

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday March 16th, 2026 @ 10am, Clones Municipal Office, Clones, Co. Monaghan.

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

Apologies: Cllr. Richard Truell

In Attendance: Nial O'Connor A/Director of Services, Matthew Lambe A/Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Conor McQuillan Assistant Engineer and Gillian Costello Senior Staff Officer.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sinead Flynn welcomed all to the March 2026 Ballybay/Clones Municipal District Meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Correction to page 2 of February 16th Minutes, "retirement age for school bus drivers 60 years" this will be amended to "retirement age for school bus drivers 70 years.

Proposed Cllr. Flynn, seconded Cllr. Treanor.

Minutes of February 16th, 2026, with the requested amendments were agreed.

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

2. Correspondence Sent

Correspondence sent was noted.

3. Correspondence Received

Correspondence received was noted by Members and following discussion, in reference to Bus Éireann correspondence from Siobhan Griffin regarding the current retirement age for school bus drivers, which has been set by Bus Éireann at 70 years. Cathaoirleach Cllr Sinead Flynn proposed that correspondence is issued to Bus Éireann requesting that this policy be reviewed. It is proposed that eligibility should be based on qualifications, medical fitness, and willingness to continue in the role, rather than on age alone. A policy that enables the recruitment and retention of drivers aged 70 and over would assist in addressing the existing driver shortage.

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

Members noted correspondence received from Clones Drama Group, in which they request €2,000 to support costs associated with competing in the All-Ireland Confined Drama Finals 2026.

Members proposed in support of the Drama Group a contribution of €1,000 will be made.

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

4. 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. The project is at tender assessment stage and it is envisaged that a letter of intent will be issued later this week.

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. Second Community Consultation will take place on the 1st of April in Drum where the Preliminary Design Report outlining three route options will be 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 Q1 2026.

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 next month 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 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 will be installed as part of this project 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 Street Business Hub – Project Update

Works on the Fermanagh Street Business Hub are progressing as planned. Site hoarding has been installed along Fermanagh Street to secure the construction area, and a tower crane has been erected on site for the duration of the project. Excavation for the temporary works foundations has now commenced.

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.

Community Recognition Fund 2024 Window 3

Provision of basketball court and equipment received €69,161 is at tender stage

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 will commence later this month.

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. 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. This project went to tender twice using established frameworks however no contractor provided a costing for the construction of the project. A contractor has been appointed, and works will commence in the coming weeks.

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 for Phase 1 of the project. 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 earlier this month.

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

The National Transport Authority have confirmed funding has been made available to explore the feasibility for the development of an active travel scheme linking Ballybay Main St and the Town Park and Schools. The funding will allow for vegetation removal and surveying of the proposed route; this work has been completed. An option selection report will now be completed outlining potential design options.

Project Code:	Project Name	Comments
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	S Wilkins commenced works on garden area at Coyles entrance Nov 2025. Works will be completed later this month.
MN/22/0004	Lough Egish Village AT Scheme	Works are substantially completed. Official opening will take place on the 20 th of April.
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 Clones MD Contractor to commence works Q1 2026.
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 Q1 2026. At present awaiting delivery.
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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.

Site Assessment for Gone but Not Forgotten Memorial Garden

The elected members received a presentation from the Paul Hograth Company on the public consultation and the survey results regarding the proposed National Bikers Memorial sites in Clones. The survey indicated a high level of support for a Memorial in Clones, however, after careful consideration, the elected members have decided not to proceed with Páirc Phobail Séamus Mac Cába as a location for this proposed memorial. Members of the executive met members of the Gone but Not Forgotten last week to discuss the report contents.

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. An official invite will be issued in due course, once times have been finalised.

Town Regeneration in Ballybay Clones MD

Following a request at last month's meeting for a detailed update the below has been confirmed by the Town Regeneration team.

