

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday April 20th, 2026 @ 10am, Aughnamullen GAA, Tullynamarla, Co. Monaghan.

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

In Attendance: Nial O'Connor A/Director of Services, Matthew Lambe A/Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Gillian Costello Senior Staff Officer and Veronica Sherry Clerical Officer

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sinead Flynn welcomed all to the April 2026 Ballybay/Clones Municipal District Meeting thanking Aughnamullen GAA for hosting this meeting. Cllr. Flynn extended congratulations to Clones Drama Group on their success in reaching the All-Ireland Confined Drama Finals, unfortunately unsuccessful in the competition however local actors and talent did receive recognition with Seamie McMahon receiving best supporting actor. Cllr. Treanor also extended his congratulations to all involved noting Kieran Morgan and Harry Cleary members of Clones Drama Group received recognition for their performances also. All Elected Members unanimously extended congratulations to the Drama Group.

Cllr. Gilliland welcomed everyone to Aughnamullen GFC and thanked the GFC for hosting this meeting. Paying recognition to the local Community Development Association commending their efforts for their work on the grounds which are kept fantastically and contribute to the building overall, Cllr. Gilliland commended Nial O'Connor Director of Services and Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator on their work with the community securing funding which contributed to getting facilities here. Cllr. Truell also extended his thanks to Aughnamullen GAA for hosting this meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of March 16th, 2026.

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

2. Correspondence Sent

Correspondence sent was noted.

3. Correspondence Received

Cllr. Flynn noted correspondence received from Local Link and expressed her disappointment at Lough Egish not being included in the plan. However, it is important to keep this issue live.

Cllr. Treanor discussed the HSE correspondence relating to the HSE premises located on the Roslea Road, Clonkeencole, Clones advising of HSE plans to dispose of this property. Cllr. Treanor noted that it would be a pity if this went private and it has been a benefit to the people of the area. Two days a week it collects people from the area and used to be meals on wheels, but this has since gone to the Canal Stores.

Cllr. Treanor proposed,

Monaghan County Council seek a meeting with the HSE regarding the planned closure and disposal of the Older Person Services premises on the Roslea Road, Clonkeencole, Clones (H23 TK65). The centre is still used by the community, and a proposal needs to be put together through the Community Section to put a management plan in place to keep the centre running.

It could be a partnership between Monaghan County Council and the HSE. One of the needs identified in Clones is the need for a Community Centre & this is essentially acting as a Community Centre and needs to continue."

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

Nial O'Connor Director of Services, advised Members an evaluation of the HSE site will be undertaken and brought back to the Members.

Cllr. Gilliland supports this proposal; facilities should be provided. This issue needs to be looked at overall to see what is available and how we can enhance this. Cllr. Gilliland expressed his disappointment at Lough Egish not being included in the Local Link proposal for the Ballybay/Carrickamacross route. Collins Coaches use to service this route; this route was given back to the NTA as it was not justifiable for Collins Coaches to run a 50-seater on this route. It was understood Local Link would take over this route on a smaller scale. There is currently no service for Lough Egish and people have to get taxi services. Local Link is servicing Ballybay and it is not understandable that this service is not via Lough Egish.

Cllr. Gilliland requested that Local Link are asked is there an agreement in principle to restore the Lough Egish route? Cllr. Gilliland believes this was originally the plan however Local Link's correspondence states *"there are currently no plans to introduce a regular public transport service to this area"*.

Cllr. Truell welcomed the news of route improvements for the Monaghan/Rockcorry route and assumes that this includes the Cootehill/Cavan route. However, it is disappointing that Lough Egish has not been included, and this should be reviewed.

Cllr. Truell proposed Padraic Smyth Local Link Manager Clones is extended an invitation to attend our May 18th Meeting to discuss route proposals.

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

4. Consideration of 2026 Lighting Programme Ballybay/Clones Municipal District

Matthew Lambe Municipal District Co-Ordinator presented the Public Lighting Review 2026 detailing the proposed Schedule of works for, 15 sites.

