

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



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

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**Minutes of proceedings of November 2017 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 11.45am**

Present: - Cathaoirleach McNally

Cllrs. Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Aidan Campbell, P J O'Hanlon, Colm Carthy

In attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services; Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator; John Lennon, District Engineer; Brian Annon, Assistant Engineer; John Fox, Assistant Engineer; Amanda Murray, Staff Officer; Caitriona Lazdauskas, Clerical Officer; Veronica Corr, Northern Standard.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 were adopted.

**2. Matters arising**

*Replies to queries:*

- Cllr. Keelan commended the works carried out at the ramps in Lisdoonan Village.
- Cllr. Keelan welcomed the addition of the 30kph speed limit in the Sean Carraig Estate.
- Cllr. Crowe asked if there was an update from the Roads Section in relation to safety measures being put in place on the Annyalla Road as a farmer uses the road for his cattle. Cllr. Crowe also stated that a request was made for an under pass when the bypass was being put in place. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that traffic counts were aiding in building a case.
- Cllr. Carthy voiced his concern that people have to queue in adverse weather conditions in order to use the Ulster Bank facility on a Thursday. Cllr. Keelan also voiced his dismay on this issue.
- Cllr. O'Hanlon acknowledged the letter received from the HSE in relation to the Primary Care Unit in Carrickmacross and stated that a decision should be made on the action to be taken after the HSE's presentation to the council in December.

- Cllr. McNally voiced his dismay at the service Ulster Bank is providing and asked if there is any further knowledge on the sale of the building in Carrickmacross.
- Cllr. Campbell stated that he was disappointed that the TII will not carry out the requested works on the Kinnegan Junction. Cllr. Campbell welcomed the traffic count that will take place here. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that the TII have a limited budget and priority is given to areas by looking at accident statistics.
- Cllr. McNally stated that the white bollards in place on the N2 are hard to see. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that CCTV will be put in place at the two junctions on the N2 at Carrickmacross and will be reviewed. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that he will follow up with the Roads Section in relation to this.
- Cllr. Keelan asked that the MD look at the possibility of adding more signs and lines at the Essexford Junction. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that safety measures for this junction will be investigated.
- Cllr. O’Hanlon asked if there was any update on the pedestrian crossing on the Dundalk Road. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that three pedestrian crossings are being looked at for this junction. He also stated that funding has been applied for as significant money is required to improve this junction. Cllr. O’Hanlon asked that the MD look to put in place some form of signage in the short term.
- Cllr. McNally asked if there was a design in place for the Dundalk junction and if it could be circulated to the members. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that a draft design has been completed by the MD engineers and will be circulated.

### 3. Correspondence

- **Letter received from Cathal Hand, Network Manager, HSE** in relation to the Primary Health Care Unit, Carrickmacross.
- **Letter received from Alan Greevey, Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice and Equality** in relation to Septembers proposal; *“The Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council calls on the Government to instigate a Commission of Investigation into the events which led to the death of Carrickmacross man Shane O’Farrell in August 2011, and the subsequent responses of An Garda Siochána, the Courts services and the DPP, as a matter of urgency”*.
  - Cllr. Carthy stated that an investigation report into the events surrounding the tragic death of Shane O’Farrell is complete and is currently being reviewed. Cllr. Carthy also stated that a full public enquiry should be carried out.
  - Cllr. McNally asked that this MD respond to the letter requesting a prompt publication of the report and also to query the expected timescale.

### 4. Consideration of Co-ordinators monthly report

#### Issues Raised Discussed

- Cllr. Carthy asked if lighting columns could be put in place on the road outside the Lidl Store in Carrickmacross as this area is quite dark. Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that the addition of lights on Lidl’s building may be an option. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that the MD will look at the planning permission for Lidl and proceed from there.
- Cllr. Carthy requested an update on the ramp works in Foxfield Estate. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that works will commence shortly.

