

## Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan

### Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain



### The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney

### Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of November Monthly Meeting held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 10.00am.

**Present** : Cathaoirleach Colm Carthy.

Cllrs. Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Aidan Campbell, PJ O’Hanlon, Padraig McNally.

**In Attendance:** Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator, John Lennon District Engineer, Julieann O’Reilly, Clerical Officer

#### **Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. McNally the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2018 were adopted.

#### **1. Matters Arising**

Cllr. Mc Nally asked if the Council had written to the owner of overhanging trees on Castle Street. Executive Engineer John Lennon replied that the footpaths along Castle Street had been cleaned.

Cllr. Keelan expressed annoyance that there has been no response to date to the last letter sent to Minister Heather Humphries in relation to the extreme conditions of the road, requesting her to meet the members at a time of her convenience.

Cllr. O’Hanlon asked for an update regarding Stedfast Junction. MD Co-Ordinator replied that details and costings are currently being finalised and that a letter to the School Principal was actioned.

Cllr. Campbell thanked the Council for their work on Kinnagin Junction. The feedback from local people indicated that they are very pleased. Cllr. Crowe concurred with the sentiments.

Cllr. McNally spoke about the Blackstaff Road, asking should the overlay on the road not have been done when it was closed for the bridge reconstruction? Executive Engineer responded that the funding to do so was not available at the time. The funding became available after the bridge was complete.

Cllr. Keelan enquired if there was any additional cost because of the delay of the opening of the bridge? The MD responded there were no additional costs incurred.

#### **2. Correspondence**

- Letter received from Minister Heather Humphries regarding the Group Home in Carrickmacross.

Stating “please find enclosed the response received from Finian McGrath TD, Minister for Disabilities. I will continue to seek updates on this matter and will be in touch as soon as further information is to hand”.

- Letter from Minister Finian McGrath to Minister Heather Humphries on behalf of the Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney concerning a Group Home in Carrickmacross.

Stating “The HSE has outlined that a procurement support document is currently being finalised in order to assist with the selection of a suitable provider of service for Carrickmacross Community Group Home. The funding for this service has been included in the estimates for 2019 and once confirmed, will allow the Disability Services to proceed with awarding the tender to a suitable party. It is anticipated that the service will be operational by Quarter 1 / early Quarter 2 2019, pending budget approval”.

Motion proposed by Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Colm Carthy re: Carrickmacross Group Home for Persons with Physical and Sensory Disabilities. The motion was passed unanimously by all members.

“That a letter be sent to the Minister for Disabilities Finian Mc Grath, Minister for Health Simon Harris, Minister for Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation Heather Humphries. This building has been completed approx. 18 months ago, I think it is important that the procurement process is completed asap, and budget funding approved”.

- Letter from Donaghmoynce residents regarding closure of local road at Beagh

Executive Engineer reported that in light of their closure the Council conducted continuous maintenance on this road – patching and hedge-cutting.

Director of Services advised that a High Court Appeal had been lodged by the respondent.

Cllr. Keelan proposed that the meeting go into committee. Cllr. McNally seconded.

Cllr. O’Hanlon proposed that the meeting come out of committee. Cllr. Keelan seconded.

### **3. Consideration of Co-ordinators monthly report**

#### *Issues Raised and Discussed*

Cllr. McNally asked, that the public consultation process for the Public Realm plans, is carefully managed. Expectations need to be managed, particularly regarding relocating to off street parking. It was also suggested to ask the public for ideas about O’Neill Street, Farney Street and Market Street.

Cllr. Campbell is looking forward to the application going in regarding Annadrummond. He thanked the Engineer for the work done. Cllr. Campbell eagerly awaits the Public Realm Plan going to public consultation.

Cllr. Crowe welcomed the LIS and the good works associated with it. He also welcomed the application going in for Annadrummond and hopes that funding comes quickly.

Cllr. O’Hanlon warmly welcomed the official opening of the Lace Gallery. In relation to the Public Realm plan, he would encourage the idea of making it a focal point. He also welcomes the idea of having a bus stop located there.

Municipal District Coordinator Gareth McMahan advised the meeting that under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme programme the MD plans to renovate the south wing of the Market House. The MD will accept expressions of interest from interested parties in relation to the two spaces to be developed.

Cllr. O’Hanlon voiced concern about flooding at houses along the N2 near the old Lisadell factory, during the proposed road surfacing contract. Municipal District Coordinator stated he would to the Senior Engineer in the Roads Section of Monaghan County Council regarding this issue.

Cllr. O’Hanlon asked if there is a plan in place regarding traffic calming measures on the Ardee Road. The Executive Engineer replied that there should be a solution by December 2018.

Cllr. Keelan welcomed and acknowledged the District Coordinators Report and all the works carried out which all help with tourism. He welcomed the works done on the pavements.

Cllr. Carthy thanked Monaghan County Council for the works at St. Joseph’s Tce. He asked for an update on the lighting column in Crann Nua and the lighting in Killanny. The District Coordinator replied that the public lighting will be completed in the coming weeks.

Cllr. Carthy asked about new signage to encourage HGV’s to avoid the town. He also noted that temporary signs remain scattered about from the Magheraclone road closure. Executive Engineer replied that he will ensure these are removed

Cllr. Carthy stated that he would like the Co-Ordinators report to include updates on traffic calming.

#### **4. Questions**

##### Questions raised by Cllr. McNally for November 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. A. In light of the very serious situation which occurred with Gyproc, is this Council totally satisfied that all roads and public facilities in Magheraclone, are completely safe.
- B. Have we quantified the cost of the one-month long road closure and detour and when do we expect to receive this funding?
- C. Is this Council in a position to request funding from Gyproc regarding the serious subsidence at the LP4900?

