

Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile na Lorgan  
Comharile Cantae Mhunieachain



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney  
Monaghan County Council

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**Minutes of proceedings of the monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District held in Carrickmacross Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014 @ 10:00am.**

Present: - Cllrs. Jackie Crowe, Aidan Campbell, Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan, PJ O’Hanlon,

Also in attendance:- Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Cathal Flynn, Co-ordinator, Frances Matthews, Amanda Murray, Teresa McGuirk, John Murray, Head of Finance and Paul Treanor, Head of IT

Press: - Veronica Corr, the Northern Standard. Joe McCabe, Carrickmacross Gazette

Apologies:- Cllr Padraic McNally, John Lennon,

Chairman Cllr Crowe opened the meeting, welcomed all and agreed with the members to receive the presentation from Mr Treanor at the outset.

Presentation on Broadband by Paul Treanor

Mr Treanor gave a detailed breakdown of the current situation in the county regarding the provision of broadband, covering items including

- Statistics on the use/ownership of computers, tablets and smart phones
- The number of internet connections
- Limitations posed by the infrastructure/cable network
- High costs involved
- What is currently available
- Metropolitan Area Networks (MAN)
- Rural + Mobile Broadband
- The mapping of the location of phone masts across the county – some ‘black spots’ with poor coverage have no choice but to seek mobile broadband
- The importance/ benefit of Project Kelvin to the county
- Future development
- Where to go from here on
  - Liaise with telecoms providers
  - Continue the work with IT Forum
  - Meet businesses and assess needs
  - Lobby

Following the presentation members discussed

- The capability of the cable network in rural area to carry the fibre optic cable
- Provision of proper broadband coverage in rural areas
- Time line for the various supply companies to provide a full and proper service
- The need to lobby local TD's to ensure the provision of broadband services for all

In conclusion Cllr O'Hanlon proposed that the Council request the IT Forum to prepare a Business Plan which identified need and costs associated with the provision of broadband in the area along with the possibility of bringing Project Kelvin to Carrickmacross. This was agreed.

- **Confirmation of the Minutes of September 2014 meeting**

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014 were adopted.

- **Matters arising**

Cllr Keelan expressed concerns regarding

- The reduced percentage of hedge cutting undertaken to date requesting that the hedge cutting programme be reviewed for 2015
- The unsatisfactory condition roads were left in by others following road openings, requesting that the Coordinator liaise with Engineering Staff to review same to ensure all are redone to satisfactory standard.

Cllr O'Hanlon

- Acknowledged that the Dental Service had been reinstated in Carrickmacross;
- Requested that pressure be applied to the relevant parties to provide such a service in Castleblayney.
- Proposed that a letter in this regard be issued to the HSE and copied to Local TD's and the Minister for Health. This was seconded by Cllr Crowe

- **Correspondence**

- A number of replies were received regarding the Dental Services
- Request to attend next Municipal District meeting received from Castleblayney Arts & Community Resource Centre (Iontas)
- Request for continuation of funding towards Carrickmacross Festival received from Festival Committee.
- Acknowledgement of help and support given by Local Authority was received from
  - Carrickmacross Vintage Club
  - Castleblayney Fair Day Committee. Special thanks were extended to Staff member Paul Mulligan in particular
- A number of replies were received with regard to Notice of Motion from the Municipal District regarding protected structures
- Reply received from the Office of Public Works regarding the proposed use of Corrinshigagh Garda Station
- Request to make a presentation to the members of the District was received from Muckno Mania Festival Committee
- Request for financial support was received from Castleblayney Tidy Towns Committee

During a discussion which followed it was suggested that a subcommittee to be set up to review all applications for funding. All recommendations should then to be brought to Municipal District meeting for approval. The request from Carrickmacross Festival Committee for the same allocation as last year is a matter for the County Council.

Following a proposal from Cllr Campbell that a reception be held for all the Tidy Towns Groups in the district, it was agreed that all proposed civic receptions be coordinated. It was further agreed to hold the Civic Reception in December.

It was also agreed to invite Castleblayney Arts & Community Resource Centre (Iontas) and the Muckno Mania Festival Committee to make their presentations at the November meeting.

- Short presentations from each group to commence at 10am
- Monthly meeting to commence at 11am

- **Consideration of Co-Ordinators Monthly Report**

Members thanked the Coordinator for his monthly reports stating that it was very useful to have a schedule of proposed works for the coming months.

Following a query from Cllr Carthy regarding the selection of the company to undertake the MUGA works and why it went outside the county, Mr Flynn explained the tender process involved; only one company from Monaghan had submitted a proposal which had been unsuccessful.