- Cllr. Carthy asked if it was possible to add additional lighting in Lough Muckno as this would help encourage people not to walk or run on the N2. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that due to the cost of getting this work completed it is not an option in the short to medium term. He also stated that the lighting may interfere with the wildlife in the area. Cllr. McNally stated that the provision of new lights here does not make it safe and people should not walk or run on their own after dark.
- Cllr. Carthy stated that there are issues with the traffic lights outside Cloughvalley Stores. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that this will be investigated.
- Cllr. Carthy stated that Castleblayney is spelt incorrect on a sign on the Castleblayney Road past Inver College. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that this will be investigated.
- Cllr. O’Hanlon asked if the new public lighting at Main Street, Carrickmacross is an improvement on the old lighting. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that the lights were completed as per design and the lighting is an improvement on the old lights. Cllr. McNally queried if the old lights can be reused or recycled and not sold to a dealer. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that the old lighting columns will be in place until early next year as they are facilitating the Christmas Lights. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator also stated that the old lights will be reused were possible. Cllr. Carthy asked if community and sports groups could use the lights were possible. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that this is a possibility.
- Cllr. Campbell welcomed the works on the public lighting in Castleblayney.
- Cllr. Campbell asked if local chambers can participate in the Carrickmacross and Castleblayney Town Plan consultations. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that the community and also business groups can participate in the consultations.
- Cllr. Campbell welcomed the design on the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen and stated that there will be a special commemoration at the graveside on Thursday 30th November 2017 at 12 noon. Cllr. Campbell also requested that the momentum be kept going in relation to Patrick Kavanagh.
- Cllr. Campbell complemented the MD staff and all those involved in completing the work on the Christmas lights in Castleblayney.
- Cllr. Crowe welcomed the new public lighting in Castleblayney.
- Cllr. Crowe welcomed the works completed on the N53.
- Cllr. Crowe stated that it is important to get works completed on the Kinnegan Junction.
- Cllr. Crowe thanked all those involved in the work to complete the installation of the Christmas Lights in Castleblayney.
- Cllr. Crowe questioned if the 2017 Footpath Works Programme funding will be enough to cover the works.
- A draft design of the proposed Ivy Lane Car park extension was circulated during the meeting. Cllr. O’Hanlon welcomed the proposed car park extension at Ivy Lane. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that it is proposed to add 59 new car parking spaces here. Cllr. McNally proposed that the areas shaded in blue on the draft design map should be kerbed to help prevent illegal parking. Brian Annon, Assistant Engineer stated that a retaining wall will be put in place. Cllr. Keelan asked if there is specific funding for the project. Paul Clifford, Director of Services stated that the funding would come from Planning Development Contributions. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that the extension on the car park is subject to funding.

## 5. Questions

### **Questions raised by Cllr. Pdraig McNally for November 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:**

1. When does this MD expect to have a report on traffic calming on both the Ballybay and Castleblayney roads as per our commitment at the meetings to discuss the new junction design at Inver College?

Response:

The District Office sought tenders from consulting engineers to undertake a road safety review on the Ballybay and Castleblayney roads. The submitted tenders have been assessed and we have written to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for approval to proceed with the appointment of the lowest tender and to seek funding for the review. No decision regarding this application has been received from the Department.

2. Has this MD received any update regarding the IPB funding as to allow the development of the footpaths on the Drumcondrath Road, Carrickmacross and Shercock Road, Castleblayney as far as Blackhill GFC?

Response:

The matter of IPB funding has been referred to the CPG and Head of Finance for consideration.

3. Has this MD received any response from the Office of Public Works regarding the following:-  
Drumganny, Carrickmacross (just off Blackstaff Road);  
Derryolam and Aghalile (just off the Aghalile road)  
Leggimore & Creevy - on the main Ballybay road R180. This requires a new culvert under the road to prevent flooding of two local residents and the main road itself.

Response:

Drumganny & Derryolam/Aghalile:

Two non coastal flooding minor works applications were made to the OPW in June 2017. No decision regarding these applications has been received.

