

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



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

Minutes of proceedings of September 2017 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 25th September 2017 at 10.30am

Present: - Cathoirleach McNally

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

In attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services; Frances Matthews, Co-ordinator; John Lennon, District Engineer; Amanda Murray, Staff Officer, Deirdre Power A/Assistant Staff Officer, Veronica Corr Northern Standard, Eddie Butler Northern Sound.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of Minutes of the July 2017 Footpath meeting

On the proposal of Cathoirleach McNally and seconded by Cllr Keelan the minutes of the Footpath meeting held on 24th July 2017 were adopted.

Confirmation of Minutes of the July 2017 Footpath meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy and seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 24th July 2017 were adopted.

2. Matters arising

- Coordinator Gareth McMahon informed the meeting that the three footpaths agreed at the July 24th meeting Shercock Road, Drumconrath Road, Kingscourt Road will proceed when funding is secured.
- Cllr. Keelan requested an update from Roads Section concerning potholes on the N2. Coordinator Gareth McMahon said works were scheduled to begin within the week.
- Cllr. Keelan asked that the application for funding from the Spring Lake Anglers is looked upon favourably.
- Cathoirleach Mc Nally asked District Engineer John Lennon to assist with upgrading St. Josephs Terrace and St. Macartans villa's footpaths due to the increase of school children using the area.

- Cllr. Carthy asked for an extra ramp at Cluain Aláin Estate
John Lennon District Engineer agreed to have a traffic counter installed temporarily.

After a lengthy discussion concerning Garda resources in the town the following proposal Was made by Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cathoirleach Mc Nally

“That this Municipal District calls on the Minister for Justice Charlie Flanagan for additional resources for the Municipal District of Carrickmacross Castleblayney area and the whole of County Monaghan. This was an issue raised on a number of occasions by myself and other Counties at the last County JPC that was stated by the Garda that there is an issue in the County with Garda resources”.

- It was also proposed by Cathoirleach McNally and seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon that this Municipal District:

“Write to the Garda Commissioner requesting that Gardai are asked to live in the district where they are stationed with a view to better community policing”

- Cllr. Crowe asked the District Engineer to investigate the ramp at the Glencarn Hotel.
- Cllr Crowe asked for a high friction surface to be installed at Ballinacarry Bridge.
- Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon replied that advanced warning signs were preferable rather than high friction surface.
- Cllr. Keelan asked the Council to include Dunard at Inniskeen in its overlay programme District Engineer John Lennon replied additional money is available.
- Cllr. Carthy informed the meeting of the danger of school bus’s coming from town constantly taking a right turn past Quinn’s into Inver College.
- Cathoirleach McNally requested ramps on the Ballybay road to help reduce the amount of HGV Lorries and for an “All Routes “sign to be installed at the roundabout.
- District Engineer John Lennon informed the meeting of results from a traffic exercise carried out on the Ballybay road since the road works which indicated a reduction in traffic.

The following was proposed by Cathoirleach McNally and seconded by Cllr O Hanlon

“An application be made to the Safety Improvement Scheme for funding to make the Drumconrath Road function safer as this is an extremely dangerous junction “

- Cllr Carthy asked for cost details for the Drummond Etra trimming, cutting of trees and resurfacing.
District Engineer John Lennon agreed to have costs available for October Meeting
- Cllr Crowe asked for results of the traffic counter at Annyalla
- Cllr Crowe requested a smoke test on a manhole at Park road, Drumillard
Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon said the query would be forwarded to Irish Water
- Cllr. Keelan asked for hedges and vegetation to be cut at Lisanisk
- Cllr Keelan asked for the speed limit on the Dundalk road to be reduced
Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon replied that matter had been referred to Roads Section
- Cathoirleach Mc Nally asked for repairs to be carried out on the bridge on the northern side of town.
Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon said that Roads Section would be notified.
- Cllr Carthy said the ramp at Foxfield was too high and needed to be lowered
- Cllr. Keelan asked for the provision of 30kmp at “Sean Carraig”
- Cllr Keelan asked that potholes on the road from Carrickmacross to Ballybay road are covered
- Cllr Carthy requested that the road at Essexford is repaired immediately

- Cllr Keelan asked that the owners of Breffini Bed And Breakfast are contacted as the building is in need of repair.