In reply to Cllr Keelan's query regarding a cycle strategy for the county, Mr Flynn explained that a brief to appoint a consultant to develop a strategy for the county had yet to be prepared.

Cllr O'Hanlon

- Welcomed the survey in relation to Magheross Church the development of which would be a great asset to tourism in the town.
- Proposed that we write to the Roads Section of the council expressing members concerns with the constant closure of the Castleblayney Bypass.

Cllr Crowe in reply requested that the Council look to alternatives routes to diverting traffic rather than through Castleblayney town. These diversions were causing serious disruptions and delays.

- **Consideration of members to sit on the following committees**

- a. **Carrickmacross Youth Café Committee**
- b. **Carrickmacross Festival Committee**

Cllr Keelan proposed Cllr Colm Carthy to sit on both committees. This was seconded by Cllr Crowe and agreed by all.

- **Budget 2015**

Head of Finance, John Murray gave an overview of the proposed budget for 2015. That at a full meeting of Monaghan County Council members agreed not to make a change to the Local Property Tax resulting in an amount of approximately €200,000 being made available to each Municipal District as Discretionary Funding (subject to the adoption of same by the full council).

- The Road Grants block allocation to towns would be in the same proportion as that available to the towns in 2014.
- The remainder would be allocated in relation to road length in the district.
- The allocation of roads own resources will be based on a preset formula
- There would be no change to the commercial rate for 2015
- Any unspent discretionary funding remaining at the yearend can it be set aside into further years in order to build up a reserve for bigger projects

Cllr Carthy expressed his concerns that the reduction in commercial rates of 7% was flagged prior to the abolition of the Town Councils and which was to be aligned with the county council over time now seems not to be forthcoming. It would be 2016 before there would be a reduction in rates.

Stating that funds collected from the LPT had been sent to Irish Water, Cllr O'Hanlon proposed that we write to the Department in relation to the rates as being unfair and unacceptable.

Cllr O'Hanlon further proposed that due to the huge reduction of approximately 60% in roads funding over the last number of years a letter be sent to the Minister requesting an increase in roads funding for the coming year. Cllr Crowe seconded this proposal.

- **Notices of Motion**

None

- **Questions**

**The following questions were asked by Cllr. Colm Carthy:**

- *Q1 - Will the council consider:*

- a) *Adding speed ramps to Foxfield Housing estate due to the high level of traffic that uses it and the large number of children that reside there.*

Response:

The Municipal District Office will review the options available to reduce driving speed in Foxfield Housing Estate. The available options include consideration of the introduction of a 30km/h speed limit in the residential area.

- b) *A pedestrian crossing from the entrance to Cluainn Alainn housing estate to the opposite side of the Donaghmoynne Road due to the high number of children crossing this road to get to school.*

Response

The Municipal District Office will carry out a Road Safety Audit on the Donaghmoynne Road at the entrance to the Cluainn Alainn estate to confirm the need for a crossing facility. The audit report and recommendation will be reviewed and recommendations implemented accordingly.

- *Q2 - Can the council add the following roads to the list of roads that need maintenance/repair or resurfacing in the next 12 months:*

- *Tonaneave Road, Dooagh, Magheraclone*
- *Lattinalbany, Magheraclone*
- *Lisanisk to Corcrin Road - beside Corcuillogue, Carrickmacross*

Response:

A meeting to discuss 2015 road restoration improvement programme will be arranged with the elected members in the coming weeks. The Municipal District Office will consider Cllr. Carthy's proposal in conjunction with the existing three year rolling restoration programme.

- *Q3 - In relation to Clonseady Housing Estate, Magheraclone:*

- a) *Will the council provide 2 no. Salt bins in the estate to allow residents to spread their own salt during cold weather?*

Response:

Monaghan County Council has a "Purchase a Salt Bin Scheme" which allows Local Community Groups and Businesses to prepare themselves for the winter period at a reasonable cost. Community groups, schools and businesses alike are requested to source their own salt after the first fill has been used.

- b) *Due to the high number of students in the estate having to walk to the main Carrickmacross/Kingscourt road to get their school buses, would the council be able to provide a footpath from the entrance of the estate to the main road OR provide an area at the mouth of the estate where a bus will be able to easily turn?*

Response:

The Municipal District Office will carry out an assessment on this section of road to ascertain whether a footpath or a bus turning area would be the most beneficial to the residents of Magheraclone. When the assessment has been completed, the finding of the assessment will be presented to the elected members.

