

Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile na Lorgan
Comhairle Contae Mhúineacháin



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of May 2015 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Office, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Monaghan on Monday 25th May 2015 @ 10.00am.

Present: - Mayor Jackie Crowe, Cllrs Aidan Campbell, Noel Keelan, PJ O Hanlon, Padraic McNally,

Also in attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Cathal Flynn, Co-ordinator, Amanda Murray, Teresa McGuirk.

Press: - Michael Fisher, Northern Standard. Joe McCabe, Carrick Gazette

Apologies: - Cllr Colm Carthy, John Lennon

At the outset members and staff extended their congratulations to Cllr Carthy on his marriage last week to Ms Denise Connolly.

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of April 2015 meeting

On the proposal of Cllr McNally and seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon the minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2015 were adopted.

2. Matters arising

None

3. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from

- Minister Humphreys – forward correspondence from Minister for Skills, Research & Innovation regarding school transport

- NRA – regarding safety improvement works on the N2 between Castleblayney and Ardee
 - Following a discussion Cllr McNally asked that details of the number of fatal and not fatal accidents on this road be sought. In reply Mr Flynn agreed to seek full statistics from the Roads Section for the next meeting.
 - In reply to a query from Cllr Keelan regarding an application for a shadow lane at the Tullyvaragh Junction Mr Flynn explained that a report was expected from the NRA which should identify the Tullyvaragh Junction
 - Minister Humphreys and Private Secretary for the Minister for Justice and Equality regarding Government approval and legal drafting of the Gambling Control Bill.
 - Cllr McNally asked that we write again to the Private Secretary seeking a timescale for enactment of the bill?
- Office of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation – reply re Bose Factory premises
- Dublin City Council – acknowledge Notice of Motion from March meeting re not selling factories provided by IDA.
- Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources – acknowledge letter re post codes
- Department of Environment, Community and Local Government – compensation for farmers near water sources.
- Carrickmacross Festival Committee – request permission to hold festival
 - Cllr Keelan proposed the approval of request. This was seconded Cllr Crowe and agreed by all.
- Office of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation – acknowledge receipt re Action for Jobs meeting

During a discussion regarding roads funding and the possibility of school buses been taken off the roads at short notice, Cllr O’Hanlon proposed the following Notice of Motion. This was seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all.

“That the Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney calls on An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD to clarify the situation in relation to school buses taking children to school. Is he aware of the threat of school buses being taken off the roads? If so can he talk directly to the Minister in the context of the allocation of €7.1million for local and regional roads, the lowest in the last 12 years”.

Additional Correspondence received from

- Seamus McEneaney – seeking permission to run a Country Music Festival in the Fiddlers car park on 30th July to 3 August 2015.
 - Cllr Keelan proposed that members approve the request subject to the receipt of confirmation from the organiser that he has met with and obtained the consent of local residents for the festival. This was seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon and agreed.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Arts, Culture and Gaeltacht – unable to attend meeting and forwarding information on to Minister of State, Damien English TD.
 - During a discussion the following Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr O’Hanlon seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all.
 - *“That the Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney calls on local TD’s and the Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys TD to meet the six local District Members at our next meeting or at a time of their choice in relation to the issue of road funding of €7.1m million for our local and regional roads and also the up to date situation in connection with the Bose workers and factory”.*

- *With regard to reports that the Job Seekers Allowance would be affected if the Bose workers undertake training courses to improve their skills, Cllr McNally asked that this be checked out with the Department of Social Welfare.*
- In supporting the motion Cllr Keelan requested an estimate of what funding would be required to bring the roads up to an acceptable standard be compiled in preparation for the meeting.

4. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

Review of works – issues raised by members

Cllr Campbell

- Welcomed the Spring Clean on N2 recently
- Asked that word is spread through the media - disgrace the amount of rubbish collected. Need to do more to promote awareness
- Welcomed the provision of toilets in Muckno and the barriers on bypass

Cllr McNally

- Asked that the new MUGA and skate park be opened as soon as possible
- Welcomed the junction safety works at Essexford
- Asked if the council would consider reviewing the junction to give the right of way to Inniskeen traffic.
- Welcomed the new barriers on the bypass and asked that going fwd any new roads designs would include any barriers to lay-bys etc as the current barriers should have been erected as part of the bypass construction

Cllr Keelan

- Welcomed the Spring clean on the N2
- Commended staff on the works taken place at Essexford
- Asked that surfacing would take place earlier rather than later
- Welcomed framework document for Inniskeen

Cllr O’Hanlon

- Asked if the velocity patcher would be available to the district during May June. In reply Mr Flynn stated that it will be in the district and used as required
- Asked what the delay was in delivering the Roads Programme. In reply Mr Flynn stated the contract documents were nearing completion –works expected to be carried out in July

5. Consideration of Taking in Charge of Cluain Alainn, Carrickmacross

Cllr McNally proposed that Cluain Alainn be taken in charge by the Council. This was seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon.

6. Set Date for AGM

It was agreed to hold the Annual General Meeting on Monday 29th June @ 5pm in the Civic Offices. It was also agreed to hold the June monthly meeting on this date immediately following the AGM.

7. Notices of Motion

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr McNally and seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon and agreed by all.

“That Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD in conjunction with both Tidy Towns Committees, develop a Garden of Remembrance in both Carrickmacross and Castleblayney in memory of those who died during and following the 1916 rising”.

Following approval of the motion, it was agreed that the Municipal District would liaise with both Tidy Towns Committees to agree a sight in each town and to progress the project.

Due to the absence of Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the following Notice of Motion be resubmitted for the June Municipal Meeting.

“That this Municipal District seeks to stop the walking of dangerous dogs throughout the urban areas of Carrickmacross and Castleblayney town without a leash and muscel. We call on dog owners to be aware of the dangers posed by certain dogs and the need to be safety conscious”.

8. Questions

The following questions were asked by Cllr McNally

1. When is it expected that Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD will have a master plan drawn up for Inniskeen Village?

Response – the Municipal District Office is presently procuring consulting engineering services to prepare a framework for the development of footpaths in Inniskeen Village. Following the review of submissions in June 2015, the appointed consultant will prepare the framework for presentation to the members in September 2015

2. When will the speed limit be extended on the old Castleblayney Road out of Carrickmacross as promised earlier this year?

Response: The Speed Limit Committee agreed to extend the speed limit on LS8510 in 2014. However, the County Council never adopted or ratified the speed limit committee’s recommendation. In the interim, the Department of Transport issued ‘Guidelines for the Setting and Management of Speed Limits in Ireland in 2015’. The previous guidelines are now revoked. Monaghan County Council sought clarification on how ‘pending proposals’ (including the old Castleblayney Road) are to be addressed under the new Guidelines. A reply is awaited from the Department of Transport.

3. (a) What plans has Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD have to avail of Government funding for the building of Local Authority houses in both towns?

Response: Monaghan County Council has recently received preliminary Departmental approval of a €1m budget to construct houses on local authority owned land in Castleblayney. Monaghan County Council is also seeking Departmental approval for the construction of houses in Carrickmacross.

Monaghan County Council also hopes to renovate five derelict OPD’s in Oliver Plunkett Park and return them to use by early 2016. Approved Housing Bodies are also contributing to the provision of social housing in the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District: Castleblayney Care Association will complete 10 no. houses and an 8-bedroom Group Home for people with disabilities at Drumillard in mid 2015. Respond Housing Association has tendered the construction of a 7-bedroom Group Home for people with disabilities; the tender return date is 12 June 2015. Cluid Housing Association will provide 9 houses under a Capital Advance Leasing Facility in Castleblayney to be completed in early 2016 and in the near future North & East Housing Association hopes to proceed with a significant Capital Advance Leasing Facility housing project in Carrickmacross. Three house purchases and renovations are also in progress in conjunction with Approved Housing Bodies and it is hoped that a number of house purchases will also be approved through the Council’s own acquisition programme.