Leggimore & Creevy:

The Municipal District has been approved by the OPW to upsize the existing culvert on the R180, Ballybay Road. It is planned to commence this work in the second quarter of 2018.

4. Would this MD examine the existing public lighting on the Kingscourt road, Carrickmacross during the hours of darkness to establish how many additional lights are required to eliminate two very dark spots between the turnoff at the Magheraboy road and the Woodvale Housing Development/Birdy Apartments as this is a very busy road.

Response:

The Public lighting allocation for 2017 is exhausted. A public lighting programme will be prepared by the Municipal District in 2018. Consideration will be given to Cllr McNally's proposal, subject to funding and approval from the elected members.

**Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for November 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:**

5. What is the expected completion date for works at the Market Square in Carrickmacross?

Response:

The Market Square will be finished by April 2018.

6. When is it expected that works will begin on the repair of footpaths throughout Castleblayney and Carrickmacross towns?

Response:

There is no fixed commencement date for the installation of these footpaths. The matter of IPB funding has been referred to the CPG and Head of Finance for consideration.

7. What is the up-to-date position on the Cycleway/walkway around Carrickmacross; have all preliminary stages concluded yet?

Response:

The MD is currently assessing the strategies with a view to progressing with projection.

8. Has a ramped crossing at the Bridewell/ESB yard (at the O’Gorman’s Supervalu side) been added to the Town renewal plans for Carrickmacross?

Response:

An assessment will be carried out by the District Office to determine if there is need for a crossing at this location and if required, a pedestrian crossing can be included in the renewal plan.

9. Will the MD council consider carrying out repair/upgrade works to the playground and rear-access area of Clonseady estate, Magheraclone?

Response:

Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Council will investigate funding revenues in 2018 to look at improvements to Clonseady Playpark. Current funding under the RAPID scheme is focused on urban areas only.

**Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for November 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:**

10. What is the up to-date position in relation to the provision of a 60km speed limit on the access ramps off the N2 into Carrickmacross town, given the safety concerns in particular adjacent to the bus stop and also given the large numbers of buses and pedestrian activity at this location?

Response:

Cllr Keelan’s requested was forwarded to the speed limit committee for consideration. No decision regarding this requested has been received the District Office.

11. In welcoming the proposed improvement works to be carried out at the Tullyvaragh Junction on the N2, will our council executive bring to the attention of the roads section and (TII) (formally the National Roads Authority), the need to have improvement works including a shadow lane put in place at next junction North of the Tullyvaragh junction at the townland of Drumharriff given the number of serious accidents that have happened at this location?

Response:

This issue has been forwarded to the Road Section, Monaghan Co. Council.

12. In welcoming the improvement works that have been carried out by this council in Inniskeen Village recently including the provision of a number of speed ramps that have been welcomed by community organisations including school management; will this council put in place one additional ramp adjacent to St. Daighs Tce given that speeding traffic is still a problem at this location?

Response:

Monaghan County Council is currently drafting a Traffic Calming policy. The aims of this policy is to address the traffic calming needs of existing roads and estates and to set design guidance for traffic calming. Until this policy has been adopted by the elected members there is a suspension of the installation of traffic calming measures.

13. In the interest of road safety, will this council put in place new road markings stop/yield signs etc., at a number of locations/ junctions as discussed on site, including Lisanisk, also the Creevy lake junction on the Lisdoonan road, and at Monagirr Culloville and at other junctions that are in need of attention?

Response:

Assessments of these junctions will be carried out by the District Office, to determine the appropriate measures to be taken.

14. In relation to the Breffni house B&B vacant building which is in a poor state of repair as discussed at our last MD; meeting has there been any feedback from the current owners in relation to having the building upgraded/painted etc?

Response:

A Section 8(2) notice of intention to the enter the property on the Derelict Sites Register was issued to the owners of Breffni House on 15 November 2017 – closing date for reps is 20/12/2017. If no response or action is taken by this, the property will be entered on the Derelict Sites Register and a Measures notice issued requiring works to be carried out to address the dereliction.