**The following questions were asked by Cllr. Jackie Crowe:**

- Q1 - *In relation to the damaged bridge at Corrygarry Broomfield. "When will work on phase 1 of restoring the parapets commence. The Report from O'Connor, Sutton and Cronin states that this work would be carried out in September / October 2014. This bridge is in a dangerous state"?*

Response:

Maintenance works has commenced on the masonry parapets of Clarebane Bridge. O'Connor Sutton Cronin & Associates highlighted these works for completion in 2014 in their Inventory and Principal Inspection Report. It is envisaged that the reconstruction of the parapets will take a number of weeks to complete.

- Q2 - *With the ongoing heavy volume of traffic traversing through the town of Castleblayney on a daily basis because of the closure of Castleblayney By Pass. "Will the Council install Yellow Box Junctions at the entrance to Drumillard Housing Estate, the Glencarn Hotel and the McGrath Road to ensure that there are clear exits from these areas"?*

Response:

Yes. However, to avoid further delays to traffic, in the short term, the painting of road markings (yellow boxes) will be postponed until Castleblayney Bypass re-opens.

- Q3 - *What is the up to date situation in regards to plans for the re alignment of the Monaghan Road / Main street junction in Castleblayney (Mini Roundabout). It was agreed to draw up plans last year after the tragic death of a lady who was killed by a lorry while crossing the road at the junction?*

Response:

The Municipal District engaged McMahan & Associates, Consulting Engineers to review the existing junction layout at the intersection of New Street, Monaghan Road and Main Street. McMahan & Associates appraisal report and recommendations will be presented to the elected members at November's Municipal District meeting. The District Office has submitted a Low Cost Safety Improvement application to upgrade the junction to the Department for funding in 2015.

- Q4 - *When is work to begin on the ramps and road at Upper Bree Castleblayney?*

Response:

A resurfacing contract has been awarded and will commence in Upper Bree on Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> November. As part of this contract the existing ramps will be removed and new ramps installed in accordance with the Traffic Management Guidelines. It is estimated that the resurfacing work will take approximately one week to complete.

**The following questions were asked by Cllr. Noel Keelan**

- Q1 - *In relation to the historical village of Inniskeen, will this Municipal District Council prepare plans for the provision of walking links/footpaths that will link up the Patrick Kavanagh Centre, McNello's Public House cross the River Fane out to McGee's and onward past the very dangerous bend towards Finnegan's Cross as discussed as a recent meeting in the village with senior council officials, public representatives and community organisations. And if agreed, that this plan would be put on public display and implemented during the term of this Council?*

Response:

Staff from the Municipal District Office met with a number of Inniskeen residents in July. A masterplan for footpath linkages, including the development of a footbridge across the fane, must be prepared in 2015 to allow applications for necessary grant aid to be made.

- Q2 - *In relation to a very serious flooding problem on the regional route, R180, at Lough Egish adjacent to the townlands of Boraghy and Brackley, will this Council ensure that this problem is rectified in the coming weeks, as I have discussed on site with local residents and council staff, and if necessary, we will work with our counterparts in the Ballybay Clones area in the interest of road safety?*

Response:

The Municipal District will continue to address roads prone of flooding. Residents with private access onto the R180 will also be advised of their responsibilities in preventing surface water flowing onto the public road.

- *Q3 - In relation to Donaghmoyne village, will this Municipal District Council consider putting in place a bicycle stand adjacent to St. Michael's National School as requested by the local community?*

Response:

Departmental funding for the purchase of bicycle racks is unavailable at present. However, consideration will be given to this proposal in the 2015 budget allocation.

- *Q4 - In commending Monaghan County Council for the improvement works carried out at Lisanisk in Carrickmacross, will this Municipal Council extend this footpath link at this location and also ensure that the 50km speed limit as agreed be put in place as soon as possible?*

Response:

The Municipal District Office will consider Cllr. Keelan's proposal to extend the new footpath at Lisanisk under the 2015 footpaths restoration programme. A meeting to discuss 2015 footpath restoration proposals will be arranged with the elected members. Speed limit signage will be installed as per Local Authority recommendation.

- *Q5 - Will this Council investigate the possibility of improving the junction at Essexfort on the R178 Carrick-Dundalk regional route given how dangerous this junction is for traffic coming from Inniskeen and accessing onto the R178?*

Response:

The District Office will inspect the Essexfort junction to determine the extent and nature of road safety issues. Improvements will be implemented accordingly.

**The following questions were asked by Cllr. Pdraig McNally**

- *Q1 - Is it intended that Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District will be in a position to grant aid the various local organisations in 2015 as has been the care heretofore.*

Response:

Grant aid or financial assistance to local, voluntary and community groups will be available in 2015, as was the case in previous years.

- *Q2. (a) When will the ramp and double yellow lines be put in place on Mullinarry road in order to reduce speed and improve safety? (This was to happen over the Summer months).*

Response:

A new speed ramp on Mullinarry Street will be constructed in accordance with the Traffic Management Guidelines. The District Engineer has met with residences from Mullinarry Road and the location for the new ramp has been agreed. The work will be completed in November.

