

## The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

**Minutes of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 at 10.00am in Smithboro Community Hall, Main Street, Smithboro.**

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

**In Attendance:** Nial O'Connor A/Director of Services, Matthew Lambe A/Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Lorraine Brogan, Assistant Staff Officer and Veronica Sherry Clerical Officer.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Flynn welcomed all to the May 2026 Ballybay-Clones Municipal District Meeting.

At the outset, Cllr. Flynn congratulated the Monaghan Senior Ladies and Mens football teams who competed in their respective Ulster Finals on last Saturday and Sunday. She described the Ulster Final in Clones as a fantastic day, highlighting the family entertainment and big screen in Barry McGuigan Park, along with live music and food vendors throughout the town. She emphasised the importance of continued investment in St. Tiernach's Park which she described as being at the heart of Ulster football. Cllr. Flynn praised the MD staff involved in making the day such a great success, with particular praise for Michael Leonard and the outdoor team for the preparation work and the clean up works after the match.

Cllr. Flynn also congratulated the Clones U12 boys' team on their recent match against Ballybay. She acknowledged the players, management, and volunteers involved with all teams across the county whose dedication is vital to sporting communities.

Cllr. Treanor concurred with these sentiments and highlighted the importance of recognising the efforts of both the team and their backroom staff over the years, particularly their preparation for the Ulster Final, saying that they had done the county proud. He commended the Council's outdoor team for the work carried out, observing that the town was left spic and span following the event. He also acknowledged the efforts of local businesses whose staff contributed to the clean-up.

Cllr. Treanor praised the active role taken by the Council in ensuring the success of the event and proposed that a review be conducted in the coming weeks to assess what worked well and identify areas for improvement. He also commended the staff in the Council's Communications Section, Deirdriu McQuaid and her team, along with Gillian Costello from the MD Office for their contribution to making the day a great success.

Cllr. Gilliland concurred with the previous speakers and noted that the Ulster Final brings benefits of over €1 million to Clones town and the surrounding areas, and stressed the importance of doing all possible to retain the Ulster Final in Clones.

Cllr. Gilliland commended the Council staff, emergency services, and An Garda Síochána for their efforts over the weekend. He supported the proposal for a review of the event to be carried out. He called on the GAA, Ulster Council and County Board to make every effort to ensure that the Ulster Final remains in Clones.

Cllr. Truell also concurred with the previous contributions. He described the atmosphere down Fermanagh Street as a great spectacle and reiterated the importance of retaining the Ulster Final in

Clones. He commiserated with the Monaghan team and management, acknowledging their significant efforts. Cllr. Truell also commended both the indoor and outdoor Council staff, as well as An Garda Síochána for making the Ulster Final such a successful event.

On behalf of the Council Executive, Nial O'Connor, Director of Services, commended the Council staff, the local community, the Clones Town Team, local businesses, and all involved in delivering a successful event. He also thanked the Members for their support in providing the budget each year to enable the continued success of the Ulster Final in Clones.

It was agreed that letters of congratulations be sent to the Monaghan Senior Mens Management and Team on reaching the Ulster Senior Football Championship Final and to the Monaghan Senior Ladies Management and Team on reaching the Ulster Ladies intermediate Championship Final.

#### **1. Confirmation of Minutes of April 2026 monthly meeting**

On the proposal of Cllr. Treanor, seconded by Cllr. Truell, it was agreed that the minutes of the MD meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 be confirmed.

#### **2. Correspondence Sent**

Correspondence sent was noted.

#### **3. Correspondence Received**

Correspondence received from An Garda Síochána acknowledging letter of support received from the Municipal District in relation to Tullycorbet incident was noted.

#### **4. Mr. Padraic Smyth, Manager, Local Link Cavan-Monaghan**

Cllr. Flynn welcomed Mr. Padraic Smyth, Local Link Manager for Cavan–Monaghan, and thanked him for attending to update the Members on transport service requests for Smithboro and Rockcorry. She highlighted the importance of Local Link services, particularly given the demand for reliable public transport and ongoing delays in driving tests.

Mr. Smyth thanked the Members for giving him the opportunity to attend the MD meeting noting that this it is also helpful from the Local Link's perspective.

He gave an overview on the role of the Local Link office and The National Transport Authority who oversee the delivery of public transport services across Ireland. He advised that they are now four years into a five year plan which has been pushed out for another five years due to lack of resources.

