The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday July 20th @ 10 am, Clones Municipal Office.

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

Apologies: Cllr. Seamus Coyle

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

Leas-Cathaoirleach, Cllr Richard Truell, welcomed those in attendance to the July meeting.

Cllr Truell extended his sincere condolences to Frankie Murphy, Executive Engineer, Roads Section, on the recent passing of his wife, Aisling Murphy. The Members of the Municipal District joined Cllr Truell in expressing their sympathy and support to Mr Murphy and his family at this difficult time.

As a mark of respect, a minute's silence was observed.

1. **Confirmation of Minutes**
Proposed by Cllr. Flynn seconded by Cllr. Treanor & unanimously agreed.

It was unanimously agreed, to commence this meeting with agenda item No. 4 followed by item No. 5

4. Water Ways Ireland, Ulster Canal Restoration Project – Paul Rodgers Ulster Canal Lead, Peter Graham Regional Engineer & Rebecca Pennell Engineer.
Phase 3: Castle Saunderson to Clonfad
The proposed Phase 3 development from Castle Saunderson to Clonfad will include:

- Restoration of approximately 10km of canal navigation.
- Development of a new marina and slipway.
- Restoration and preservation of heritage structures.
- Construction of new road and access bridges.
- Development of approximately 9km of walking and cycling pathways.
- Provision of parking facilities and associated amenities.
- Connection to the wider navigation network, including links to Enniskillen, Limerick, Dublin and Carlow.
- Creation of animation and tourism development opportunities.

Phase 3: Progress Update and Next Steps
2025

- **Q3:** Appointment of design teams for Sections 3.1 and 3.2.
- **Q4:** Submission of planning application to Monaghan County Council for Section 3.3.
- **Q4:** Submission of land details for vesting relating to Sections 3.1 and 3.2.
- **Q4:** Completion of site investigations and ground investigations to inform the design process.

2026

- **Q2:** Procurement of design teams for Section 3.3.

- **Q2:** Receipt of planning approval for Section 3.3.
- **Q3:** Engagement with landowners regarding Sections 3.3 and 3.4.
- **Q3:** Appointment of construction team for Sections 3.1 and 3.2.

Questions and Answers
During the question-and-answer session, representatives from Waterways Ireland advised that the issue raised by Elected Members concerning land subsidence at Cusack Tyres, associated with Phase 2 of the project, is currently being addressed by the Phase 2 project team. The team is working with the original contractor, Jons, to resolve the matter. As the issue falls outside the remit of the Phase 3 team, they were unable to provide further comment. Mr Paul Rodgers confirmed that he would follow up on the matter.

Members were advised that the lifting bridges will initially be operated by Waterways Ireland. There is potential for local personnel to be trained to undertake this function in the future. The operation of the bridges will be monitored once in use, and all feedback received will be considered. The bridges will be designed as fully automated structures, ensuring flexibility for future operational arrangements.

It was also noted that coarse fishing facilities are not currently included within the proposals and would require further examination should they be considered in the future.

Members were informed that a working group is currently examining the provision of campervan facilities and amenities. Consideration may be given to having these facilities operated by a private sector provider.

The Elected Members welcomed the update and expressed their appreciation to Waterways Ireland representatives for attending and presenting at the meeting.

5. Preconstruction stage briefing on the Dromore Blueway Project – Design ID, Keith Trimble.
Members received a presentation from Design ID on the pre-construction stage of the Dromore Blueway Project.

