

**Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin**



**The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council**

Minutes of proceedings of December 2016 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Gate Lodge, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan on Tuesday 20th December 2016 at 11.30pm

Present: - Mayor Campbell presided.

CLRs Colm Carthy, Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Pdraig McNally, P J O'Hanlon.

In attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services; Frances Matthews, Co-ordinator; John Lennon, District Engineer, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer; Deirdre Power, Assistant Staff Officer. Michael Fisher Northern, Standard.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the November 2016 monthly meeting

On the proposal of Cllr. Crowe and seconded by Cllr McNally the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 24th November 2016 were adopted .

2. Matters arising

Replies to queries:

- Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that meeting has been arranged to discuss the further use of the Bose Factory. Minister has given firm commitment that she will meet the delegation early in 2017.
- Cllr. Keelan stated that he has had meetings with large company in this region over the past 18 months and is hopeful that a serious effort is being made to come to an arrangement to purchase the Bose site.
- Cllr. McNally enquired on the up-to-date situation regarding the Convent Wall. Mr. Clifford stated that notice has been served. Consultation is ongoing with the owners of the wall.
- Cllr. Keelan made an enquiry regarding the junction at Corduff/Shercock Road. The Engineer stated that he had carried out a survey on the road and would engage with local landowner with a view to carrying out works at the junction.
- Cllr. Carthy thanked the Road Staff for carrying out temporary measures to ensure that the Aghalile Road, Drumconrath road was made safe.
- Cllr. Carthy request that speed limit committee look at changing the speed at the Drumconrath Road to 50KPH.
- Cllr. Keelan requested that speed limit sign to be erected at Sean Carraig.
- Cllr. Campbell requested that Council look at drop at Longfield Road. Engineer stated that more works will be carried out in 2017.
- Cllr. McNally expressed disappointment at level of work done on N2 outside Ardee, considering the amount of time and inconvenience caused by the closure.

- Cllr. McNally requested that immediate attention be given to request meeting with delegates from Louth Co. Council to discuss plans for new interchange road. Mr. Clifford stated that there are traffic counters in place to look at this request, and stated that this issue be raised at County Council level. Following a discussion Cllr. McNally made the following proposal seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon:

“That Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD request Monaghan Co. Council Road Section to ask Louth Co. Council what plans/drawings they have to link the Carrickmacross Road to the M1 motorway so as to allow Monaghan Co. Council to lobby the TII for funding for same.”

3. Correspondence

- *Letter from Office of Taoiseach:*

Cllr. O’Hanlon welcomed response and stated that there was a lot more detail in the letter. The members commended the Business Breakfast hosted by LEO regarding issue and concerns in Monaghan county regarding Brexit. It was agreed to bring the representatives from both Chambers to an official meeting of the MD in early 2017. Cllr. Carthy made the following proposal which was seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon:

“That this MD calls on all the state agencies to give more support to our business community/enterprise to help them to deal with the Brexit issue. These include IDA, Enterprise Ireland and our local LCDC.”

- *Letter from Paul Markey, South Monaghan Arts:*

Cllr. Carthy requested that this group be consulted in the new Market Building in Carrickmacross and any future developments in the district. Cllr. McNally suggested that the public be asked to give their ideas regarding redevelopment of the Market Square and any other areas of the District.

4. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

Issues Raised/Discussed

- Cllr. Carthy was advised that the new information sign at the Market Square was put in place through Bord Failte and it had to be placed near the number one tourist attraction, ie Carrickmacross Lace.
- Mr. Clifford stated that Part 8 planning had been attained for the Market Square. He said that an additional €50,000 has been received, which means that there is now €150,000 available and it is envisioned of having the building progressed in 2017. It was agreed to re-circulate the plans on the building to the members.

Cllr. Carthy requested that the camera club be facilitated as they were currently housed in the old Library building. Cllr. McNally made the following proposal which was seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon:

“That this MD seek assistance to put in place a Community based audit of facilities in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney to establish what is available in order to assist organizations to find adequate space for their needs”.

5. Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for December 2016 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. **When is it envisaged extended opening hours to the Carrickmacross Library will be rolled out?**

Response: This is a matter for Monaghan Co. Council.

This question has been forwarded to Monaghan Council’s Library Department for a response.

2. **When is construction work expected to start on the redesign of the old Library, Market Square regarding the new Lace Gallery and Craft shop for Carrickmacross?**

Response: This MD has received a grant of €100,000 from the REDZ initiative for this project and it would be anticipated works could commence in 2017.

3. Are there any plans in place to look at doing any upgrade works to historical buildings in Carrickmacross like the old Railway Station or the Bridewell building; are these buildings in public ownership or privately owned?

Response: Both properties are in private ownership.

4. Will this MD add a speed ramp and safety measures (lights etc) to the school crossing on Farney street at the entry way to St Josephs National School, Carrickmacross to ensure reduced speed of vehicles. If needed, could this council carry out a safety assessment of this crossing in order to draw down appropriate funding?

Response:

A review will be carried out by the Municipal District Engineering staff at the school crossing on Farney Street in the coming weeks. The Municipal District employs a school warden to man this crossing during school periods.

5. Has this MD requested a safety review on the Dundalk road, Carrickmacross (across from Pearse Avenue) with a view to applying for funding to provide a pedestrian crossing?

Response:

A low Cost safety improvement application has been made to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for funding for a new pedestrian crossing at this location. No decision regarding the application has been received by the Municipal District Office.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for December 2016 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. In relation to the provision of extra traffic calming and safety measures adjacent to a number of schools in this area including, Corduff , Blackstaff, Inniskeen , Lisdoonan , and Ballaghnamearn national schools, what is the up to date position in relation to the type of works to be carried out and time scale for these works to commence?

Response:

The Municipal District made an application to the Department Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs under the Clar programme, Measure 1, Safety package for Schools/Community Facilities. Municipal District has been approved for new pedestrian crossings at Corduff and Lisdoonan and remarking of existing road markings at Blackstaff and Inniskeen. These works will be completed in early 2017.

7. In relation to Inniskeen what is the up to date position in relation to the provision of safe walking routes throughout the village, has a master plan been prepared as discussed with local residents, community groups, and elected members, with a view to drawing down funding from the leader programme or newly Opened Clar programme?

Response:

The MD engineering staff plans to carry out a review of Inniskeen Village in early 2017 to prepare preliminary draft linkage plans for public consultation in anticipation of future funding.

The Town & Village Renewal Scheme application made to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs has been approved on the 14th of November. The MD will commence work in early 2017.

8. Given that the vast majority of residents have welcomed the provision of a number of speed ramps that have been put in place in Inniskeen village, will this council consider putting in place two more, one adjacent to Dunard estate, and one on the Carrickmacross approach adjacent to St Daighs Tce as requested, given that speeding traffic is still a problem in the village?

Response:

A safety audit will be carried out by the Municipal District to determine the need for additional work at these locations. Speed ramps will only be considered when all other speed calming solutions have been exhausted.

9. When will this Council commence the 2017 road programme, how many roads are on the programme for full reconstruction? How many roads in this MD area are in need of full reconstruction?

Response:

The Municipal District is currently preparing the road programme for 2017. The number of roads on the programme will be dependent on the level of funding received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. Approximately 70 km of the local network and 10km of Regional network requires overlaying. A major percentage of the 2017 Restoration Improvement Grant will be needed to address the deficiencies that have been identified on the Regional network, reducing the funding for local roads.

Questions raised by Cllr. Padraig McNally for December 2016 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

10. Has this MD examined road no. LT64011 at Drumganny, Carrickmacross, as requested at our last meeting? This road was flooded for several weeks last winter and needs urgent attention to prevent this happening again.