(b) What land has the Council in its ownership, that will allow housing development or does it intend to purchase same?

Response: Monaghan County Council has limited suitable housing development land in its ownership. The Council does intend to purchase land for housing development and has made a number of offers for sites.

4. Has this Municipal District made any progress in obtaining funding for the redevelopment of our old Fire Station/Council Office at Market Square, Carrickmacross?

Response: Part 8 Planning for the Market Square re-development will be on the agenda for the June meeting of the County Council. Funding programmes under INTERREG have just opened – the market house redevelopment is not eligible under INTERREG. Market building funding opportunities may be available under the PEACE and LEADER programmes, expected re-open before year-end.

5. Is this Council satisfied that the remaining trees adjacent to Shirley House Lane, Carrickmacross are safe for all road users?

Response: The trees adjacent to Shirley House lane were felled by the owners on Wednesday 20th May 2015

The following questions were submitted by Cllr Carthy

1. Will the Municipal District Council change the time setting on the traffic lights (pedestrian crossing) on Main Street in Carrickmacross to allow for a slightly longer waiting time for pedestrians (as current waiting time to cross is too short)? Pedestrians have been known to press the button and cross immediately as the lights turn amber straight away

Response: The Municipal District office will review the settings on the pedestrian crossing on Main Street. The pedestrian waiting time will be reprogrammed accordingly.

2. Will the Council consider adding a ramp to Farney Street (before the entrance to St Joseph's Terrace) to give extra safety to children crossing to attend school? School buses park here in the morning and evening and block line of sight for those crossing

Response: The Municipal District office will carry out a road safety audit at this location on Farney Street to determine the need for a speed ramp. The recommendations of the Road Safety Audit will be implemented accordingly.

3. Will the Council add the resurfacing of the road to St Macartan's Villas to their list of urban improvement works in the near future due to the poor condition it is currently in?

Response: The Municipal District Office will include the reinstatement of St Macartan's Villas to their list of urban improvement works proposed for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney.

4. What plans have the council in relation to relieving the flooding problems in:

- a. Derrylavin and Dromgowen, Carrickmacross?
- b. Aghaile Road, Carrickmacross?

Response: the Municipal District Office will request a meeting with the Office of Public Works with a view to highlighting and resolving the above flooding issues. Applications under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works programme will be made to the OPW, if appropriate, in the coming months.

The following questions were asked by Cllr O'Hanlon

1. When will the work start on the continuation of the tar macadam path at Cloughvalley Park leading to the footpath past the tennis court?

Response: A new footpath adjacent to the new MUGA will be constructed in June/July 2015.

2. In relation to the safety measures outside Emmet Park on the Ballybay Road, when is it expected that these works will start?

Response: A number of new warning signs were erected on the approach road to Emmet Park. New warning road markings are also programmed to address the safety concerns on the approach to the facility.

The following questions were asked by Cllr Keelan

1. In relation to serious flooding that has occurred around the area in recent years, has this council applied for funding from the Department to have these issues addressed, including the Inniskeen village area adjacent to the Pitch & Putt course and also to protect the homes of local residents?

Response – The National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme is currently producing draft flood mapping. The OPW is the lead agency for flood risk management in Ireland and is the national competent authority for the EU Floods Directive. Public Consultation on the flood risk mapping was held in Carrickmacross Civic Offices in April 2015. Inniskeen is a flood risk area. Flood risk maps and flood hazard maps were drawn up as presented in Carrickmacross Civic Offices in 2015. Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) will be developed by the OPW by 2016. FRMPs will include measures in relation to flood prevention, protection and preparedness. Emergency response to flooding, recovery from flooding and incorporating lessons learned will be important elements of the FRMPs. Issues such as climate change, land use practices and future development will also be addressed in the FRMPs. The public will have a right to access the CFRAM programme information and to have their say in the development of FRMPs.

2. In relation to the Council's annual hedge cutting programme, is there a contractor in place and when will work commence??

Response: The Municipal District office have accepted the tender of Rennick's Sign Manufacturing, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15 to complete the 2015 hedge cutting programme in the district. Work will commence in July.