3. Correspondence

Correspondence received from Minister Shane Ross

Acknowledgement of receipt of letter regarding request for meeting

Correspondence received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Acknowledgement of receipt of letter with reference to the arranged meeting between Monaghan Co Council and Louth Co. Council regarding the safety review of the N2 between Drumgeeny and the Castleblayney Bypass.

Correspondence received from Carrickmacross Twinning Association

Cllr Carthy asked that future twinning allocations are forwarded directly to the Twinning Association Coordinator Gareth McMahan said that the item would be placed on the Agenda for the October Budget Meeting.

Correspondence received from St Michaels Regional Community Development

Letter requesting the Municipal District to take responsibility for Insurance Inspection and maintenance of equipment for the play park.
Paul Clifford agreed to consult with IPB.

Correspondence received from Minister Charlie Flanagan T.D's office

Acknowledgement of letter and notification that matters in relation to dealing with the identification of persons suspected of fly-tipping is a matter for Minister Denis Naughtens office

Correspondence received from Minister Denis Naughten T.D's office

Acknowledgement of receipt of letter with reference to new policy in relation to identification of persons suspected of fly-tipping. Cllr. McNally requested further funding for CCTV for the town.

Correspondence received regarding official change name of Bath Avenue to Convent Avenue

Letter received requesting change of name for Bath Avenue to Convent Avenue.
Members agreed that the issue should be supported at budget time and that new street signs should include old and existing street names.
Director of Services Paul Clifford said regulations would be checked.

4. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

- Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon informed the meeting that Gardai had issued 2,100 speed tickets from January to August on the N2.
- Cllr .Campbell said driver behaviour especially speeding was appalling
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally agreed and said dangerous overtaking was a major problem
- Cllr .Crowe asked for safety precautions at Mc Grath road beside the Glencarn Hotel District Engineer John Lennon agreed to have matter addressed.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally requested that Rag weed on the N2 northern junction to Ballybay roundabout is treated.
- Cllr. Crowe commended the fact that 272 roads have been patched to date.
- Cllr .O Hanlon commended the Director and the Coordinator for the positive work on the extension to the car park in the town and all the positive work taking place in both towns .
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked for advancements to be made regarding the Convent Wall.
- Cllr. Carthy requested temporary CCTV beside proules river as Fly tipping is a problem
- Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon said he would discuss with Environment Section

- Cllr. Crowe asked that Per Cent for Art Funding is pursued for the Big Tom Statue.
 - Cathaoirleach Mc Nally enquired if funding is available for a Walking and Cycling strategy Director Paul Clifford replied that when the opportunity arises the strategy will be report ready.
 - Cllr .Crowe asked that the flooding problem at St Josephs Church in Oram is addressed. District Engineer John Lennon said that it would be completed by the end of October
 - Cllr. Keelan concerns over the traffic lights proposal in Inniskeen village Director Paul Clifford said the issue would be discussed at the roads area meeting in early November
 - Cathaoirleach Mc Nally said the site at the Convent Lands needed clearing. Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon said the Municipal District would assist with a clean up.
 - Cathaoirleach Mc Nally requested an extra E Car charging space for the town.
 - Cllr. Keelan asked for better design for signage at the entrance to the Industrial Sites
 - Cllr Keelan asked for surfacing works to be carried out at Dún Ard Estate in Inniskeen
- The following was proposed by Cllr Keelan and seconded by Cllr Carthy
“That this Council seeks a meeting with the Doctors in the town at a time of their convenience to discuss and hear at first hand the difficulties that the Doctors have in trying to deliver a service to the people of this town and the surrounding area’s ”

5. Communities Facilities Grant Scheme 2017

Cathaoirleach Mc Nally proposed the approval of the Communities grants and Cllr. O Hanlon seconded

6. Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. Padraig McNally for September 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. Has this Council finalised its design for a footbridge to cross the River Fane in Inniskeen Village And have we identified any possible sources of funding to carry out the works?

