

## The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday October 20<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, and Gillian Costello Staff Officer.

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

### IN-COMMITTEE

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

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sinead Flynn commenced the meeting with offers of condolences to those bereaved with all Members offering their condolences to the families.

Condolences were offered to Cllr. Richard Truell on the passing of his father John Truell, Declan & Paula Cunningham on the passing of their mother Mary Cunningham, former Town Councillor and to the McElvaney family on the passing of their father, former County Councillor Hugh McElvaney, Members paid tribute to Cllr. McElvaney's legacy it is a testimony to his 50 years of service as public representative.

Cllr. Richard Truell thanked his fellow Councillors for their kind words and condolences on the loss of his father.

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

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

### **2. Correspondence Sent**

Correspondence sent was noted.

### **3. Correspondence Received**

Correspondence received was noted.

Cllr. Flynn noted correspondence received from the Taoiseach's Office regarding the North/South Interconnector in which it is advised this is now referred to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Energy, Darragh O'Brien, T.D., for attention and reply. Cllr. Flynn proposed correspondence is issued to the Cavan/Monaghan Oireachtas Members and Minister O'Brien regarding undergrounding the power lines along the North-South Interconnector, in line with best international practice and the clear wishes of the people we represent and seek a meeting with the Minister.

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

Killeevan Development Association, request for a contribution towards the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet celebrating the official opening of the Acorn Centre, Newbliss. Following discussion, it was proposed that a contribution of €250 is made.

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

Clones Festival of Arts requested support for their festival which will take place in January/February 2026. Following discussion, it was proposed that a contribution of €4,000 is made.

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

Irish Wildlife Trust submitted a request for 10% match funding for their LEADER funding bid should they be successful. The funding will enable completion of an in-depth hydrological study on the flooding at the Perse Brothers GAA Grounds Ballybay. The maximum tender quotation will be €30,000 requiring match funding of €3,000.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a request for full information will be made to the IWT to ensure alignment with Monaghan County Council objectives.

#### **4. Consideration of Section 183 – Disposal of Lands at Mulladuff, Smithboro. Roads Department.**

Inquiries were received regarding a property at Mulladuff Smithboro. There is a portion of land within the boundary wall (0.023755 acres) that is registered to Monaghan County Council. As the owners now wish to sell this property, they request that land be transferred into their name. Roads recommend that the land is transferred to the owners of the house free of charge, however they pay all legal fees associated with this transaction.

*Proposed Cllr. Gilliland, seconded Cllr. Treanor & unanimously agreed.*

#### **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 appointment of a civil engineering contractor is imminent.

###### **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 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. A design has been completed, and a contractor has been appointed, and the project will commence in the coming weeks.

### **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 early next month.

**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 is ongoing for the appointment of detailed design consultants. It is envisaged that a detailed design team will be appointed next month.

**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

Monaghan County Council applied for Clones Community & Public Realm, St Tiernach Quarter 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 ongoing.

**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
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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. 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. This project has now been retendered.

#### **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 commenced online and there is also an opportunity to view the designs in the offices in Clones and complete the questionnaire.

The closing date for the public consultation is the 7<sup>th</sup> of November at 12:00hrs.

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

Representatives from Gergweis, Osterhofen travelled to the county on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October as part of the return twinning 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. Works have commenced 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 work will be completed next month. On completion of surveys the scheme will be developed, and an option selection report will be prepared.

<b>Project Code:</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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.

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

Elected Members welcomed this report and the progression of projects particularly funding allocations for St. Tiarnach's Quarter and Bank of Ireland Mini Digi Hub both welcomed additions which is hoped will boost economic growth and increase visitor numbers to the area. Following discussion; and Members questions, staff advised the funding allocation of €49,950 for Cashlan Lough will enable project development, designs and route selection. St Tiarnach's Quarter allocation will not include increasing capacity levels at the park. A flood risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of replacement of the pedestrian bridge in Ballybay Town Park. Designs and proposed costings have been submitted to the Department for the Market House Ballybay, a response is expected in Q1 2026.

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

Matthew Lambe Municipal District Co-Ordinator 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 Maintenance Programme for Surface has now been completed.
- Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement and Low-Cost Interventions works have now been completed.

### **Low-Cost Safety Initiatives**

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

- LP3400/LP3411 Cremartin – Road Markings have been installed; public Lighting has been installed and commissioned and the installation of Vehicle Activated Warning Signs has been completed. Works to improve visibility will commence this week.
- R183/LS6290 Guardhill, Killeevan – Setback of public lights and Eir Pole has been completed, procurement of VRB nearing completion.
- R189/LP2400 Threemilehouse – Works are ongoing to improve visibility, and the installation of Pedestrian Crossing will be completed in the coming weeks
- R183/R162 Approach Roads Ballybay - €25,000. Vehicle Activated Warning Signs have been installed and commissioned on Castleblayne Rd and the Clones Rd plus the addition of road markings.

### **CLAR 2024 Aghabog COI**

This project has been tendered, and appointment of a civil Engineering contractor is imminent.

### **Recent Flooding**

The following roads were closed due to flooding: -

- L6290 Guardhill
- L2112 Carraveetra
- R183 Annalore
- L39003 Bairdshore
- R212 Scotshouse RD Clones
- LP2130
- LS 6240

### **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.

### **Bridges**

Bridge works that are being carried out by Contractor at the following locations.

- L63101 at Drumary, Annaghmakerrig. Works are ongoing

- R180 Carrickinare. Works are substantially completed.
- LT24221 at Aghnacue Bridge, Doapey.