It was noted that the following assessments and reports had been completed as part of the project development process:
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA)
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS)
- Archaeological Impact Assessment

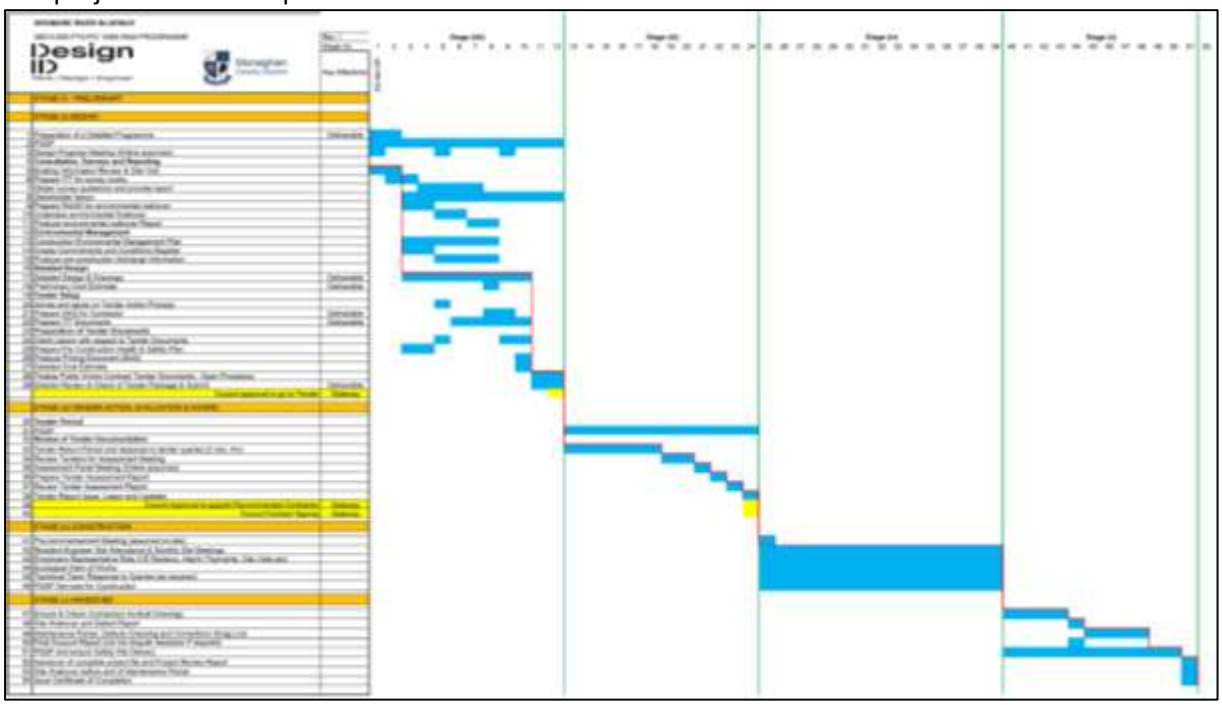
Planning permission for the project was granted by An Coimisiún Pleanála in July 2025 and includes nine planning conditions.

Design ID was appointed in April 2026 to undertake Stages II(b) to V of the project. The company provided an update on the works currently underway, including:
- Engagement with the Dromore River Blueway Committee.
- Meetings with the Blueway Partnership Project Manager to outline Phase 2 of the project.
- Completion of topographical surveys at each site location.
- Progression of the detailed design stage.
- Preparation of documentation required under the Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF) CF5 Minor Works, Building and Civil Engineering Works.

- Development of the Safety and Health Plan.
- Preparation of the Construction and Environmental Management Plan.
- Review of planning conditions and project commitments.

Design ID advised that these activities will support the advancement of the project towards the construction phase, while ensuring compliance with planning requirements, environmental commitments and health and safety obligations.

The project schedule is planned as follows:



Questions and Answers
During the question-and-answer session, Elected Members where advised slipway access will be maintained by the MD, i.e. cutting vegetation and emptying bins etc.

The Elected Members welcomed the update and expressed their appreciation to DesignID representatives for attending and presenting at the meeting.

2. Correspondence Sent
Correspondence sent was noted.

3. Correspondence Received
The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Response from Energia, regarding Drumlin Wind Farm Wind Turbine structural damage.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:
On the proposal of Cllr. Treanor and unanimously agreed the Elected Members will accept Energia's invitation to visit the Drumlins Park Wind Farm once the blade recovery works have been completed.