It was noted that both Smithboro and Rockcorry villages are part of the Connecting Ireland Programme and there is a commitment that both villages will get a service upgrade.

In relation to Rockcorry Village, Mr. Smyth acknowledged that there is a good bus service but there isn't a bus service at 9am in the morning. He noted that it may be the case that a bus needs to be put on the route at that time.

In relation to Smithboro Village, Mr. Smyth noted that, although the village does have an existing service, the bus times are not suitable. The issue has been very well highlighted and there will be a resolution, not in 2026 but hopefully in 2027.

Cllr. Flynn asked if something similar to the bus service in Emyvale, which is on a main route and is served by the Local Link five times a day, could be replicated in Smithboro.

Mr. Smyth noted that the Emyvale service commences in Monaghan. The public consultation process at the time supported the service in Mullan village and Carrickroe. The needs of businesses employing people who needed public transport were highlighted.

In response to Cllr. Flynn's query regarding businesses in Smithboro also requiring a service, Mr. Smyth suggested looking at shift work patterns, also where employees need to get to in the mornings. He noted that it would be useful if a survey could be conducted with workers to see what their travel needs are. He suggested that this might help shape demand as with that information available, the Local Link may be able to influence the timetable when it is introduced.

Cllr. Gilliland outlined the need for a bus service to Carrickmacross from Ballybay via Lough Egish. He stated that many people travelling to hospital appointments in Dublin have to hire taxis every week. He noted that many people availed of Collins Coaches during Covid. However, after Covid, it wasn't financially viable and the service ceased.

Cllr. Gilliland suggested that if they need to gather information to justify the need for the route, it would be helpful if Mr. Smyth could provide guidance on the information required to put a plan together.

Mr. Smyth stated that it would be helpful to know the passenger numbers pre Covid and look at it again. He also suggested that it would be useful to have data from Lough Egish Food Park and also from Grove Turkeys regarding movement of staff etc to support a business case.

*It was agreed that Cllr. Flynn and Nial O'Connor, A/Director of Services, will liaise with Mr. Pdraig Smyth to ascertain what information is required to present a case to the NTA.*

Mr. Smyth also noted the success of the 176 service Cavan–Monaghan via Newbliss, describing it as a hallmark service which has been very successful from the start.

He also advised that from September, there will be an option to commute from Cootehill to Dundalk DkIT on a daily basis.

It was discussed that students who apply for school bus tickets through the School Transport Scheme may or may not get a bus ticket depending on their eligibility. Students who do not get a bus ticket may be considered for a concessionary bus pass for any spare seats on the school bus or may use the Local Link service.

Cllr. Gilliland suggested getting the message out to the public to make them aware that students who are not attending a local school may not get a school bus ticket and instead may get a concessionary bus pass. He said it was important to get the message out to make the public aware of the Local Link service.

Mr. Smyth suggested to the Members that they encourage members of the public to ring the Local Link office in Clones with their Eircode so that they can be informed of the transport services available to them. He advised that, if they don't have their needs met, they can report this to the National Transport Authority.

Cllr. Gilliland suggested that the Municipal District may wish to publicise the option for members of the public to contact the Local Link directly to check what transport services are available to them.

Mr. Smyth thanked the Members for allowing him the opportunity to attend the meeting to share information on the Local Link services.

**5. Consideration of Section 183, in favour of Uisce Eireann to facilitate a relocation and upgrade of Clones 98 Avenue WWPS**

Matthew Lambe, MD Co-ordinator, presented the Section 183, in favour of Uisce Eireann to facilitate a relocation and upgrade of Clones 98 Avenue WWPS for consideration.

The plot comprises part Folio MN1210F and is 673.04m<sup>2</sup>. Land is being disposed of to Uisce Eireann for the consideration of €8,500. On completion of the transaction, a temporary access licence will be granted for part Folio MN1210F.

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

**6. Consideration of Section 183, Fortview School, Newtownbutler Road, Clones.**

Brian Anon, Executive Engineer, Town Regeneration, presented the Section 183 for Fortview School, Newtownbutler Road, Clones for approval.

The property is being disposed of to The Society of St. Pius X, 12 Tivoli Terrace South Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin for the consideration of €205,000. The property will return to the ownership of Monaghan County Council if the conditions of the Section 183 are not complied with.

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

**7. Confirm the name of An Creagán, (Rocky Place), Rockcorry, Co. Monaghan**

It was noted that this proposal had been sent to the Placenames Committee (An Coiste Logainmneacha) for consideration.