- 90.no Properties have received section 8(2) notices,
- 40.no Properties have been entered onto the Derelict Sites Register,
- 15.no Properties have received a Section 15 notice This is a notice of intention to compulsory acquire derelict sites, under the derelict site Act 1990, as amended.
- 1.no Property has received a Section 16 Notice (Notice of request for consent of An Coimisiún Pleanála to compulsory acquisition of derelict site, under the derelict sites Act 1990, as amended.
- 8.no Property received a Section 17 Notice (Vesting Order made under section 17 of the Derelict Sites Act)
- 1.no Property to be purchased by agreement.

To date there has been 9.no Properties CPO'd: -

1. Main Street Newbliss H18 WR81. Housing Section to renovate site. Owner has been paid out agreed compensation.
2. Newtownbutler Road, Clones H23 YE20. Property at sale agreed stage, Contracts expected to be returned soon and sale complete early Q2 2026.
3. 85 Main Street, Ballybay A75 RK07. Sale Complete.
4. The Diamond, Clones H23 DY72. Property sale agreed.
5. Lower Main Street Newbliss H18 TE80. Property is at sale agreed stage, contracts expected to be returned soon and sale complete early Q2 2026.
6. Yard, Lower Main Street, Newbliss H18 KH59. Clones/Ballybay MD are now in ownership of this site.
7. Fortview School, Newtownbutler Road, Clones, Co. Monaghan, H23 VP93. Property is advertised for sale at present.
8. Widows Row, Rockcorry, Co. Monaghan. Housing section to develop this site.
9. Newbliss Garda Station H18 FH21. Housing Section to develop this site.

MCC wish to acknowledge the work of the Church Committee (Stephen Carleton, Sammy Wilkin and Warren Carleton) regarding their help and assistance in the acquisition of the widow's row in Rockcorry.

CLÁR 2026

The CLÁR 2026 Programme was launched earlier this 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.

St Patricks Day Parades in the Ballybay Clones MD

- 14th Newbliss at 16:00hrs
- 16th Clones at 19:00hrs
- 17th Ballybay 17:00hrs

Actions Arising from Co-Ordinators Report

The Members welcomed the report and commended staff for their ongoing work. Cllr. Flynn welcomed the inclusion of Smithboro village in Clár 2026 and encouraged any communities with proposals under this funding stream to contact the Municipal District.

Cllr. Treanor commended the RESTART project launch, noting that it was a fantastic event which saw Clones, Newtownbutler and Belturbet come together under this PEACE initiative. He further commended all partners involved, including Clones Development Society and Hugh Tunney of Canal Stores, along with the support of the Municipal District.

Following discussion, staff advised Members that the Business Hub on Fermanagh Street is scheduled to open in Q3 2027, and further details on the layout and specification of the facility will be provided in due course. Staff also confirmed that consultation will take place with the Roads Section regarding the project timeline for the Clones to Smithboro Greenway, and an update will be provided to Members.

Cllr. Treanor commented the Biker Memorial survey, noting that 90% of submissions were in favour of locating the Memorial in Clones. He emphasised that the Elected Members of the Ballybay–Clones Municipal District did not reject this proposal. The decision-making process was influenced by a 5km radius applied by consultant Paul Howgarth, which was a key factor in the assessment.

He acknowledged that this is a very sensitive and far-reaching issue, with many families across the district affected by tragedy. The volume and tone of survey submissions clearly demonstrated a high level of community support for the Memorial in Clones.

Cllr. Treanor further highlighted that Monaghan County Council has been involved in the process to date and should continue to actively support the GBNFC in identifying a suitable site and working collaboratively with the group. He noted that the proposed Memorial is an excellent initiative which would serve not only as a respectful and meaningful tribute, but also as an economic asset by attracting visitors to the area.

Staff advised that a debriefing meeting has taken place with the GBNFC and noted that the group's current position is that if the Memorial is not permitted on the Marina site, they are not interested in pursuing an alternative location. Staff further noted that while Cllr. Treanor is correct that the survey showed 89% support for the Memorial being located in the town, this percentage did not fall within the 5km radius applied as part of the assessment process. It was acknowledged that there is support for the Memorial in Clones.