6. Consideration of Tyrone Gutherie Centre Memorandum of Understanding, Ballybay/Clones Municipal District.

Memorandum of Understanding has been developed between the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Monaghan County Council and Coillte in relation to the management and development of the Annaghmakerrig Lake Walk.

The MOU brings together three key stakeholders:

- Tyrone Guthrie Centre
- Monaghan County Council
- Coillte
-

This creates a collaborative framework combining land ownership, forestry expertise, and local authority support, increasing the likelihood of successful long-term management and development.
The document establishes a common objective to:

- Develop and manage the Annaghmakerrig Lake Walk.
- Enhance recreational opportunities.
- Increase public enjoyment of the natural environment.
- Deliver social and economic benefits to the wider area.

The Council has committed to:

- Seeking capital funding opportunities.
- Supporting agreed projects and works.
- Assisting with the development of recreation infrastructure.

This significantly improves the prospects for future investment in the Lake Walk.
The intention to prepare a Masterplan is particularly positive as it will:

- Identify future opportunities.
- Guide investment decisions.
- Ensure developments are coordinated.
- Help secure external funding.

The MOU supports Improved Recreation and Tourism Potential:

- Enhanced walking trails.
- Improved signage.
- Potential new visitor facilities.
- Greater public access and enjoyment.

These developments could increase visitor numbers and strengthen the area's tourism offering.

7. 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 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 this project has commenced and is scheduled to be completed in Q4 of this year.

Outdoor Recreation Schemes 2022

Dromore Blueway –

Planning Permission for this project has been granted. Detailed designs are being prepared..

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 detailed design of the preferred route is now under way and 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 substantially completed.

ORIS 2024/2025: Measure 1 & Project Development Measure Successful Projects

The Cashlan Lough Trail Predevelopment Project is currently at the tender evaluation stage. The deadline for submissions on eTenders was May 29th, 2026. Tenders were received and are now being reviewed by Greenan's Cross Restoration Committee.

It is expected that at least two of the three service stages defined in the Project Brief will be completed by the end of 2026.

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, and meetings has taken place with the Executive, design team and the Clones Development Society.

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 this month.

Community Recognition Fund 2024 Window 3
A civil engineering contractor has been appointed; works are ongoing and 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 has proceeded to tender.

Community Centre Investment Fund – Rockcorry Community Centre
The project is at tender assessment stage.

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: -
TII have provided comments on the draft Environmental Report. These comments have been forwarded to our consultants to address and update the report. On completion, the Environmental Report together with the other Deliverables will be formally submitted to TII, requesting approval to publish Part 8 application.

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 have commenced and will be completed in Q4 of this year.

Making spaces for Teenagers Clones Teen Haven: Where Stories Unfold

A contractor has been appointed, and works are ongoing and phase 1 will be substantially completed in Q3 of this year.
Additional Funding has been obtained for the site via LAWPRO for the provision of Urban Nature based Solutions for the site with the aim: -

- Manage and attenuate surface water through nature-based drainage features (e.g. rain gardens/bioretention), helping to reduce runoff and improve water quality.
- Enhance biodiversity through native planting and pollinator-friendly habitats.
- Contribute to climate resilience and provide a demonstrator project for nature-based urban design.

An application for Part VIII planning permission for Phase 2 of the project is currently being prepared.

Active Travel Scheme

Project Code:	Project Name	Comments
MN/21/0020	Low-Cost Junction Tightening - Newbliss (where R189 meets R183).	ATU design consultant has revised layout and Road safety audit completed. Updated designs were presented to MD at May meeting. Section 38 published and closes 30th June.
MN/25/0001	Bus Stop Enhancement Programme.	Sockets installed for TFI poles. NTA contacted to erect poles at locations attached. Tender Documenta published to appoint a consultant for BSEP works in Monaghan.
MN/25/0002	Ballybay Town Park Active travel link	MD have cleared overgrowth and undertook Topographical survey. An Appointed design consultant commenced an Option selection report, and this report will be available within the next month.
MN/25/0004	SRTS- Killeevan Ns	Section 38 was agreed with Elected members to proceed to construction. Tendering process has been completed, and a Contractor has been appointed. Works are planned to be completed during the school holidays. Scheme required Speed limit review on the Clones Newbliss road.
N/A	Bike Repair Stands	Bike repairs stand to be installed in Clones and Ballybay, awaiting delivery.