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

**8. Report by Municipal District Co-Ordinator.**

**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 are substantially completed, and the undergrounding of overhead power lines will commence shortly by the utility provider.

**Clones Youth Centre**

Funding of €250k has been received for the refurbishment of Clones Youth Centre. 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 1<sup>st</sup> of April in Drum where the Preliminary Design Report outlining three route options were presented to the community. A detailed design of the preferred route will now commence and proceed on completion to Planning.

### **Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2023 Measure 2**

#### Gortnawhinny Lido

Funding of €119,560.00 has been granted for the Gortnawhinny Lido. Works are nearing completion.

### **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 detailed design team has been appointed.

#### **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 ongoing.

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**

The appointment of a civil engineering contractor is imminent, and works will be completed in Q3 for the provision of a 3x3 basketball court in Ballybay Town Park.

The detailed design for the replacement of pedestrian bridge in the town park is completed and will proceed to tender.

### **Clar 2023 Developing Community Facilities and Amenities**

#### Peace link Sensory Garden

Works are substantially completed with planting 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. This tender is now live.

### **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 preliminary site set up works have commenced.

### **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.

#### **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 be available in Q3 outlining potential design options.

<b>Project Code:</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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 are completed.
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. This project is at tender stage and it is envisaged that this works will be completed during the school holidays.
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. A letter of intent has been issued to preferred bidder.

#### **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 and topographical site surveys has been completed. The car park design will be completed in conjunction with design for the Housing Project on No3.Main St.

#### **Bank of Ireland Clones DigiHub Project – Update Report**

This project is a joint initiative between Monaghan County Council and Enterprising Monaghan. Monaghan County Council will lead on the provision of the building and delivery of the renovation

works, while Enterprising Monaghan will be responsible for the delivery of training programmes and services from the new DigiHub.

The Council has issued tenders for the appointment of a Design Team, with submissions due to close on 18th May 2026. Following this, the Council will commence the assessment of tenders with a view to appointing consultants in the coming weeks. Once appointed, the Design Team will develop a detailed design, and a Part VIII planning application will be submitted for the redevelopment of the ground floor of the Bank of Ireland building in Clones.

This initiative forms part of the wider EBR DigiHub Project, which is funded by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) under the PEACE PLUS Programme.

## **Project Components**

The project comprises two key elements:

### **1) Creation of a Mini DigiHub**

- Fit-out and refurbishment of the Bank of Ireland building in Clones
- Provision of modern digital infrastructure and facilities

### **2) Programme Delivery and Services**

A range of supports and services will be delivered, including:

- Data literacy workshops and analytics masterclasses
- Digital transformation consultancy for SMEs
- Networking events to encourage local and cross-border collaboration

Access to data processing capabilities and cloud computing resources

## **Budget**

The total allocated budget for the Clones project is **€770,354.30**, which covers:

- Capital works and building fit-out
- Digital infrastructure and equipment
- Programme delivery and staffing costs

## **Additional Project Update**

- Meath County Council has withdrawn from the wider project.
- The EBR Project Lead is currently engaging with SEUPB to agree the redistribution of funding to the remaining partner projects.

## **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.

## **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 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

## **Housing Projects update**

Ard na Greine Roslea Road Clones – This project is currently at tender stage. It is hoped that construction will commence in Q3 of this year.

3 derelict sites in Clones – 7-9 McCurtain Street are not suitable for a LA housing project. Monaghan County Council Town regeneration team are seeking to sell the properties for private development. 10 and 12 Cara Street under design development with proposal to restore existing buildings so 1 unit at 10 Cara Street and 2-3 at 12 Cara Street. It is hoped to go to construction mid-2027.

Newbliss Renewal –Part 8 planning is planned to go to the June council meeting. Tender process to follow in July 2026 with anticipated commencement on site Q4 2026.

Ballybay Old Health Centre –Part 8 Planning to be submitted end of this month, anticipated commencement in late 2026. The proposed renovation and remodelling of the Old Health Centre in Ballybay received funding approval on 11 May 2026 under the Department's new Single Approval Process, this is a significant milestone, and this is the first project nationally to get approval under the new Single Approval Process.

Maple Grove Smithboro 13 units. Works are ongoing with completion expected Q1 2027.

An tUllord Scotshouse 15 new social housing units beside newly proposed creche building. Part 8 planning to go to the June council meeting. Tender to follow in July 2026 with start on site Q4 2026.