Schedule of Works 2026					
Ranking	Area	Location	Road Number	Number of Lights	Total Cost ex VAT
1	Cootehill Road	Abbotts	R188	6	€ 18,100.00
2	Clones	Fermanagh Street	R868	9	€ 10,000.00
3	Rockcorry	Cootehill Road to School	R188	18	€ 72,700.00
4	Clones	Newbliss Road	R183	8	€ 36,700.00
5	Killeevan	Annalore Bridge	R183	4	€ 17,350.00
6	Cremartin	Monaghan GAA Centre of Excellence	LP-3400	3	€ 14,200.00
7	Aghabog	Latnamard School junction to Carn Resource Centre	LT-24112	11	€ 20,100.00
8	Ballybay	Meeting House Lane	LT-31003	3	€ 12,700.00
9	Rockcorry	Trinity Chapel	LS-6320	7	€ 26,950.00
10	Killeevan	St. Livinius' Church	LT-21521	4	€ 16,450.00
11	Corcaghan	Cemetery Road	LT-24022	5	€ 23,200.00
12	Killeevan	Annalore Bridge	R183	4	€ 17,350.00
13	Corcaghan	Pub Road	LS-6500	2	€ 8,950.00
14	Newbliss	Rear of Lisdarragh Housing Estate	N/A	5	€ 20,950.00
15	Newbliss	Castle Lane Newbliss	N/A	TBC	

Funding will enable the completion of 2 sites in 2026. Recommendation of site number 1 Cootehill Road Abbotts and site number 2 Clones Fermanagh Street.

Elected Members commended the work of staff in preparation of the 2026 lighting Review. Cllr. Flynn welcomed public lighting works on Fermanagh Street a location which has been raised by The Women's Assembly through the LCSP public consultation. In relation to the remaining sites which will not be addressed this year, is there any potential for public lighting through Clár funding? enabling us to work on additional sites listed on this programme.

Following discussion by the Members, concerns were raised regarding the number of sites and the limited funding and Areas of concern which have previously been raised. Cllr. Truell spoke about Abbotts & the requested safety barrier, the school road Rockcorry to Cootehill where footpaths were installed, but no ducting was installed in anticipation of future public lighting; is this not creating more expense now on public lighting funding?

Cllr. Treanor noted the health and safety issues relating to lighting & creating safer areas to walk, such as Annalore Bridge & the footpath on the Newbliss Road Clones none of these areas have public lighting and are public safety concerns, there needs to be a way to have these projects carried out. There should not be a town or village without public lighting. Elected Members asked how the funding is allocated for lighting.

Cllr. Gilliland noted that Carrickmacross lighting is getting upgraded while this Municipal Districts list is realistically not going to be done without extra funding. Is there any other funding pots or community partnerships which would enable more areas to be addressed this year?

Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator responded to Members questions advising, Public Lighting has been allocated €80,000 for this year which is divided equally over the 3 Municipal Districts. There is potential for projects through Clár Funding, and this is being looked at. In relation to safety concerns raised regarding Abbotts, LCSI has been secured for this location, and all concerns are being considered to see if it can be incorporated into this funding. Ducting is included in Public Lighting costs for the Rockcorry to Cootehill Road to the school.

Public Lighting 2026, recommendation site number 1 Cootehill Road Abbots and site number 2 Clones Fermanagh Street.

Proposed Cllr. Flynn, seconded Cllr. Truell and 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. Construction works has commenced and will be completed in Q2.

Clones Youth Centre

Funding of €250k has been received for the refurbishment of Clones Youth Centre this project went to tender and no tenders were received. A tender assessment has been completed a Letter of Intent has been issued.

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 Second Community Consultation took place on the 1st of April in Drum where the Preliminary Design Report outlining three route options were presented to the community.

Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2023

Measure 2

Gortnawhinny Lido

Funding of €119,560.00 has been granted for the Gortnawhinny Lido. Works are ongoing and will be completed 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. The Call for Tender will be posted on eTenders seeking a qualified consultancy firm with specific experience in wetland/riparian habitat to plan and design the trail and carry out associated pre-development works, including a habitat protection report and planning application. The Greenan's Cross Restoration Committee, the community group behind this project have secured signed permissive access agreements from all landowners along the proposed trail route.