Teehill Depot Clones
A letter of intent has been issued to the 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. Preliminary designs for the car park have been completed.

Bank of Ireland Clones DigiHub Project – Update Report
The Bank of Ireland Clones DigiHub Project is a collaborative initiative between Monaghan County Council (MCC) and Enterprising Monaghan.

Monaghan County Council is leading the provision of the building, and the delivery of the renovation works, while Enterprising Monaghan will be responsible for delivering training programmes and support services from the new DigiHub.

The total budget allocated to the Clones DigiHub project is €770,354.30, which includes:
- Capital works and building fit-out
- Digital infrastructure and equipment
- Programme delivery and staffing costs

The tender competition for the appointment of the Design Team has now closed. Tender evaluations have been completed, and the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) bidder has been requested to provide the necessary documentation prior to appointment. This process is expected to be finalised in the coming weeks, with the design phase commencing immediately thereafter.

In parallel, Enterprising Monaghan, in partnership with Monaghan County Council, is progressing the procurement of IT equipment. The partners also intend to begin delivering training programmes in advance of the formal opening of the DigiHub by working closely with local community groups and stakeholders.

St. Tiarnach's Quarter Regeneration Project
Monaghan County Council successfully secured €664,668 in funding under Category 2 of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) for the Clones Community and Public Realm – St. Tiarnach's Quarter Regeneration Project.

The tender competition for the appointment of the Design Team has now concluded. Tender evaluations have been completed, and the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) bidder has been asked to provide the required documentation prior to formal appointment.

The project scope includes:
- Preparation of a comprehensive **Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan** for the regeneration area.
- Detailed design of a new **multi-purpose Community Hub** to be developed to the rear of the existing Gerry Arthur Stand at **St. Tiarnach's Park**.
- Design of **public realm improvements** to strengthen the links between St. Tiarnach's Park, Clones town centre, and the **PEACE Link**.
-

The appointment process is expected to be finalised in the coming weeks, following which the design phase will commence. The project represents an important step in supporting the long-term regeneration of the area and enhancing community facilities and connectivity within Clones.

CLÁR 2026

There were 33 applications received and 23 were received from groups within the Ballybay Clones MD for measure 1.

14 applications were shortlisted under CLÁR 2026 and submitted to the Department for consideration and following are in the Ballybay Clones MD.

Drumhowan GFC
Redevelopment and extension of existing GAA spectator facilities to create a disability viewing area and covered seating for elderly spectators.

Corduff GFC
Resurface and line existing rough terrain carpark to accommodate disability access and include a play/sensory area and biodiversity zone.

Éire Og
The project is designed to improve accessibility, inclusion, and comfort for all members of the community. The upgraded toilet facilities will provide safer and more accessible amenities for children, older people, and individuals with reduced mobility or additional needs, sensory garden will provide a calm and inclusive outdoor space.

O'Neill Housing Estate
This project provides additional car parking spaces at O'Neill Park housing estate, Clones, to address current capacity issues. The works include construction of new parking bays, drainage, kerbing, surfacing, and associated infrastructure improvements, with a focus on safety, accessibility, and improved traffic flow.

Laragh Tin Church
External works to develop the community facilities in Laragh Village including accessibility enhancements.

Cremartin GFC
Accessible rural community gym promoting health, wellbeing, inclusion and physical activity for all ages.

Ballybay Pearse Brothers GFC
Refurbishment of Astro Turf facility to upgrade to a more sustainable, climate-resilient amenity that meets current/future community needs.