Nial O'Connor, Director of Services, noted for Members' attention that the Finance Section will bring the financial proposal regarding the required borrowing for the Teehill Depot project to the April meeting for Members' approval.

In relation to the progression of Greenway development in Monaghan, staff advised that the overall ambition is to deliver a continuous Greenway from Monaghan to Clones and from Clones to Belturbet. The Monaghan–Smithboro section is currently the most advanced. It is proposed that development will progress from Monaghan to the border next year, with the Clones–Smithboro section to follow thereafter.

5. Report by Municipal District Executive Engineer

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

Roads Programme

Tender Package has been advertised, and submissions are due at the beginning of April. Preparation of these roads is ongoing with approximately 50% complete to date.

2025 Restoration Maintenance Programme

A number of roads have been identified using the Pavement Management System and PSCI ratings. A list of roads has been compiled and is due for assessment in coordination with road section in the coming weeks.

Low-Cost Safety Initiatives

Funding has been approved for the following applications:

1. €60,000 for installation of vehicle restraint barrier and high friction surfacing located at Abbots, on the R188, Cootehill Road.
2. €45,000 for upgrading signage, additional road markings and installation of traffic calming measures on the R183 in Doohamlet Village.
3. €30,000 for installation of a pedestrian crossing on the L2232 in Drum Village.

Drainage Notices

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

- 40 Nr. Notices issued
- 9 Nr. Notice closed out
- 6 Nr. 2nd Notices issued
- 2 Nr. Landowners have engaged and indicated that they will carry out works
- 3 Nr. Notices are to be follow up by end of February

Road Closures

There are no road closures currently in place or planned in the Municipal District.

Patching

There is 1 crew carrying out drainage works on regional local roads, opening outlets and cleaning drainage networks. There are 2 patching crews carrying out maintenance works in the district. Due to the rainfall, there is still a significant volume of defects to be attended. Velocity Patching services will be utilised from today and will be operational when weather permits.

Climate Adaptation

Funding has been approved for the following projects:

1. €80,000 for the repair of wall damaged at Killeevan on the R183.
2. €70,000 for cleaning and maintenance of drainage network at Crossmoyle, Teehill area on the R212.

Bridge Repair Works

Funding has been approved for the following minor bridge repairs managed by Roads Section:

1. Carnroa - €65,000
2. Largy - €50,000
3. Mullaghgreenan - €50,000
4. Annamacneil - €40,000
5. Lackagh - €50,000
6. Aghnacue - €50,000
7. Clare Oghill - €64,000
8. Corgreagh - €60,000

Strategic Improvement Grant

Funding has been approved for the following strategic improvement projects

1. Drumillard to Crossduff R181 Realignment (Phase 2) - €100,000
2. Strategic Roads Project N54 to Roslea Road - €50,000

Storm Chandra

A request for funding has been processed for the issues resulting from the storm, the Municipal District is currently awaiting a decision.

Actions Arising from Engineers Report

The Members welcomed the report and commended staff for their ongoing work. Cllr. Flynn welcomed the LCSI for Doohamlet, noting that given the continued complaints regarding speeding in this area, the initiative is very much appreciated. She also advised that residents in Smithboro are concerned about speeding within the village and are requesting the installation of speed cushions.

Cllr. Treanor concurred with Cllr. Flynn in welcoming the LCSI in Doohamlet. In relation to the installation of ramps, he noted that such measures can be unfair to road users who adhere to speed limits and may, in some cases, cause damage to vehicles. He advocated instead for the use of speed detection technology to monitor speeds and issue penalties where appropriate, rather than relying on physical traffic-calming measures.

In response to Members' questions, staff advised that drainage maintenance works in the ABP locality of Clones will include the cleaning of drains and the clearing of vegetation.

Staff further advised that, following the recent severe rains which have caused significant damage to the road network within the Municipal District, repair works are underway. The velocity patcher will be utilised; however, it is not suitable for pothole repairs in the current weather conditions. Staff also noted that the method involving cutting out sections of road to patch potholes is only appropriate for stone roads and is not suitable for the road types within this Municipal District.