**Questions raised by Cllr. Jackie Crowe for November 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblaney Municipal District Council:**

15. In relation to the Play Park in Drumillard Castleblaney “what progress has been made in regards to works being carried out and has funding been got to fence it off and carry out works as previous requested to make it a park for all children?

Response:

Under the RAPID scheme, an application has been made for funding to carry out upgrading of the Drumillard Play Park including fencing, and upgrading of equipment. No decision regarding the application has been received by the District Office.

16. What progress has been made in relation to works to be carried out to the drain at Oram graveyard?

Response:

A contractor has been procured by the District Office. The drain between the Church and the estate will be cleared in the coming days.

17. Will this MD write to the TII to stress the need to realign the Ballinacarry Bridge on the N53 and what their plans for it, and also the failure to provide right turning lane at the Kinnegan Junction on which was promised?

Response:

This issue has been forwarded to the Roads Section, Monaghan Co. Council.

18. When will the safety low cost accident scheme promised for the Shercock road adjacent to the convent and junior school commence?

Response:

A Low Cost Safety Improvement funding application was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017. No decision regarding the application has been received by the District Office.

**19. Has a date been set for the remedial works to take place in Park Road Castleblayney?**

Response:

The repair to the footpath in Park Road will be completed before the end of year as part of ongoing maintenance.

**Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for November 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:**

**20. With regard to road safety. Will the MD undertake a review of the road markings and signage on the approach roads to the Castleblayney Central School with a view to improving particular road markings to alert traffic of the School?**

Response:

The District Office will carry out a road safety audit at the Castleblayney Central School. Its recommendations will form the basis of either a low cost safety improvement application to the Department or minor works that can be undertaken the District Office.

**21. Will the MD undertake a review of road safety at the Priests Cross, near Scoil Bhríde at Mullaghrafferty Magheraclone. The junction is very open with poor sight lines and after a recent accident it needs attention and also look at the idea of putting a weight restriction on the road over to roes cross off this junction as it is heavily used by Articulated lorries. The stop signs at this junction need to be moved as they are hidden away and cannot be seen.**

Response:

The District Office has completed a topographical survey of the junction and the design of a revised junction layout to improve the forward stopping visibility distance at the junction has begun. The District Office will review the possible of erecting additional warning signs on the approach roads along with the introduction of a weight restriction on the LP4812, Killark road.

**6. Notice of Motions**

**Motion by Cllr. Colm Carthy deferred from October 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:**

- *'The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Denis Naughten TD, and all Local Oireachtas members to instruct EIR to provide their own customers with Broadband in areas where their OpenEir Fibre Broadband has been rolled out, irrespective of whether their address lies within the National Broadband Plan (NBP).'*

- The motion was unanimously agreed by all members.

**Motion by Cllrs. Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan & Jackie Crowe for November 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblaney Municipal District Council:**

- *'The Carrickmacross-Castleblaney Municipal District supports the call of Childcare providers on Minister Katherine Zappone TD and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to recognise the need for a significant increase in funding to the sector. We also call on Minister Richard Bruton TD and the Department of Education to look at options to incorporate early childhood education into the Education sector and recognise those who teach in this sector on an equal basis as primary and secondary teachers. We further request the support of our local Oireachtas members for this motion.'*
- The motion was unanimously agreed by all members.
- Cllr. O' Hanlon asked that a delegation from this MD meet with the Minister and the local TD's and Senators to discuss.