Sean McDermotts
Fitting of acoustic insultation to the community centre roof and walls.

Rockcorry Community Childcare
External wall installation, upgrade plaster and windows to improve thermal efficiency, reduce energy costs, and enhance BER and community facility comfort.

Ballybay Town Team
Development of an urban pollinator garden with accessible steps, biodiversity planting, educational signage, seating and a solar-powered water feature.

Ballybay Old Health Centre

Part 8 Planning has been advertised, 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.

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

A Public consultation meeting for the Village plan took place Smithborough (community hall) on Tuesday 30 June at 7.00 p.m.

Architectural Commission Design Brief for Planning on Land Parcels to the rear of the Diamond, Clones heading towards O'Duffy Street.
Monaghan County Council have engaged Cooney Architects and hope to progress the development of the Clones Town back lands which is 9500m2 (0.95 hectares) of land to the rear of the diamond in Clones town centre which is left underutilized and derelict with large unkept vegetation for the most part.

Monaghan County Council need to establish the general location of infrastructure that could be accessed if the Clones back lands were redesigned with an improved access road onto O'Duffy Street, car parking facilities, potential for housing units and/or amenity/recreation facilities to enhance this town centre location.

The key deliverable from this is a High-Level Plan is illustrating the potential development outline for the Land and should include number and location of residential units that are viable.

This Plan will take the form of Drawings & a written summary which will used for wider discussion within Monaghan County Council and will be included in any Department Application for funding.

N54 Cavan Road Safety Scheme
The preferred option has been approved by TII. A tender process to procure a consultant to prepare a detailed design and tender documents for construction is currently ongoing. Members previously enquired about the new position for the 60kph speed sign. This sign will be positioned on the border side of the Clonboy Road junction, meaning that people crossing the N54 will do so within a 60kph speed zone.

Doohamlet Parochial House
Monaghan County Council have had a bid accepted for the purchase of the Doohamlet Parochial House and will be funded via the Building or Land Acquisition Measure (BLAM) with the view to turning this property into community use.

Memorandum of Understanding Annaghmakerrig Lake Walk
Memorandum of Understanding has been developed between the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Monaghan County Council and Coillte in relation to the management and development of the Annaghmakerrig Lake Walk.

The MOU brings together three key stakeholders:
- Tyrone Guthrie Centre
- Monaghan County Council
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This creates a collaborative framework combining land ownership, forestry expertise, and local authority support, increasing the likelihood of successful long-term management and development.
The document establishes a common objective to:

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The Council has committed to:

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- Assisting with the development of recreation infrastructure.

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The intention to prepare a Masterplan is particularly positive as it will:

- Identify future opportunities.
- Guide investment decisions.
- Ensure developments are coordinated.
- Help secure external funding.

The MOU supports Improved Recreation and Tourism Potential:

- Enhanced walking trails.
- Improved signage.
- Potential new visitor facilities.
- Greater public access and enjoyment.

These developments could increase visitor numbers and strengthen the area's tourism offering.

Citizen App Monaghan County Council.
Monaghan County Council are progressing the rollout of a new citizen app for County Monaghan which will provide a shared digital channel for the Council, community groups, event organisers and local businesses to promote activities and keep people informed about what is happening locally.

A key element of the rollout is ensuring that the app contains strong, relevant local content from day one. To achieve this, Monaghan County Council are engaging directly with the Town Teams, as their networks and local knowledge will be critical in identifying an initial group of active community organisations and businesses to participate in the app ahead of launch. Members of the executive met with both Ballybay and Clones Town Teams last week to progress the roll out.

Pride of Place Judging
Monaghan County Council has put forward the Ulster Canal Stores in the Community Tourism Category for the Pride of Place judging 2026. Judges will visit the Ulster Canal Stores on Tuesday the 11th of August from 2.00-3.00pm.

Elected Members welcomed this report and the progression of projects.