Cllr. Gilliland agreed with his colleagues in supporting LCSI Doohamlet and the proposal for the introduction of an average speed system in villages. He noted that the implementation and enforcement of such a system would require partnership with An Garda Síochána and requested that information be obtained on the viability of this option for the Municipal District.

He commended staff for their work in addressing private drainage issues, noting that this is crucial for maintaining the integrity of the road network.

Cllr. Gilliland further highlighted that regional roads contain potholes which pose a significant safety risk due to the higher speed limits compared with local roads and requested that this matter be examined. Staff advised that a tender is currently issued for hot patching works on regional roads.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sinead Flynn proposed correspondence is sent to the Speed Limit Committee of Monaghan County Council to request an update on the following issues.

- The status of the proposed speed-limit revisions for implementation in 2026.
- The towns and villages within the Ballybay–Clones Municipal District that are included in the review, together with details of the specific measures proposed for each area.

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

6. Matters arising from previous minutes

7. Questions

Cllr. Truell will ask:

Q1:

I would request that the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District examine the planned installation of a pedestrian crossing and additional traffic calming measures in Drum village, like cushion ramps and additional signage.

Answer:

Engineering Staff have met with stake holders in the area and are currently preparing options for the installation of the pedestrian crossing with funding provided under the Low-Cost Safety Scheme.

Q2:

What plans have the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District to repair and restore the condition of roads in our district following the severe weather we experienced over the past few months. A number of these roads have deteriorated significantly due to prolonged periods of bad weather, and many now contain potholes and surface damage which are becoming a concern for residents and road users. Could you please outline any planned repair or resurfacing works for local roads in our district and will there be a programme in place to prioritise the most severely affected roads.

Answer:

All Municipal Districts are currently meeting with Roads Section to discuss budgets and are options in dealing with the current conditions of the road network. The options available include continuous maintenance patching, hot tar patching, velocity patching and structural rehabilitation. The extent of repairs is dependent on the funding available.

Q3

I would like the Municipal District to explore a community sports equipment lending scheme in the Ballybay Town Park and the Seamus McCabe Park, Cara Street, Clones. Allowing park users to borrow Tennis Rackets, Footballs and Basketballs, by uploading a photo ID and when your finished you take a picture to show it is returned, so to speak a "Park Sports Library" where people can borrow the equipment and return them free of charge.

Answer:

Monaghan County Council will investigate installing a free sports library in the parks, as suggested.

Q4

Can Ballybay/Clones MD examine the possibility of developing a sensory garden at the Seamus McCabe park Clones. A sensory garden would be a valuable addition to the park and the wider community. It could provide a calm and inclusive space for people of all ages, particularly benefiting children, older residents and individuals with additional sensory needs, such a place could include sensory planting, seating areas and accessible pathways to create a relaxing and therapeutic environment. Seamus McCabe is a well-used community space, and a sensory garden could further enhance the park by promoting wellbeing, inclusion and outdoor engagement for residents and visitors.

Answer:

The Municipal District is currently forming a list for CLAR Funding Applications, and this will be included for consideration

Cllr. Coyle will ask:

Q1:

During the recent storm, many roads etc across the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District were severely flooded and inaccessible for local residents/Emergency Services/Agricultural Supplies/Collection Services etc, particularly in the Doohamlet/Laragh Village area's etc, with many of these area's totally cut off/isolated/marooned, can Monaghan County Council give a detailed report on the worst affected areas in the Ballybay-Clones M.D. and what plans are now been put in place for cleaning/removal of fallen tree's/shrubbery etc from rivers etc in the worst affected areas, as weather and ground condition's improve over the Spring and Summer Month's to ensure these roadways and communities are not victims of the same experiences again in the future?