### **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

### **Climate adaption and Resilience Works**

#### **Killeevan**

Works are commencing this week and are programmed to take three weeks to complete works. High water levels have delayed starting.

#### **Kilnacran**

Works are ongoing and will be completed within the next 2 weeks.

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

Elected Members welcomed this report and the progression of projects. Following discussion; and Members questions staff advised Drum Village and Drumlane have gone to Roads to form part of the LSI application. Overhanging trees on roads are being assessed, with pricing being prepared to ascertain what is possible this year.

Cllr. Flynn noted that following our most recent storm, Storm Amy there was significant power outages and trees down and commended Matthew Lambe and his team for their effective response. However, following Storm Eowyn ESB did make a commitment to strengthen vulnerable areas and clear vegetation around powerlines but with the high level of disruption again during our most recent storm it would suggest that these measures have not been implemented.

Ballybay Clones Municipal District notes the ongoing risks where power lines run through wooded areas with trees overhanging live wires within our MD, & Cllr. Flynn proposes Ballybay/Clones Municipal District writes to ESB Networks and to Minister Darragh O'Brien TD, seeking the immediate implementation of the Winter 2025 Grid Resilience Plan commitments including vegetation management and reinforcement of vulnerable locations as pledged for delivery between March and October 2025, so that these works are completed before the next storm and well in advance of the coming winter season.

*Proposed Cllr. Flynn, seconded Cllr. Truell & unanimously agreed.*

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

#### **8. Questions**

**Cllr. Flynn asked:**

Question 1:

Can an overview be given on the Bus Stop Enhancement Scheme with a schedule of proposed works in the next 18 months.

**Answer:**

***Monaghan County Council have published tender for installation of 42nr bus stop flag poles and sockets of which 13nr location are located within the Ballybay Clones MD.***

***A Contractor will be appointed in the coming weeks, and the pole replacement works to be completed in Q4 of this year.***

Question 2:

With the rollout of the National Broadband program throughout the MD, can the MD please provide an update:

- a) what is the latest update on the roll out
- b) what towns and village have been updated to date, what towns and villages have yet to be updated?

**Answer:**

**The National Broadband Plan will deliver high speed fibre broadband to all of the homes in rural Ireland. There are more than 585,000 premises covered under the NBP. Work is under way by National Broadband Ireland (NBI) building the fibre network throughout this area and this work is ahead of schedule with all installation works due to be completed by the end of 2026.**

**In most cases, the National Broadband Plan does not cover urban areas so homes within most towns and villages are not covered under the Plan. These premises are already deemed to be covered by existing broadband services, most of which are delivered by Eir/ Openeir. Openeir also have an upgrade programme running for the next three years, during which most of these towns and villages will be covered by full fibre broadband.**

**The final deployment area (D.A.) to be completed within the county under the National Broadband Plan is Castleblayney D.A. This includes premises around Ballybay, Lough Egish and Doohamlet. All other areas within the Clones- Ballybay area already have access to fibre broadband. Visit [www.nbi.ie](http://www.nbi.ie) to check the status of your home in relation to broadband availability.**

**Cllr. Truell asked:**

Question 1:

Can Monaghan County Council repair the driver feedback speed signs in Drum Village.

**Answer:**

**The driver feedback has been examined and parts for repairs have been ordered**

## **9. Notice of Motion**

*Motion received from Cllr Flynn:*

Ballybay/Clones Municipal District calls on the Minister for Education, Helen McEntee, and Siobhán Griffin, Regional Manager of Bus Éireann, to urgently review the school transport system across the Municipal District.

This MD expresses deep concern at the ongoing lack of communication from both Bus Éireann and the Department of Education and calls for urgent improvements to the service throughout the Municipal District.

Furthermore, this MD calls for:

- An increase in capacity on existing school bus routes to ensure that no eligible or concessionary student is left without transport.
- That Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the Roads Section of Monaghan County Council be contacted to carry out a comprehensive safety review of all school bus collection and drop-off points within the Municipal District.
- The establishment of a dedicated communication line for elected representatives, with a clear timeline for responses from Bus Éireann and the Department of Education.

*Proposed Cllr. Flynn, seconded Cllr. Gilliland & unanimously agreed.*

*Motion received from Cllr Truell:*

That Monaghan County Council write to Minister of State Kevin Boxer Moran, Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation, seeking funding for the dredging and cleaning of the Bunnoe River, due to the ongoing flooding concerns impacting landowners and road users.

Furthermore, that this Council agrees to circulate the letter to all Oireachtas members representing County Monaghan & Cavan to seek their support in progressing this matter.”

Following discussion by the Elected members it was agreed that the addition of the River Finn will be made to this proposal. Cllr. Truell’s proposal with the addition of the River Finn was;

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

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

Noted

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

The Elected Members offered condolences to the Hughes family on the passing of their parents Bredan and Anna Hughes.

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

Darragh Drury, Assistant Engineer, under Town Regeneration presented a Section 183 for the sale of a property at Newtownbutler Road, Clones. The sale is subject to contract and title, if the purchaser fails to redevelop the property within 24 months of the date of contract closure the property will return to the ownership of Monaghan County Council.

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

Cllr. Coyle noting hedge cutting season has commenced requests that landowners are encouraged to undertake works now to reduce danger to road users, Cllr. Gilliland concurred noting the IFA and all stakeholders should be promoting hedge cutting.

Meeting concluded.

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator  
Date, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025