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.

The launch of this project took place on the 25th of February in the Courthouse in Newtownbutler.

The appointment of a detailed design team will take place early next month.

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. The structure has been installed, and a drinking water fountain and been installed. Wifi facilities will be connected later in Q2 of this year.

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 Street Business Hub – Project Update

Works on the Fermanagh Street Business Hub are progressing as planned. Temporary works propping structure is completed at the lower gable on Fermanagh Street, and underpinning of the existing foundations is to commence.

The project is on schedule for completion in Q3 2027.

Lennard Arms

A detailed construction design team and a detailed design space exhibition team have been appointed. Meetings are ongoing and the project we be ready to go to tender later this year.

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. An application for funding will be made via the Category 1 RRDF Sixth Call funding.

Community Recognition Fund 2024 Window 3

A letter of intent has been issued to the preferred tenderer for the Provision of a 3x3 basketball court in Ballybay Town Park.

The Replacement of pedestrian bridge in the town park is at detailed design stage.

Clar 2023 Developing Community Facilities and Amenities

Peace link Sensory Garden

Works are substantially completed with planting and snagging works ongoing.

Community Centre Investment Fund –

Rockcorry Community Centre

The Detailed Design Stage is complete and approval to proceed to tender stage has been approved by the Department.

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. TII have responded that the current National Design Standards for Greenways are currently being updated, with flood risk management included within the review process. When the Design Standards have been reviewed and updated, they will be used to assess the proposed solutions for the Clones to Smithboro greenway project.

Ulster Canal – Smithboro to Monaghan Greenway: -

Its Monaghan County Council’s intention to publish the Part VIII Planning Application in Q2 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. A contractor has been appointed, and works will commence later this month.

Making spaces for Teenagers Clones Teen Haven: Where Stories Unfold

A contractor has been appointed, and works are ongoing. An application for Part VIII planning permission for Phase 2 of the project is currently being prepared.

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. Phase 1 works have been completed and an application for further funding to proceed to phase 2 was made last 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 has been completed. An option selection report will now be completed outlining potential design options.

Project Code:	Project Name	Comments
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MN/21/0020	Low-Cost Junction Tightening - Newbliss (where R189 meets R183).	NTA have confirmed that the proposed bus route from Clones to Ballybay isn't to proceed. However, have requested that MCC review the relocation of the existing bus stop in front of the takeaway to the Clones Rd. ATU design consultant currently reviewing this proposal and will have a Road safety audit completed on the design.
MN/22/0001	Clones Peace Link AT Scheme	Works will be completed later this month.
MN/22/0004	Lough Egish Village AT Scheme	Works are completed. Official opening will take place on the 20 th of April.
MN/25/0001	Bus Stop Enhancement Programme.	MCC published a tender for installation of 42nr bus stop flag poles and sockets. 13nr location within the Ballybay Clones MD and this works is ongoing.
MN/25/0004	SRTS- Killeevan Ns	NTA have provided detail design and tender documents which are currently under review by ATU. Scheme required Speed limit review on the Clones Newbliss road. NTA and An Taisce to engage with school regarding final design. A Section 38 was published on the 04/03/26 for 4 weeks.
N/A	Bike Repair Stands	Bike repair stands to be installed in Clones and Ballybay. Stands have been ordered and at present awaiting delivery.

Teehill Depot Clones

This proposed project has been tendered for the appointment of a construction contractor. Tender assessment has been completed, and a letter of intent will be issued to preferred bidder later this month.

Car Parking Ballybay

A detailed design consultant has been appointed to prepare designs for a Part VIII Planning application at the rear of 3 Main St Ballybay for the provision of car parking. Site clearance in preparation for site surveys has been completed earlier this month. The car park design will be completed in conjunction with design for the Housing Project on No3.Main St.

Bank Of Ireland Clones

This is a joint project; between Monaghan County Council, providing the building and delivering on the Renovation works, and Enterprising Monaghan who will deliver on training from the new DigiHub. The Council have gone out to tender for design consultants and intend to have this in place in the coming weeks. A detailed design will be developed and application made for Part VIII planning application to develop the ground floor of the property. This project is part of the EBR DigiHub project funded by SEUPB through Peace plus funding.