Response

The Municipal District met with the Inniskeen Village Tidy Town’s committee and their preference is to widen the existing footpath across the River Fane rather than construct a new footbridge. The District Office has a prepared a design proposal to widen the existing footpath over the River Fane and to construct a new footpath to the Railway Bridge. If the design is approved by the elected members an application will be submitted to the Department of Roads, Tourisms and Sport for Low Cost Safety Improvement funding for 2018.

2. Has this Council received a response from Minister Michael Ring regarding a request for a meeting to discuss the poor condition of some of our County roads with him in his capacity as Rural Development Minister?

Response

The Municipal District sent a letter to Minister Michael Ring regarding the request for a meeting awaiting response.

3. When does this MD expect to extend the Council's car park at the rear of the Fiddlers?
Which hopefully will see the traffic restrictions lifted at Shirley House Lane?

Response

The District Office has completed a topographical survey of the site and has begun designing layout options for the new car park. Following this process detail design and a Part 8 application will be completed. It is predicted, subject to funding construction of the new car park will commence in the summer of 2018.

- 4a. has this Council finalised their design to extend the footpath on the Drumconrath, Carrickmacross and Shercock Road, Casleblayney as far as Backhill GFC?

Response

The District Office has completed detail design and procurement for the Shercock Road and Blackhill GFC. Detail design for the Drumconrath Road is nearing completion.

- b. If so, when does the MD expect work to commence and be completed on the above?

Response

There is no fixed commencement date for the installation of these footpaths, because the Municipal District office has not received approval from the IPB regarding the funding.

5. What is this MDs latest understanding regarding the repair of the Convent Wall in Carrickmacross.

Response

The Municipal District Office has spoken to the Consulting Engineer's appointed by the Bermingham Trust and they have informed us that they are currently procuring a contractor to commence works on the Convent Wall and that they cannot confirm a start date until this process has been completed.

Question raised by Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon for September 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. When is the Council expected to build Carrickmacross C Tec 2 following the success of?
Carrickmacross C Tek 1

Response

Following public tender, Monaghan County Enterprise Fund Ltd supported by Monaghan County Council, has procured DA Architects Ltd, Armagh to design C Tek2 and submit a planning application for a new facility by Q1 2018.

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

7. Would the executive consider adding a footpath to the old Castleblayney road, Carrickmacross?
(From the start of the 60km speed limit into the link road at the Castleblayney road roundabout),
To its list of footpaths to be added in the future as this road is used by a high volume
Pedestrians?

Response

A footpath programme was presented and agreed with the elected members following July's Municipal District meeting. At this meeting 12 new footpath locations were present, at an estimated cost of just under €500,000. With an annual budget of €48,000 for signs, lines and footpaths it would be ill-advise at present to add any additional locations to the programme until substantial footpath funding is secured. The priority for this office is to repair and upgrade existing footpaths.

8. Can the engineering section add ditching/sloped access to all* pedestrian islands at the Ballybay road roundabout, Carrickmacross, to allow wheelchair users & pushchairs easier access? (dropped kerbing is already on one of the islands)

Response

The District Office will carry out an inspection of the Ballybay roundabout to determine if this work is necessary and to see if dropping of the kerb lines can be achieved.

9. Can the Executive contact the OPW to seek an urgent clearing of the Proules river that runs through Carrickmacross – it has debris at a number of points that could cause a blockage and its banks are very overgrown?

Response

The District Office wrote the OPW at the start of September 2017 informing them that there was a build up of material in the Proules River. The OPW has confirmed that they will clean this section of river.