Answer:

The worst affected areas in the Municipal District where Doohamlet, Ballybay Town Park, The Wetlands area and Laragh. Approximately 15 roads where impassible during and after the storm, however no residential properties where damaged. A request for funding has been processed for the issues resulting from the storm, the Municipal District are currently awaiting a decision.

Q2:

The junction of the L2130(Legnakelly, Clones) to the N54(Monaghan -Clones) is an exceptionally dangerous location for vehicles/cars etc exiting the L2130 on to the very busy National Route,N54,can Monaghan County Council immediatly have works carried to improve visibility with Safety Improvement Measurers put in place to avoid horrific and fatal accidents?

Answer:

The Municipal District are currently waiting on legal agreements to be finalised prior to commencing works.

Q3:

Can Monaghan County Council immediatly examine the placing of additional Traffic Calming Measurers/Traffic Speed Control Measurers on the Ballybay Road, Rockcorry(R193-2) as speeding is of huge concern to local residences, particularly with Scoil Mhuire, Rockcorry located on this stretch of roadway with huge volumes of traffic and pedestrians on the Roadway at School entry and exit times?

Answer:

Engineering Staff will examine the location and will include on the Low-Cost Safety Scheme list for consideration.

Q4:

Can Monaghan County Council give a detailed Report on the uptake of the Croí Cónaithe/Vacant Homes Grant in each of the Towns/Villages/Communities of the Ballybay – Clones L.E.A., since its inception, the numbers of Application's/Completed Projects/works and the number ongoing or in progress?

Answer:

Details relating to the uptake of the Croi Conaithe/Vacant Homes Grant in each of the individual Towns/Villages/Communities of the Ballybay – Clones Municipal District are not readily available.

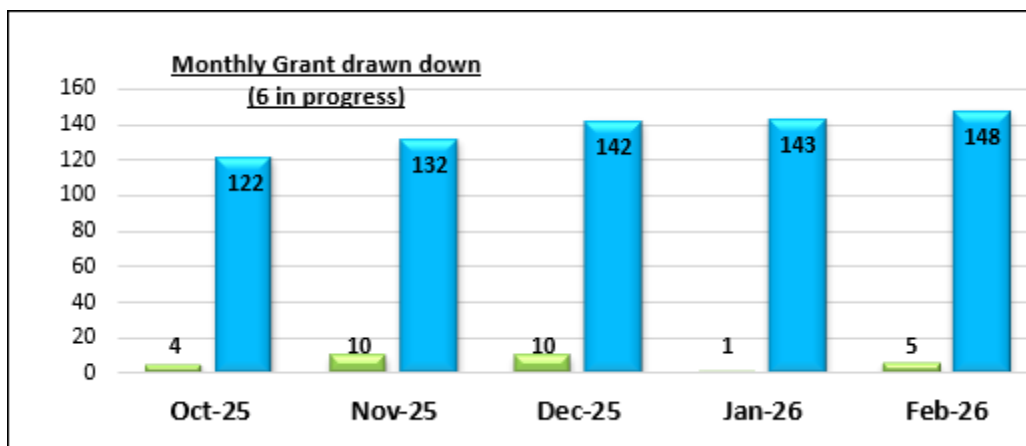
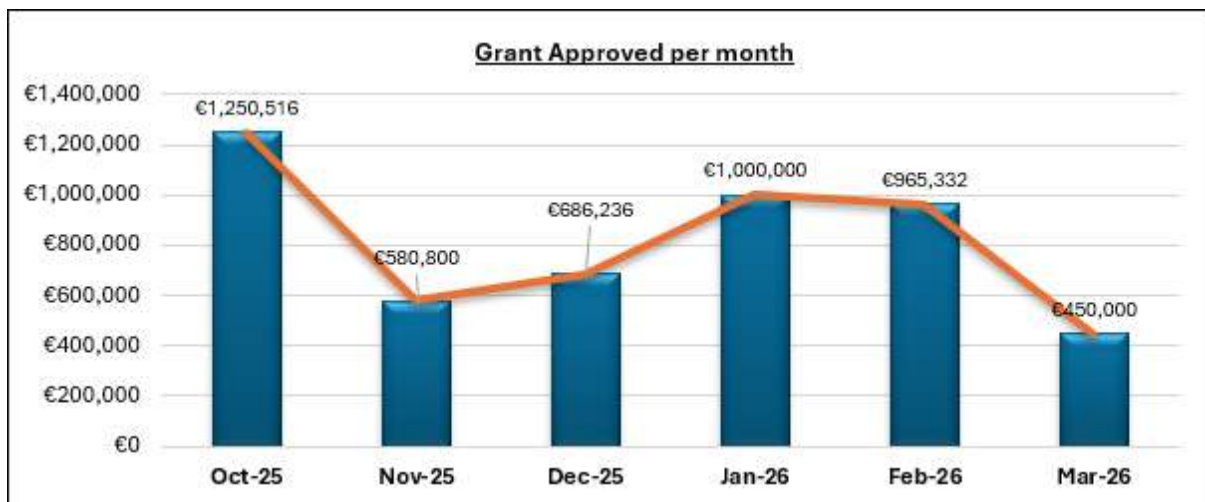
Please see below Croí Cónaithe Grant numbers for Ballybay – Clones Municipal District processed to date:

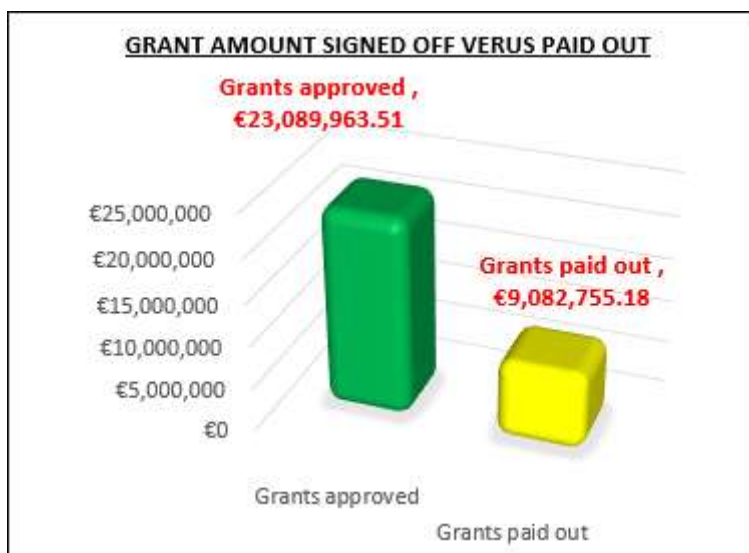
- **Number of applications – 144**
- **Number of approvals in principle – 107**
- **Number of approvals paid out – approx. 31**

Please also find below current position of the Croí Cónaithe Grant for County Monaghan:

Croí Cónaithe Property Refurbishment

Grants values approved in Euro	€23,089,963.51
Average amount of grant approval	€64,317.17
Grants drawn down to date	148 (6 in progress)
Grant Amount paid out to date	€9,082,755.18
No. of Croí Conaithe grants received:	500
No. of Croí Conaithe grants approved:	360
No. of Croí Conaithe grants rejected:	61
No of Engagements since March 2024	2800
No of Engagements in month	220





Q5:

Over recent times a number of incidents/accidents have taken place at the junction of the Rockcorry-Ballybay Rd.(R193-1)to the Ballybay – Cootehill Rd.(R190) at what is known locally as ‘Anney Cross ‘with vehicles travelling from the Rockcorry Rd. Side crossing the Ballybay – Cootehill Rd.(R190),ending up in the water/flooded/drain, this is exceptionally dangerous, fortunately no fatalities have occurred as of yet, as the Ballybay-Cootehill Rd.is very heavily vehicularised Regional Road, carrying huge numbers of H.G.V.s etc on a daily basis 24/7,Signage is damaged, fallen down etc, can Monaghan County Council immediately examine this location, as where the vehicles have entered the flooded area, leaves no protection for vehicles on the R190,signage needs replacing, markings on the road etc need replacing, with a Crash Barrier also required?