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.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) - Category 2 Projects

St. Tiarnach's Quarter Regeneration Project

Monaghan County Council applied under RRDF Category 2 funding for Clones Community & Public Realm, St Tiarnach Qtr. Regeneration Project and received confirmation of funding of €664,668.

The Council are currently preparing a tender for a Design Team to lead out on the project and once approved by DRCDG will proceed to tender

The Scope of the project will include.

- Preparation of a comprehensive Regeneration Strategy and action plan for the regeneration area
- Detailed design of a new multi-purpose Community Hub to the rear of the existing Gerry Arthur Stand at St. Tiarnach's Park
- Design of public realm improvements linking St. Tiarnach's Park, the town centre and the PEACE Link.

Ballybay Fire Station

The official opening of the new Ballybay Fire Station will take place on the 24th of April.

CLÁR 2026

The CLÁR 2026 Programme was launched last month.

Funding will be provided across three measures:

Measure 1

Development of community facilities and amenities including sports facilities, youth clubs, teenage spaces, playgrounds, sensory gardens, walking tracks and much more. There are new items eligible for support this year under Measure 1, including support for traffic safety measures with a particular link to community facilities or events, and for initiatives aimed at reducing light pollution in rural communities.

Measure 2

Support for vehicles for community transport used to transport cancer patients or persons with reduced mobility, for community first responders and for meals on wheels organisations.

Measure 3

Tailored funding for our offshore island communities under the specific 'Our Living Islands' measure.

Closing date for receipt of applications to Monaghan County Council is 4.00 p.m. Monday 25th May 2026.

Actions Arising from Co-Ordinators Report

The Members welcomed the report and commended staff for their ongoing work. Following discussion by the Members, Cllr. Flynn welcomed the teen hangout in Ballybay and also the appointment of the contractor to the Clones teen hangout. Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator advised Members the Letter of Intent has issued to the contractor for the Youth Work Ireland Project The project is currently behind schedule due to the need to go to tender twice; however, it is hoped it will be completed by the end of 2026. A Letter of Intent has also been issued for the Courthouse in Ballybay, and, subject to receipt of the required insurance documentation, it is expected that works will commence shortly.

Cllr. Gilliland welcomed the update and requested an update on CCTV provision. He highlighted ongoing incidents of vandalism and criminal damage in Ballybay Town Park, noting that it is increasingly being used for undesirable activities such as drinking and the setting of fires in the changing area. This is creating a sense of insecurity among park users. He noted that this is a public order matter for An Garda Síochána and is an issue that Monaghan County Council can address in collaboration with AGS.

Cllr. Treanor noted that projects are slow moving with so many consultants etc. involved questioning if there are any elements Monaghan County Council can take on in house. Projects are taking years to progress and if projects completed faster, would Monaghan County Council not be in line for more funding. Is this something we can look at.

Cllr. Treanor queried whether CLÁR funding could be utilised to address parking issues in O'Neill Park. He noted that there have been occasions where vehicles had to be moved to allow ambulances access. Cllr. Treanor also recalled that a survey had previously been carried out on O'Neill Park, which identified five potential solutions to the parking challenges. He highlighted that the estate, which was built over 100 years ago, now accommodates households with two or three cars, increasing the demand for parking and the need to ensure clear access for emergency services. Cllr. Treanor proposed that CLÁR funding be considered to support solutions to alleviate congestion in the park.

Cllr. Gilliland shared Cllr. Treanor's concerns regarding the progression of projects, emphasising that no blame was being directed at the Municipal District Engineers. He noted that, even when funding is identified and secured, delays within the system can result in projects requiring additional funding by the time they proceed. There is a delay in the system somewhere, weather that's with the Funder or Executive. Cllr. Gilliland further highlighted concerns around the number of projects reliant on match funding, stressing the importance of advancing projects in a timely manner and allocating funding efficiently, as backlogs could create further challenges in meeting match funding requirements.

Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator responded to Councillors questions advising, CCTV is awaiting the completion of updated Codes of Practice by the Garda, until this is completed no CCTV applications can be submitted to An Garda Síochána for approval. Ballybay Town Park Changing Area has been looked at regarding antisocial behaviour, with consideration of installing lighting and ongoing consultation with An Garda Síochána. The Lennard Arms project has been progressing slowly, due to a change in the project brief resulting in unavoidable delays. Solutions to carparking issues in O'Neill

Park, can possibly be funded under Clár. Uisce Eireann are currently undertaking upgrade works in O'Neill Park and the location at which works are being carried out will create additional parking on completion.

6. Report by Municipal District Executive Engineer

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

Roads Programme

Tender Submissions have been received and are currently being assessed by Roads Section. 2025 Restoration Maintenance Programme.

The roads listed below have been selected for Surface Dressing this year.

	Surface Dressing Programme	Road No.	Length
1	Corragarry 3 Rds - Drumcrow 3 Rds	LT-22311/2	1910
2	Lislanly 3 Rds - Killycrom 3 Rds	LT-34111	1830
3	Cooramegan Carn	LT-64101	1478
4	Shantonagh	LP-4006	2517
5	Shantonagh	LP-4007	1250
6	Maghon	LS-7030	1807
7	Hughies Pub	LS-6500	1725
8	Correvan 3 Rds - Crappagh 3 Rds -	LT-63101	2702
9	Cortober 3 Rds - Shantony 3 Rds	LP-4007	1242
10	Shantony 3 Rds Tullyrain 3 Rds	LP-4006	2492
11	Derryleedigan 3 Rds - Co Bdy @ Deerintonny	LT-60002	2113
12	Threemilehouse Village - Togan X	LP-2400	1769
13	Killycoonagh3 Rds - Killyfuddy 3 Rds	LS-6141	2740
14	Rockcorry Village - Drumloughrin 3 Rds	LP-2331	2265
15	Scotshouse Village - Co Bdy @ Knocks W.	R-212-4	2680
16	Mullanry Glebe 3 Rds - Keenagduff 3 Rds	LP-3010	1904
17	Billeady 3 Rds - Corleamaddy 3 Rds	LT-34011	1314
18	Oghill X - Tullycarragh 3 Rds	LS-7201	2700
19	Raferagh 3 Rds - Cornalaragh 3 rds	LS-8913	1730
20	Corleagh 3 Rds - Cooltrim 3 Rds	LS-7120	1891

Low-Cost Safety Initiatives

R188 at Abbots, Cootehill Road – VRS design and tender documents are currently being prepared. Tender to be issued in Q2 2026

R183 Traffic Calming Measures in Doohamlet Village – Topographical survey has been completed, and traffic calming design and tender documents are currently being prepared. Section 38 Notice to be advertised in Q2 2026.

L2232 Pedestrian Crossing in Drum Village – Design and location of pedestrian crossing has been selected. A Road Safety Audit and Tender Documents are currently being prepared.

Drainage Notices

The following is an update on the drainage notices issued since the beginning of January.

- 40 Nr. Notices issued

- 19 Nr. Notice closed out
- 4 Nr. 2nd Notices issued
- 2 Nr. Landowners have engaged and indicated that they will carry out works
- 14 Nr. Notices are to be follow up by end of February
- 1 Nr. Refer to Roads

Road Closures

There is one road closure in the Municipal District area from the junction of L 2420/L24201 in the townlands of Carolina to the junction of L-2421/L-6411-0 Mullaghgreenan to facilitate minor bridge repairs. The dates of closure is from the 13th of April to the 1st of May.

Patching

There is 1 crew carrying out drainage works on regional and local roads, opening outlets and cleaning drainage networks. There are 2 patching crews carrying out maintenance works in the district. Velocity Patching services commenced last month and are being utilised when weather is permitting.

Climate Adaptation

Wall damaged at Killeevan on the R183 – Contractor to be on site by end of Q2 2026.