10. Would the council consider carrying out a safety review of the road that runs between Inver Park and the Barford Meats site (Ross Road?) with a view to reducing speed (including adding ramps, signage etc) as the speed cars and HGV's travelling on it is excessive and dangerous?

Response

A traffic counter will be installed on the Ross Road in the coming weeks to determine if speeding violations are occurring.

11. Would the Municipal District council consider resurfacing the back access road behind the houses on St Macartans Villas?

Response

The District Office will consider Cllr Carthy proposal, subject to funding and approval by the elected members.

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

12. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of walking footpath links throughout the village of Inniskeen including a walkway footbridge across the River Fane?

Response

The District Office has prepared a design proposal to widen the existing footpath over the River Fane and to construct a new footpath to the Railway Bridge. This will deliver a new walking link within the village. If the design is approved by the elected members an application will be submitted to the Department of Roads, Tourism and Sport for Low Cost Safety Improvement funding for 2018.

13. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the Donaghmoyn road adjacent to junction for Lisanisk as requested by the Lisanisk Residents Association in the interest of road safety?

Response

Consideration will be given to Cllr Keelan proposal subject to a safety assessment of the junction by the District Office.

14. Will this council examine the possibility of extending the car parking provision adjacent to St. Daighs National School in Inniskeen village as requested by school management?

Response

Consideration will be given to Cllr Keelan proposal subject to a review of existing car parking spaces at St Daigh's National School and funding in 2018.

15. In welcoming the provision of traffic calming measures adjacent to a number of schools in the area including Corduff, Lisdoonan, Donaghmoyne etc. what works are outstanding and when is it hoped to have these works completed?

Response

The District Office has to install 3 periodical speed signs at Inver College and 2 at Blackstaff School. These advance speed signs have been procured and will be erected in the coming weeks

16. Will this council explore the possibility of sourcing funding to upgrade and resurface the roadway into the graveyard known as Templemoyle at Lough Egish?

Response

Templemoyle is a private lane. The residents living on the lane can submit a Local Improvement Scheme application to Monaghan County Council seeking funding. No allocation was provided by the Department of Road Tourism and Sports for LIS's in 2017.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for September 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblaney Municipal District Council:

17. Can the MD give an update on the CFRAM Programme for the proposed upgrade on the flooding which occurs in the Inniskeen area.

Response

Inniskeen is included in the OPW CFRAMs Flood Risk Management Plan Ref UoM06. The final Flood Risk Management Plans are currently being reviewed by the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform and will then go forward for Ministerial Approval. It is hoped that Ministerial Approval will be forthcoming in October 2017.

18. What is the current update with the process to appoint a design team for the restoration of Gate House number 2 at the entrance to Hope Castle and when can the council proceed to the next stage?

Response

Following public tender, a Tender Report has been completed. It is anticipated that a DesignTeam will be appointed to progress the project to refurbish and extend Gate Lodge No 2 to a Branch Library and Gallery. The design and planning process will extend into 2018, when it is anticipated that a Part 8 proposal will be presented to the Council.

19. Can the MD look at road safety improvements outside Annyalla School as it is now very dangerous for children going and coming to school with increased traffic?

Response

A road safety review will be carried out by this Office on the approach roads to Annyalla National School and a low cost safety improvement application will be submitted to the Department Road Tourism and Sport if it is warranted following the review.

Questions raised by Cllr. Jackie Crowe for September 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

20. Has a date been fixed for the presentation to Mary Byrne Editor of Castleblayney News. This was unanimously agreed by MD members.?

Response

A presentation to Mary Byrne will take place in the gatehouse Castleblayney date to be agreed

21. In regards to the works agreed to alleviate flooding at St. Joseph's Church Oram. When is it envisaged that these works will commence?

Response

A road safety review will be carried out by this Office and a low cost safety improvement application will be submitted to the Department Road Tourism and Sport if it is warranted following the review.

