positive actions are being taken in Ireland and the EU must acknowledge and support this excellent work, by immediately sanctioning the extension of the Nitrates Directive, as the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 is fast approaching, the indecisiveness and uncertainty must end, as it is a huge concern and worry to farmers and the entire agricultural industry'.

(This motion if adopted be forwarded to EU President, Ursula Von der Leyden, EU Environmental Commissioner, Jessika Roswall, An Taoiseach, Michael Martin TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and the Marine, Hayden TD and all Oireachtas Members for Cavan-Monaghan).

Following discussion by the Members it was noted the agricultural sector is vital in Co. Monaghan and farmers are trying to address water quality, reducing nitrates going into the water course. The Nitrate Derogation needs to be supported and also acknowledge the work being done by farmers to improve our water quality and it was unanimously agreed that our farmers should be supported.

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

#### **10. CE Orders**

Noted

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

The Members extended their condolences to the Calvert family, on the passing of Noel Calvert former Monaghan County Council employee.

#### **12. AOB.**

Cllr. Treanor raised the issue of dog fouling, owners are not cleaning up the waste in public areas. The dog warden needs to look into this to issue fines.

Cllr. Truell spoke on the need in the community for Local Link service, in specific reference to a community member is seeking support for his campaign to secure a service for the route of Corcaghan to Rockcorry and Drumbear in Monaghan Town to Cootehill. Such service would elevate pressure on families.

Members unanimously agreed Local Link services are necessary across the county and encourage the community to utilise the service in your locality to ensure continuity.

Meeting concluded.

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator  
Date, December 15<sup>th</sup> 2025