8. Report by Municipal District Engineer.
Craig Connolly, Executive Engineer, presented his report to the Elected Members.

2026 Roads Improvement Programme
The Ballybay – Clones Roads Improvement programme for 2026 is ongoing, there have been 5 No. roads resurfaced from the programme. Contractors are currently on leave, and resurfacing is due to re-commence on the 27th of July. A revised programme of works has been requested on the contractors return.

2026 Restoration Maintenance Programme
The Ballybay – Clones Surface Dressing Programme is currently ongoing. Approximately 80% of the roads have been completed with the remainder of roads to be completed in August.

National Roads
Funding for N54 in Smithborough Village that was approved for Emergency Pavement Scheme is currently going through procurement stage. A letter of intent has been issued with a programme of works to be provided by end of July.

Low-Cost Safety Initiatives
R188 at Abbotts, Cootehill Road – the installation of VRS and new public lighting scheme is to be tendered together. Tender documents are currently being altered and to be published by end of July. Works will be completed by end of November.

R183 Traffic Calming Measures in Doohamlet Village – Section 38 notice is still open for comments and observations. Submission will be assessed, any alterations required will be completed and it is proposed to carry out installation of traffic calming measures in August.

L2232 Pedestrian Crossing in Drum Village – the successful contractor has been appointed and works are due to commence by end of August.

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

- 40 Nr. Notices issued
- 20 Nr. Notice closed out
- 2 Nr. 2nd Notices issued
- 2 Nr. Landowners have engaged and indicated that they will carry out works
- 15 Nr. Notices are to be follow up by end of May
- 1 Nr. Refer to Roads

Patching
There is 1 crew carrying out patch repairs on local roads. Velocity Patching services have been tendered for the area and is currently going through procurement stage.

Climate Adaptation
Wall damaged at Killeevan on the R183, these works are now complete.
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 – Contractor to be appointed End June, works completed by Q4 2026
5. Lackagh – Contractor to be appointed End June, works completed by Q4 2026
6. Aghnacue – Design Consultant appointed end June, works complete 2027
7. Clare Oghill – Design Consultant appointed end June, works complete 2027
8. Corgreagh – Design Consultant appointed end June, works complete 2027

Strategic Improvement Grant

Funding has been approved for the following strategic improvement projects

1. Drumillard to Crossduff R181 Realignment (Phase 2) - €100,000
   The current funding provided is to facilitate detail design through 2026 and progress the realignment scheme to a point where CPO can commence.

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 are currently being prepared, and it has been indicated that procurement will commence in Q3 of 2026.

Anti-Dumping Initiative

The Ballybay-Clones Municipal District was successful in the funding application for 2 ADI Projects, the 2 projects are as follows:

1. Baird's Shore €5,500 – Works to secure the Baird's Shore site from unauthorised access
2. O'Neill Park, Clones €15,000 – Works to clean up pedestrian access to O'Neill Park and overgrown vegetation.

Storm Chandra Funding

An application for funding was made after Stom Chandra. The Municipal District made an application for €650,000 for drainage works, clearing vegetation from drainage channels, hydrology study, road slippages, road raising and patch repairs. The application was approved and approximately €400,000 was granted for this specific work.

Actions Arising from Engineers Report

The Elected Members welcomed this report. Following discussion; Cllr. Flynn proposed correspondence is sent to Minister for Transport Darragh O'Brien requesting a review of the current hedge-cutting policy, as overgrown hedgerows are increasingly creating road safety issues across our road network.

While the importance of protecting biodiversity is fully appreciate, the reality on the ground is that many hedges are obstructing visibility at junctions, bends, road entrances and along narrow roads. This is creating unnecessary hazards for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Road safety should be the first and foremost consideration. Greater flexibility is needed to allow hedges to be cut where visibility and public safety are being compromised.

Elected Members ask that you review the current policy to ensure a better balance is achieved between biodiversity protection and road safety.