Response:

The MD Office has inspected the LT 64011. The severe weather damage funding received in 2016 was spent on 26 projects throughout the MD. It is unlikely that there will be severe damage funding available in 2017.

11. Has this MD carried out the necessary cleaning of drains and pipes following the raising of the LP04000 (Aghalile Road) as there are concerns that the raising of this road will cause increased flooding on the eastern side of the road?

Response:

The MD Office can confirm that jetting and cleaning of the 450mm pipe that crosses under Aghalile road has been completed.

12. Will this MD immediately carry out an examination of a public light just beyond Magees pub in Inniskeen which was damaged some time ago and never replaced or repaired? This light had been installed many years previously.

Response:

The electricity supplying the public light was via an overhead cable through mature trees. The supply cable has been severed. The ESB will not supply the light via the old arrangement and required a new duct from the existing public light in Inniskeen Village and a new lighting column and head. There is major cost associated with laying a duct from the village and therefore is subject to funding and agreement with the elected members.

13. Has this MD received any correspondence regarding a meeting with Louth County Council to discuss their plans to link the Carrickmacross road into Dundalk to the M1 motorway? This is necessary in order to stop heavy traffic travelling the Blackstaff road although I understand Gypsum Industries has requested their hauliers bringing material from Greenore Port to the Plant outside Kingscourt to immediately stop using the Blackstaff road. However, this is gesture of good faith and will not stop other heavy vehicles using the road past Blackstaff School. In addition to this, it is necessary to have the above interchange developed to allow all industry in South Monaghan as well as most of Cavan, to gain east access to Greenore and Warrenpoint ports.

Response:

A meeting was held between the Road Section of Monaghan County Council and Louth County Council. It was agreed that a traffic counter be installed on the Blackstaff and Dundalk roads to determine volume, type and speed of vehicles using these roads. The Blackstaff Road has been completed and Dundalk Road will be completed in January 2017. (Outside the Christmas period) When this information is downloaded and tabulated another meeting with Louth County Council will be sought.

6. Notice of Motions

The following notice of motion was proposed by Cllr. McNally seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon and unanimously agreed:-

“That this MD agrees to commit the necessary funding to resurface the main road through Inniskeen Village i.e. from old football field entrance to beyond the Kavanagh Centre as this road is in a deplorable and dangerous condition.”

Following a discussion on the issue regarding roads funding, Cllr. O'Hanlon made the following proposal which was seconded by Cllr. McNally:

“That we meet the Minister Heather Humphries as a matter of urgency as a result of the serious situation in relation to funding for local and regional roads”.

7. Director of Services Orders

Director of Services Orders No's 67/2016 to 71/2016 attached to the Agenda were noted.

8. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:

People of Germany on heinous act recently committed in Berlin. Cllr. O'Hanlon issued following proposal:

"That a letter be sent to the German Ambassador on the recent atrocity that has taken place in Berlin. That this Municipal District offers our sincere sympathies to the people of Germany"

Emma Kellett on the death of her husband Pauric.

Monica Woods and family on the death of Anthony Woods.

Mary Devlin Woods on the death of Noel Woods.

Colm & Clare McCaffery on the death of their son Paddy.

Hughie Martin and Family on the death of Bridget Martin.

9. Any Other Business

- The decision of An Bord Pleanala will be posted on their website regarding the Eirgrid Planning permission.
- Cllr. Carthy requested that footpaths at Highfield, St Joseph's Terrace and footpaths outside Barford Meats be looked at as they are in a poor condition.
- Cllr. McNally requested that a sign at Lough Egish outside mill be looked at a matter of urgency for replacement.
- Cllr. O'Hanlon requested that the Council to continue to be vigilant regarding poor roads over the course of the Christmas season.
- Meeting in Gate Lodge on Monday the 23rd of January at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting concluded at 1:00p.m.

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: 23rd January, 2017.