22. Under the Accessible playground policy being developed which will support the local authority to ensure our play facilities are inclusive. Will this Municipal District Council seek to have Drumillard play ground included in this scheme. Drumillard Park helps cater for children with disabilities who are situated in Drumillard. The park needs equipment for children with disabilities so that all can enjoy inclusive play?

Response

The Inclusive play policy is a policy that will inform the planning and development of all playgrounds in the future by Monaghan County Council. This policy will also include any upgrading or redevelopment works planned for playgrounds in the county. The new National Disability Strategy was launched in July and it is hoped funding may become available to local authorities in the coming months to support the implementation of the this strategy at local level. Inclusive play opportunities will be a priority for Monaghan County Council in any new Disability Plans developed.

23. When will works commence on the development of the proposed footpath along the R181 to Blackhill GAA Football Grounds?

Response

There is no fixed commencement date for the installation of these footpaths, because the Municipal District Office has not received approval from the IPB regarding the funding.

24. Regarding the proposed repair works for Park Road Castleblayney, when is it envisaged works will start?

Response

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

7. Notice of Motions

Motion by Cllr. Pdraig McNally for September 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblaney Municipal District Council:

“That this MD prepares a design and costings for to improve the section of Carrickmacross to Shercock road (R178) between Reilly’s cross and the Dooge cross in advance of finalising next years road budget”.

Motion by Cllr. Colm Carthy for September 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblaney Municipal District Council:

‘The Carrickmacross/Castleblaney 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 Síochána, the Courts services and the DPP, as a matter of urgency.’

Cllr Carthy proposed and seconded by Cllr Keelan for the motion to be ratified by Monaghan Co. Council.

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

‘That this Council write to the HSE & the Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD, seeking an update on the proposed new Primary Healthcare Centre for Carrickmacross. We also seek an update on what the HSE plans to do, in the meantime, to deal with the lack of GP services in the town owing to the low number of GP’s available to service the area.’

8. Director of Services Orders

The Directors orders 69/2017 to 87 /2017 attached to the Agenda were noted.

9. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:-

- Peter Finlay, Kingscourt road on the death of his uncle P J Finlay
- Peter Mills & Family on the death of his brother Thomas Mills
- Eileen McMahan on the death of her husband Brendan McMahan
- Gwen Marron on the death of her mother Mary Marron

Votes of Congratulation was passed with the following:-

- Castleblaney Faughs Under 16 , Under 14 and Under 12’s Football Teams

10. Any Other Business

- Cllr. Campbell requested for the Kinnegan junction upgrade to be addressed. Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon informed the meeting that Roads Section had works remaining
- Cllr . Keelan asked that Ulster Bank are contacted regarding the future of the historic building in Carrickmacross.
- Cllr. Keelan said the grass verges at Lisdoonan school are destroyed due to heavy traffic.
- Cllr. Campbell asked for Road markings or rumble strips for Main Street Castleblayney
- Cllr. Campbell asked for immediate works to begin on the Shercock road ,Castleblayney
- Cllr. Campbell asked what date works will commence on the Horseshoe road?
- Cllr. Campbell requested Road Safety Measures to be put in place at Our Ladys Secondary School in Castleblayney.
John Lennon District Engineer replied that McMahon Consultants had drawn up a report under the Low Cost Safety scheme and the application will be made to the Department shortly.
- Cllr. O Hanlon made an enquiry regarding the unfinished development site across from Civic offices.
- Director Paul Clifford replied that Housing Section would be requested for an update.
- Cathairleach McNally enquired if the residents beside Supervalu were consulted regarding ramps?
- Cathairleach McNally requested that signs at loading bays in the towns specify correct legal time limits to park.
- Cathairleach McNally asked for the barrier on the flyover to be repaired.
- Cathairleach McNally asked for a safety barrier to be erected at the play park.

Meeting concluded at 1.30pm

Cathairleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: 23rd October 2017.