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

9. Matters arising from previous minutes.
NA

10. Questions
Cllr. Truell will ask:

1. I am requesting that Ballybay/Clones Municipal District undertake a comprehensive review of the road safety issues in the Cremartin area in light of the ongoing concerns expressed by local residents.
   While the community appreciates the measures introduced to date and the Council's commitment to seek further funding under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme, residents remain concerned that the current road environment does not adequately reflect the volume and nature of traffic now using the route.
   I would ask that this review considers the cumulative impact of increasing traffic volumes, vehicle speeds, frequent heavy goods vehicle movements and the absence of pedestrian infrastructure. Particular attention should be given to the safety of children, families, pedestrians and cyclists who use the road on a daily basis.
   I also request that the Council engages directly with the local community as part of this assessment so that the lived experience of residents can help inform any future safety measures.
   I would appreciate if the Council could advise what further assessments or actions can be undertaken to improve road safety in Cremartin and provide an update on the proposed application for funding under the 2027 Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme.
   Answer:

   The executive met recently on site with members of the Cremartin Community Group to outline a roadmap for the installation of traffic calming measures and discussed possible funding streams for the provision of same.

2. That Ballybay/Clones Municipal District examine the condition of the bridges on the approach roads to Drum Village, with particular attention to the bridge on the L2232 just outside of Drum, known locally as the "Wooden Bridge", where the parapet wall has been damaged. I ask that the Council assess whether repair works are required in the interests of road safety and advise on the proposed timeframe for any necessary works.
   Answer:
   Engineering Staff will assess the bridge and determine what works are required. Depending on the level of work required, will determine if a outdoor staff can carry out repairs or a contractor may have to be procured.

3. That Ballybay/Clones Municipal District examine the need for additional traffic calming measures, including the installation of cushion ramps where appropriate, on the R189 approaching Newbliss Village from the Cootehill direction. I ask that the Council carry out a road safety assessment of this approach to determine whether further measures are required to reduce vehicle speeds and enhance the safety of residents, pedestrians and all road users.
   Answer:
   Engineering staff will carry out a speed survey to determine if speeding is an issue on the section of road. If speeding violations are occurring, the Traffic Calming Policy will be reviewed to determine the appropriate steps to be taken to assist in reducing speeding.

4. That Ballybay/Clones Municipal District seek specific funding from the roads department in the council and Department of Transport to undertake road safety improvement works on the R189 between Greenans Cross and Newbliss. I ask that the funding application include the

realignment of hazardous bends and other appropriate engineering measures to improve visibility, enhance road safety and make this section of road safer for all road users.
Answer:
Funding for schemes of this type, size and nature is provide by the Strategic Improvement Grant. The R189 between Greenan's Cross and Newbliss will be included on the list for consideration for future works.

5. To ask Ballybay/Clones Municipal District to provide an update on when the proposed safety barrier and public lighting will be installed at Erica's Fairy Forest on the R188 approaching Cootehill. I also ask that the Municipal District outline the current status of the project and the anticipated timeframe for the completion of these important road safety works.
Answer:
It was decided to combine the tender for the VRS and new public lighting scheme and the tender is due to be published by end of July. We are obliged to have works completed by the end of November.

11. CE Orders
Noted

12. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.
The Elected Members extended their condolences to Frankie Murphy, Executive Engineer, Roads Section on the loss of his wife Aisling Murphy.

13. AOB.
Cllr Treanor raised an issue that had been brought to his attention regarding Vodafone Ireland's policy on the reinstatement of telephone services following disconnection. He advised that, even where an account has been fully brought up to date and all outstanding charges have been paid, customers may still be required to wait up to two weeks before their phone service is restored. Cllr Treanor noted that a constituent within the Municipal District is currently experiencing this situation.

Cllr Treanor proposed that Vodafone Ireland be contacted to request a review of its policy regarding the reinstatement of telephone services following disconnection, with a view to reducing delays for customers whose accounts have been regularised.

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

Meeting concluded.

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed _____
Meetings Administrator
Date, September 21st, 2026