### **Smithborough Village Community & Spatial Plan**

The appointment of a consultant for the Smithborough Village Community & Spatial strategy is imminent.

### **Ulster Final**

The Ulster final took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May. The local authority arranged for music on The Diamond and the Barry McGuigan Park. There were kids' activities and a big screen showing the match in the Barry McGuigan Park. There was significant stakeholder's engagement with The Ulster Council, Monaghan GAA, Clones GAA, Emergency Services, Monaghan County Council and landowners regarding the management of the event. I would like to put on record the executives thanks to the outdoor staff for all their hard work in the preparation and works on the day for both the Ulster Final and Semi-final. I would also like to thank Gillian Costello for all her help in organising the entertainment on the Diamond and the Barry McGuigan Park.

### **Actions Arising from Co-Ordinators Report**

The Members welcomed the Co-ordinator's report which was discussed and queries answered as follows:

- Housing Section and the Municipal District staff examined the houses on McCurtain Street, Clones. The houses are in very bad condition and are not suitable for local authority housing. It is proposed to put the houses up for sale on the open market. If there is no interest, the Council will review options.
- In relation to examining the other floors in the BOI building in Clones in view of a possible Affordable Rental Scheme, this will be brought back to the Housing Section to be examined. However, it was noted that this would result in a different funding mechanism so it may not fit in with the scheme.
- Newbliss Renewal – It was confirmed that the Contractor has been appointed
- Sand will be upgraded in the Ballybay Town Park Lido
- An update on the CCTV Scheme for Main Street, Ballybay and Ballybay Town Park will be provided at the June MD Meeting.
- No. 3 Main St Ballybay – Detail design stage end of Q3
- Market House, Ballybay – The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) funding stream is now open and an application is being prepared for funding.

### **9. Report by Municipal District Executive Engineer**

Craig Connolly, Executive Engineer, presented this report to the Members.

#### **Roads Programme**

The Ballybay – Clones Roads programme for 2026 is planned to commence on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June.

#### **2025 Restoration Maintenance Programme**

The Ballybay – Clones Surface Dressing Programme is planned to commence on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May.

#### **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. Tender documents to be issued by end of Q2 2026

### **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
- 2 Nr. 2<sup>nd</sup> Notices issued
- 2 Nr. Landowners have engaged and indicated that they will carry out works
- 16 Nr. Notices are to be follow up by end of May
- 1 Nr. Refer to Roads

### **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 are continuously out patching and is being utilised when weather is permitting.

### **Climate Adaptation**

Wall damaged at Killeevan on the R183 – Contractor commenced works at beginning of May and works are to be completed within 4 weeks

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 – Completed
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 Trial Demonstration**

The JCB Pothole Pro was demonstrated by JCB in Ballybay on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of May. There was 269m<sup>2</sup> of defective pavement that was cut, planed out, cleaned and resurfaced. The section of road that the trial took place on was the R183, Castleblayney Road, Ballybay at the entrance to the town park. There are discussions ongoing with Road Section in relation the viability of purchasing and utilizing the equipment for the future.

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

The Members welcomed the Engineer's report which was discussed and queries answered as follows:

- Low Cost Safety Initiatives are to be completed by November
- The JCB Pothole Pro is considered a good machine as it is much quicker. Ongoing discussions are taking place with the Roads Section regarding resources.
- A Pothole Strategy is currently being examined which eventually will be brought back to the SPC and the Members. Reservations regarding the JCB Pothole Pro have been noted.
- R181 Drumillard to Crossduff Strategic Improvement Projects – Land acquisitions are ongoing. An application for funding will be made at the end of the year.

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

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the MD Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2026.

## **11. CE Orders**

Executive Orders were noted by the Members

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

The Members extended a vote of congratulations to the following:

- Staff members who recently received awards for over 25 years of dedicated service to Monaghan County Council.
- Emma Scott, Tullyard, Newbliss, who was one of the top ten finalists in this year's Screwfix Trade Apprentice competition and secured a place at the national final.

## 12. AOB

Cllr. Truell referred to a recent incident at the Drumlins Park Wind Farm where a turbine at the Wind Farm suffered significant structural damage to one of its blades.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Energia for an update regarding safety concerns following this incident.

Matthew Lambe, MD Co-ordinator, noted that the Monaghan County Council AGM will take place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm.

This concluded the meeting

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
15<sup>th</sup> June, 2026