Drainage network at Crossmoyle, Teehill – Works to be carried out by outdoor staff in Q3 2026 when weather permits

Bridge Repair Works

The status of the minor bridge repairs are listed below:

1. Carnroa – Completed
2. Largy – Completed
3. Mullaghgreenan – Ongoing
4. Annamacneil – Commencement date to be confirmed
5. Lackagh – Commencement date to be confirmed
6. Aghnacue – Commencement date to be confirmed
7. Clare Oghill – Commencement date to be confirmed
8. Corgreagh – Commencement date to be confirmed

Strategic Improvement Grant

Funding has been approved for the following strategic improvement projects

1. Drumillard to Crossduff R181 Realignment (Phase 2) - €100,000

The R181 remains a significant concern, particularly between Lough Egish Cross and the Monaghan–Cavan border, due to poor pavement condition, substandard alignment, narrow carriageway width, and heavy commercial traffic generated by Lough Egish Food Park. Businesses have highlighted how these deficiencies may constrain future economic development. In contrast, the section from Lough Egish to Castleblayney is generally satisfactory, with adequate width and acceptable geometry. In recent years, Monaghan County Council has advanced multiple improvement works along the R181, including two major realignment schemes (totalling 6.5 km) that received Part 8 approval in 2022. Land acquisition and detailed design are progressing through 2026, with phased delivery to be funded by the Department of Transport.

2. Strategic Roads Project N54 to Roslea Road - €50,000

A funding allocation of €50,000 from the Department of Transport was received to commence a feasibility and options report for the proposed link road.

A Project Brief and Tender documentation for the employment of consultants are to be developed to carry out this study. It is planned that this work will commence in Q3, 2026.

JCB Pothole Pro Plus – Request for Trial Demonstration Monaghan County Council

The JCB Pothole Pro is a specialized 3-in-1 wheeled excavator designed to cut, crop, and clean potholes as demonstration on the R188 Cootehill/Rockcorry Rd and the R190 Cootehill Ballybay Rd. Proposed date of trial demonstration is the 5 & 6 May.

Actions Arising from Engineers Report

The Members welcomed the report and commended staff for their continued efforts. Following discussion, Matthew Lambe, Co-ordinator, responded to queries, advising that the JCB Pothole Pro is not owned by Monaghan County Council and is currently being trialled; however, it is not suitable for use on stone roads. He further noted that drainage notices are ongoing, with a more structured, process-driven approach now being adopted, focusing on specific areas individually rather than a scattered approach.

He advised that the number of roads to be included in the RM programme will depend on overall costs, which will become clearer once the bitumen has been procured. It is also proposed to install a tabletop pedestrian crossing in Drum, which would remove the need for ramps.

7. Matters arising from previous minutes

Cllr. Flynn welcomed the postponement of the Carbon Tax increase until October 2026 budget. All Members concurred.

8. Questions

Cllr. Flynn will ask:

Question 1:

Can the Municipal District advise what is the current status of the Village Development Plan for Smithborough, and to provide an update on any progress made and details of any planned public consultation with local residents and stakeholders.

Answer:

Tenders have been received for the preparation of a ‘Community Vision and Spatial Land Use Plan’ for the village of Smithborough. It is anticipated that successful consultants will be appointed shortly and commence the preparation of the plans in May.

Question 2:

Can the MD provide an update from Local Link regarding their December 2025 commitment that Smithboro and Rockcorry would be included in the Connecting Ireland Sustainable Mobility Plan for a service upgrade, and confirm when a clear timeframe for delivery will be provided, particularly in light of the increasing cost of fuel and the urgent need for accessible public transport in these villages?

Answer:

The NTA is aware of these requests and has proposed improvements for the Smithboro – Monaghan and Rockcorry – Monaghan corridors as part of the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan. The implementation of these improvements is subject to the availability of funding from the Department of Transport. The Department of Transport and the National Transport Authority (NTA) are currently in discussions in relation to funding of the PSO (Public Service Obligation) programme generally. The implementation dates are subject to confirmation of funding so a precise date cannot be provided at this time. With respect to Lough Egish, there are currently no plans to introduce a regular public transport service to this area.

Local Link will keep Members informed of developments as and when I receive any regarding the funding situation.