- *(b) Has this Authority made any progress regarding the upgrading of the Barford Meats junction since our last meeting?*

Response:

The Municipal District office has had regular engagement with our legal representatives in an effort to expedite the process. The Municipal District cannot commence works on the Barford Meats Junction until outstanding legal issues are resolved.

- *Q3 - Has this Authority any plans to name the link road between the old Castleblayney road and Ballybay road which was developed as part of the by-pass. This has been requested by a number of local residents.*

Response:

To date, the naming of the link road in question has not been considered by the Municipal District Office.

**The following questions were asked by Cllr. P.J. O’Hanlon**

- Q1 - Has Irish Water considered the retention of the existing water treatment infrastructure at Nafferty in the event of a malfunction of the new facility?

Response:

The question will be referred to Irish Water and a response circulated at the November meeting of this Municipal District.

- Q2 - In relation to the developments of Riverside Road (i.e. McEneanys, Aldi, Civic Offices and C-Tech Project) is the Council 100% happy that there will not be any flooding issues in the future?

Response:

Flooding did occur on lands adjoining Lough Na Glack in 2011 and the area is now designated as a flood risk zone by the Office of Public Works. Any development in this area must take account of the risk and at minimum provide for attenuation measures.

- Q3 - That the Council calls on the Chamber of Commerce to make sure that all employees of businesses in the town park their cars in the car parks that are not two-hour car-parks so that as much free parking is given to customers in the run up to the Christmas trading period.

Response:

The parking matter will be raised at a meeting of the Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce and Municipal District staff on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November. The Municipal District Office will assist the Chamber of Commerce in this regard.

Cllr O’Hanlon requested that a reply to his question 1 (above) be received in writing from Irish Water for the next meeting.

Director of Services, Paul Clifford, circulated the following documentation for member’s information

- Economic, Social and Community Development in the Municipal Districts
- Castleblaney Courthouse Condition Report 2014 + supporting documentation.

In reply Cllr Crowe proposed that the members would meet on a regular basis to discuss planning and budgets.

- **Director of Services Orders - October**

The following orders were noted by members

- 05/2014 – Appointment of Contractor – Security Camera, Muckno Adventure Play park, Castleblaney
- 06/2014 – Appointment of Contractor – Urban Road Pavement Surfacing Work 2014

- **Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations**

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

- Majella Goodman & Family, Annaheen Castleblaney on the death of her husband Bernard Goodman
- Terrance Keelan, Greagh, Corduff on the death of his Aunt Catherine (Kate) Duffy
- Mary Mee & Family, Granarogue, Corduff on the death of her Husband Thomas Mee
- Pat & Thomas Dooley, Drumakay, Inniskeen on the death of their mother Cecelia Dooley
- Brendan Connolly & Family, 11 Bother Eanna, Carrickmacross on the death of his father Michael Connolly
- Anne Grilly & Family, Dundalk Rd, Carrickmacross on the death of her husband Martin Grilly
- John McEaney & Family, Cashlan West, Carrickmacross on the death of his sister Nancy Bolger
- Vera Ross, Mullinarry, Carrickmacross on the death of her son Patrick Ross
- Pat O’Brien, Woodlands, Carrickmacross on the death of her husband Michael
- Margaret Marron, Drummond Etra, Carrickmacross on the death of her mother Mrs Kerley

The following votes of congratulations were passed –

- Castleblayney Hurling Club on winning the Ulster Title
- The 22 member 'Run for Emma' Group on completing the Dublin City Marathon on 27<sup>th</sup> October for Cystic Fibrosis and raising money and awareness.
- Carrickmacross Emmets on winning the Minor Hurling Championship

- **Any Other Business**

With regard to the earlier presentation on broadband Cllr Keelan proposed that

1. A letter be sent to the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources requesting the speedy roll out of broadband across the county
2. request local TD's to lobby the Minister, and
3. A letter to be sent to ESB and Vodafone seeking a timetable for the provision of broadband.

This was seconded by Cllr Crowe and agreed.

Cllr O'Hanlon requested that the Coordinator liaise with staff to identify serious areas which are prone to flooding in the area so that measures can be undertaken to prevent flooding in the future.

Members were issued with key cards to access the council chamber / meeting rooms and were reminded if they needed to hold a meeting in the rooms that a booking should be made in advance to avoid double booking.

Next month's meeting is scheduled for Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014 @ 10am

The Chairperson, Cllr Crowe thanked the press and staff for their input and support and closed the meeting at 11.40 am

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Cathaoirleach.

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Meetings Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_