Answer:

Engineering Staff will examine the location and will include on the Low-Cost Safety Scheme list for consideration.

8. Notice of Motion

In the absence of Cllr. Coyle it was unanimously agreed that is Notice of Motion will be carried over the April meeting.

9. CE Orders

Noted

10. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

Congratulations to Largy College on their all-Ireland win. The Elected Members of Ballybay/Clones Municipal District extended their warmest congratulations to Largy College on their outstanding All-Ireland win Of the Br. Edmund Ignatius Rice Cup Final against Rice College, Ennis on 14 March 2026. This is a tremendous achievement and a testament to the dedication, talent, and hard work of the students, coaching team, and everyone involved. Their success is a source of great pride for the school community and for the wider area, and it is wonderful to see their commitment and teamwork rewarded at a national level.

The Members extended congratulations to the St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committees for their outstanding commitment, dedication, and considerable effort in the planning and organisation of the 2026 Parades.

Congratulations to Northern Sound on their promotion of the Irish Language, with their coverage emphasising high daily usage in Monaghan and efforts to increase bilingual visibility. Ballybay–Clones Municipal District Elected Members, extended congratulations to Northern Sound on their continued promotion of the Irish language. Recent coverage, which highlights the strong and growing daily usage of Irish in County Monaghan, is commendable and deeply valued by our communities. Efforts to increase bilingual visibility across the region play an important role in supporting cultural awareness, encouraging everyday engagement with the language, and strengthening local identity.

Congratulations to Music Generation Cavan Monaghan Cross Border Folk Orchestra who perform on the big stages at The Garage Theatre and The Ulster Hall this St. Patrick’s weekend with the Mike McGoldrick Trio and Michael Rooney.

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

14. AOB.

Naming proposal of **Árasáin Mhig Eacháin, McGahon’s Apartments**, for a Part 8 Housing Development for 2 number apartment style units, Lower Main Street, Ballybay, formerly the Old Health Centre Building.

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

Cathaoirleach Cllr Sinead Flynn proposed That this Municipal District write to the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment, the Tánaiste and the Taoiseach calling on the Government to:

- Scrap the planned increase in carbon tax and reduce taxes on petrol, diesel, and home heating oil
- Introduce an emergency cost-of-living support package for households.

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

Cllr. Gilliland supported Cllr. Flynn’s proposal and agreed that rising fuel prices are being driven in part by storage limitations for smaller operators, who do not have the capacity to forward-buy. Larger companies, while having forward purchased fuel, are not passing on the resulting savings to consumers, contributing to earlier-than-expected price increases.

He noted that the Government is working on initiatives to address rising fuel costs but is conscious that measures such as reductions in carbon tax must not be absorbed by major fuel companies without being reflected in pump prices. Any Government initiative must avoid driving inflation. These considerations explain the absence of an immediate Government response.

Cllr. Gilliland highlighted that solutions should be targeted at those most in need and acknowledged the significant challenges facing contractors and farmers as seasonal works commence. He urged the Government to devise a sustainable, long-term system, noting the complexity of achieving an effective solution.

Cllr. Treanor requested that an invitation is extend to Uisce Éireann to attend the meeting on 20 April to discuss ongoing water outages within the Municipal District. In particular, the recurring issues affecting the Rockcorry, Derryvale, and Aughnamullen areas, which continue to experience frequent water disruptions due to burst pipes.

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

For Members information Nial O'Connor Director of Services advised Uisce Éireann have workshops scheduled for next month to meet with the Elected Members.

Cllr. Treanor queried what are the future plans for the HSE unit at Clonkeen, Cole, which currently provide supports, lunches, and a social outlet for older persons, and proposed an invitation should be extended to the HSE to attend the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District Meeting on 20 April to discuss this matter further.

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

Meeting concluded.

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed _____
Meetings Administrator
Date, April 20th, 2026