**Motion by Cllr. Padraig McNally for November 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblaney Municipal District Council:**

- *"That this MD, in conjunction with Monaghan County Council, complies a report on the road from Carrickmacross to Drumcondrath with a view to having the road upgraded to a Regional road in order to attract funding to have what is a very dangerous road upgraded."*
  - The motion was unanimously agreed by all members.
  - Cllr. McNally asked if it was possible to carry out a traffic count on this road.
- *"In light of an incidence on November 9th where an emergency blue light ambulance was obstructed in its attempt to reach the doctors surgery in Cloughvalley, that this MD again looks at all aspects of traffic management adjacent to Scoil Rois and Bunscoil Lughaidh Naofa."*
  - The motion was unanimously agreed by all members.
  - Cllr. McNally requested that the MD require experts to investigate recommendations for the area.
  - Cllr. Carthy asked if a barrier could be put in place across the road from Bun Scoil Lughaidh Naofa.
  - Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that the MD would liaise with the Road Safety Authority and Monaghan County Councils Road Safety Officer to work with the schools in this area to find a solution.

**7. Director of Services Orders**

The Directors orders 95/2017 to 108/2017 attached to the agenda were noted.



## 8. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:

- PJ McMahon on the death of his fiancé Annmarie O'Rourke
- The Callan family on the death of Eugene Callan
- Francis McDonald and family on the death of his brother PJ McDonald
- Louise Carolan on the death of her mother Marie Carolan
- Ann Carolan and family on the death of her husband Eamon Carolan
- Eddie Marron and family on the death of his wife Rosaleen Marron
- Sarah Carr on the death of her father Tom Coyle

Votes of congratulations were passed with the following:

- Castleblayney Regeneration on winning a merit award at the Bank of Ireland national enterprise awards recently at the final in Tullamore.
- Carrickmacross Emmets on winning the Intermediate League (Intermediate Double) and wish them all the best in the Senior Ranks next year.
- Monaghan County Council on winning the overall prize for the best Local Authority Award last week at the Chambers Ireland Event. Great reward for the hard work carried out by Monaghan Council staff.

## 9. Any Other Business

- It was proposed by Cllr. P J O'Hanlon and unanimously agreed by all members *"that a meeting take place with the Minister for Transport Shane Ross and a representative from each political grouping along with the Chairperson of the Municipal District and representatives of the Roads Section to highlight the serious problems with roads and the lack of funding to remedy these problems."*
- Cllr. Carthy enquired on the status of the traffic count at Ross Road beside Inver Park. John Lennon, District Engineer stated that this was complete.
- Cllr. Carthy asked for an update on the procedure for the change of name from Bath Avenue to Convent Avenue. Amanda Murray, Staff Officer stated that this is currently being investigated.
- Cllr. Carthy stated that the surface coating on the playground at Clonseady had been damaged after power washing.
- Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that there is an issue of illegal dumping on the Donaghmoyne Road at the lake and asked if a camera could be put in place. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that the MD will contact the Environment Section in relation to this.
- Cllr. O'Hanlon asked if the local schools could add historical inserts to the new wall being built outside the convent in Carrickmacross. Cllr. O'Hanlon asked that the MD contact St. Louis Convent and relevant authorities in relation to this.
- Cllr. McNally offered his condolences to P.J. McMahon on the passing of his fiancé Annmarie O'Rourke.
- Cllr. McNally enquired if the Ballybay road will be closed during culvert works and also how much grant aid will be given to fund the works. John Lennon, District Engineer stated that traffic lights may be used during the works and the works will begin in the second quarter of 2018. John Lennon, District Engineer also stated that the OPW has allocated €58,000 for the works. The MD must allocate 10% towards the works.

- Cllr. McNally stated that used tyres were dumped on the LT87002 and the system in place to deal with tyre tracing is not adequate.
- Cllr. McNally stated that the works completed at Inver College has made the junction safer; however, there is an issue for pedestrians getting from the Ballybay Road to the schools. Cllr. McNally suggested that a pedestrian crossing should be put in place adjacent to the ramp from the Ballybay Road to the Castleblayney Road.
- It was agreed by all to hold the next MD Council meeting on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 3pm.

Meeting concluded at 1.45pm

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**Cathaoirleach**

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**Meetings Administrator**

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017