3. In relation to traffic calming and other safety measures that have been requested adjacent to a number of schools in the area, including Blackstaff, Drumgossatt, Lisdoonan and St Daigh's National School in Inniskeen, when is it hoped to carry out works at these locations in the interest of road safety?

Response: Drumgossatt National School has been approved for €20,000 under a Low Cost Safety scheme; these works will be completed in the summer. An application was also made for similar road safety proposals in Inniskeen Village to the Department. The Inniskeen proposals were not approved for funding under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme. The Municipal District will consider Cllr Keelan implementing minor proposals for Blackstaff and Lisdoonan National Schools in 2015.

4. In relation to a roadway at Killanny, (LT 37013) that is impassable and has been for some considerable time, as discussed with members of this Council, can this council confirm a date when works will commence?

Response: Works are scheduled to commence in June 2015.

5. In relation to the purchase of goods and services by this local Municipal District Council, what discretion has our officials in terms of buying goods and services locally?

Response: The procurement of goods and services for all public service bodies are governed by detailed procurement procedures. All Staff are obliged to follow the regulations, Department Circulars and guidelines contained therein in particular:

- European Communities (Award of Public Authorities' Contracts) Regulations 2006
- EU Directive 2004/18/EC
- EU Directive 2007/66/EC Remedies Directive
- Public Procurement Guidelines – NPPU (National Public Procurement Policy Unit) 2004

The responsibility for the procurement of some goods and services across the public sector has also been assigned to the OPW National Procurement Service.

There are limited discretionary powers to source services locally for low and medium value purchases, where the market can provide the goods or services locally at competitive rates.

9. Director of Services Orders

30/2015 NC Plant Hire, PSCS – Lough Muckno, Castleblayney

31/2015 Appoint Wells & O'Carroll – Purchase Lands at Lurgans from Nancy McHugh

32/2015 Appoint Wells & O'Carroll – Purchase lands at Lurgans from Augustine McMahon

10. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

The following votes of sympathy were passed. A minutes silence was observed with all present standing.

- Noleen & Danny Quigley on the death of Noleen's father Patrick McArdle
- Margaret Mills & Family on the death of her husband John Mills
- Pat Drury & Family on the death of his mother Elizabeth Drury.

11. Any Other Business

Details of allocations to groups under the Community Grants 2015 for the district were circulated to members. Cllr McNally proposed the adoption of the grants. This was seconded by Cllr Crowe and agreed by all.

It was further agreed to hold an event to present all cheques at 7pm on Monday 29th June 2015 in the Civic Offices, Carrickmacross.

Cllr Campbell

- Asked that members of the Municipal District would meet a Twinning delegation from Marseillan, France in the Civic Offices on Friday 5th June at 3pm.
- Requested an update on flooding problem at Lakeview Castleblayney for the next meeting

Cllr Keelan

- Proposed the following Notice of Motion. This was seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all
 - *"That the Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney writes to our local Minister Heather Humphreys Td and to all the Oireachtas members for the constituency and An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD requesting that they demand Eirgrid to suspend all works on the North South Interconnector until such time as all options are explored including the undergrounding of their project as is the case in the Grid West and Grid Link projects".*

Cllr McNally

- Asked that the Eirgrid application be kept at the top of our agenda
- Replied to recent report in the local press in which he had been criticized by a local member of the Oireachtas

- Asked that dangerous paving outside the Courthouse in Carrickmacross be repaired as a matter of urgency
- Wished the worker from Bose well in this week their last week of employment and asked that pressure be kept on to find a replacement industry for the premises

Cllr O'Hanlon

- Supported Cllr McNally's reply to the recent press report asking what Deputy Conlon has he done to seek additional funding and how often had he raised the issues.
- Asked if anything is being done to address the very bad bend on Donaghmoyne Road (near the football field)

This concluded the business of the meeting at 11.45 am.

Next month's meeting – Rescheduled for Monday 29th June 2015.

Cathaoirleach.

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____