9. Notice of Motion

N/A

10. CE Orders

Noted

11. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

Congratulations to Clones Drama Society on their participation in the All-Ireland confined Drama Finals 2026, with note to Seamie McMahon on receiving Best Supporting Actor and Kieran Morgan & Harry Cleary

The Members of Ballybay–Clones Municipal District strongly condemn the reckless and dangerous ramming of An Garda Síochána vehicles while officers were carrying out their duties, following the incident in Tullycorbett.

Such actions are wholly unacceptable and represent a serious threat to public safety and to those who serve to protect our communities. We commend the bravery and professionalism of An Garda Síochána in the face of this incident.

The Members of BCMD extend their full support and best wishes to all An Garda Síochána personnel involved and wish a full and speedy recovery to those who were injured in the line of duty.

12. AOB.

Section 38, Active Trave, Safet Routes to School, Killeevan National School presented by Matthew Lambe,

1. Background

Killeevan National School forms part of the round three of An Taisce Safe routes to school scheme. As part of this scheme An Taisce have developed a delivery plan for the school which is located on L6290 Guardhill Road just outside Newbliss Co Monaghan.

The delivery plan produced by An Taisce proposed the following improvements-

Front of School Enhancements

- Install gateway treatments and digital speed feedback signage. - Apply 'School Ahead' road markings and buff-coloured warning bands. - Improve visibility through school branding and signage.
- Explore use of eastern gate for drop-off with protected walkways.

Parking and Traffic Management

- Support completion of new parking lot behind school (GAA-led). - Promote Park and Stride from Newbliss village. - Upgrade footpaths to facilitate walking routes.

Behavioural and Educational Measures

- Partner with local media and community groups for awareness. - Distribute educational materials to parents and guardians. - Integrate road safety into school curriculum and student-led campaigns. - Host road safety sessions with Gardaí and local experts.

Speed Management

- Submit request for permanent speed limit reduction via local authority. - Monitor vehicle speeds using GoSafe vans and safety cameras.

Planning and Collaboration

- Engage with Green-Schools Programme (Travel theme). - Develop a School Travel Plan and liaise with Monaghan County Council. - Reference RSA and NTA guidelines for future infrastructure planning

The National Transport Authority developed detailed design in line with the delivery plan produced by An Taisce and have issued to Monaghan County Council to procure and construct the works. The next NTA project approval guidelines was phase 3 Statutory processed. To fulfil the statutory process requirement of this scheme Monaghan County council availed of the section 38 process. These works fall under the definition of traffic calming measures in Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994, as they involve restrictions on vehicular movements, improvements to cyclist and pedestrian safety, and modifications to road layout completed entirely within the public road boundary.

2. Consultation

In line with the Section 38 Guidelines (October 2023), a section 38 consultation commenced 4th March with notices being published in Anglo Celt newspaper as well as an online consultation being published on Monaghan County Council Consultation portal. The Section 38 consultation ran from 4th March to 7th April 2026.

During the section 38 consultation Monaghan County Council Active travel unit attended a meeting with Killeevan National School which was hosted by An Taisce. A detailed overview of the scheme was presented by Frankie Murphy of Monaghan County Council Active Travel Unit. In attendance of this meeting was the board of the school who were positive of the proposed works. One comment that was raised regarding the design was, would it be possible to formalise the existing disabled parking spaced located at the front of school

3. Section 38 submissions

No submissions were received during the consultation period.

4. Recommendations

I recommend that this scheme proceed to Procurement and Construction based off the current design produced by NTA for the Killeevan NS with one minor amendment to the design being the formalisation of the existing disabled parking located at the front of Killeevan NS.

Cllr. Treanor thanked Matthew Lambe MD Co-Ordinator for this report and for meeting with concerned residents. This will go toward addressing safety issues in some way.

The Elected Members support this Section 38.

Cllr. Truell raised concerns regarding HGVs meeting on the narrow bridge in Killeevan, close to the school, and requested that warning signage be installed. Matthew Lambe, MD Co-ordinator, advised that the bridge does not form part of the current Section 38 proposal; however, the matter is being examined, particularly in relation to the provision of signage on both approaches to the bridge.

Meeting concluded.

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator
Date, May 18th, 2026