Response:

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, following independent review and analysis of the work carried out by SRK Consultants on behalf of St Gobain, informed Monaghan County Council that it was safe to reopen the R179 Carrickmacross – Kingscourt regional road on Friday 26 October 2018. On Wednesday 31 October 2018, the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment informed Monaghan County Council that there is very low risk of ground settlement and the LP4090 road may be reopened.

Monaghan County Council has recorded its costs in relation to the incident and with the assistance of our insurance provider IPB, will be formulating and submitting a claim in regard to costs for this event to the mine operator.

2. **Has this MD, in conjunction with the St Louis Order, finalised the arrangements for marking the occasion of the closure of the St Louis Convent in Carrickmacross**

Response

The Council have been speaking to other interested parties regarding this issue and are awaiting a response from them in order to finalise arrangements.

Questions raised by Cllr. Campbell for November 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

3. **With the ever-present amount of litter along our roads particular The N2 and along the Castleblayney bypass. With the recent additional camera to monitor these incidents of litter. Can the MD outline what plans are in place to monitor and then catch and bring before the courts the people who are causing this disgusting habit?**

Response:

Environmental Services installed Cameras at the N2 in Broomfield, Castleblayney and at Coolshanagh Monaghan during June and July this year. During that time 21 incidents of littering were detected by the CCTV cameras. €150 on spot fines were issued under Litter Pollution Act 1997 in each case and these are followed up by Environmental Services to ensure payment. If the on-spot fine is not paid, court proceedings are instigated. This is the third year that environmental Services have carried out this operation and it will be repeated in 2019.

4. **Can the MD outline what is the update on the works proposed for the Priests Cross in Magheraclone?**

Response:

The Municipal District will resurface the junction of the LP4812/LP4803 in the coming weeks. Additional warning signs and road markings will also be provided.

5. **In welcoming the work which has started with the footpath installation on the Old Coach Road Castleblayney and with the nights getting darker for pedestrians. When will this work be completed?**

Response:

The footpath will be completed by the 7/12/18.

6. **With the dark evening now upon us and so many people out walking around all our towns on the footpaths. The issue of dog fowl on footpaths is a big problem. If your dog fouls inside**

your home, you would not contemplate for a second not cleaning it up yet so many dog owners for some unknown reason do not use the same logic when they are out walking their dogs along our footpaths and public parks. With the area around Bree and the footpath up past Our Lady's School towards the Shercock road and the area around Muckno Park being particularly badly affected. What additional supports can the MD put in place around policing this and more importantly educating the dog owner about their responsibilities?

Response:

Education of dog owners and their responsibilities is ongoing as part of the Litter Management Plan for the County. This year, work included new dog ownership leaflet distributed through the Northern Standard in September, joint patrols by Dog Warden and Litter Warden in known dog walking locations such as Lough Muckno during summer months and the continued provision of free dog poo bags in various locations in Castleblayney and Carrickmacross

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for November 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

7. Will Traffic Calming measures (specifically Speed Ramps) now be considered for the Ross road (adjacent to Barford meats site) following ratification of the Co Monaghan Traffic Calming Policy?

Response:

The District Office will review the Ross Road to develop traffic calming measures in accordance with the recently adopted Traffic Calming Policy.

8. When is it envisaged the damaged street light in Carrickmacross will be fixed and are there any further plans to increase the strength of the new LED lights in the town to make them and the town brighter?

Response:

The damaged public lighting column on Main Street is schedule to be replaced on the 10/12/18. The District Office have forwarded Cllr. Colm Carthy's comments to Corporate Service, Culture & Capital Projects for a response.

9. What is the up-to-date position on the street marking and redesign of Farney Street, Carrickmacross?

Response:

Road markings for a Disable Parking Space and “Keep Clear” boxes were completed on Farney Street on the 20/12/18.

As part of the Public Realm and Economic Plan for Carrickmacross Town a parking review was completed by GVA, which included Farney Street. GVA is presenting the economic plan to the elected members on the 26/11/18.

10. When is it envisaged the long-awaited works will commence on the Magheross/Drummond Ross unfinished development, Carrickmacross?

Response:

This question has been forwarded to Monaghan Co. Council for a response.

11. When will upgrade works, grant aided in recent weeks, be commencing on the Convent Avenue, Carrickmacross, and what works will be carried out?

Response:

Vegetation clearance and hedge trimming have commenced on Convent Avenue. The upgrade works will include new fencing and kissing gate, signs, seating, new public lighting in the underpass and repair of the pathway.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for November 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

12. Will this council examine the possibility of putting in place a pedestrian crossing adjacent to Aughnamullen Social / GAA centre given that the car park at this centre is being used as an over flow car park for employees working across the road at Lough Egish Food Park and also given the obvious safety concerns for those crossing this very busy regional road R181 on a daily basis?

Response:

The District Office has reviewed Cllr Keelan’s request and its recommendation would be not to install a pedestrian crossing at this location, because, there is no public lighting nor footpath provision at the location and the location is on regional road in a rural area, with very high volumes of HGV’s travelling between Lough Egish and Bailieborough. Deficiencies in onsite parking should be addressed by the operators of the business park.

13. What is the up to-date position in relation to the provision of a Post Box in Donaghmoine village in order to serve the local residents and business community?

Response:

A letter was issued to An Post, to date no response has been received.

14. Will this Council's Senior Executive members make contact with the County Council's Broadband Officer, Mr. John McArdle, in order to examine the possibility of putting in place WiFi facilities throughout our villages including for example Lisdoonan, Donaghmoynne, Inniskeen, Corduff?

Response:

This question has been forwarded to Monaghan Co. Council for a response.

15. What efforts is this Council making to acquire lands for the provision of industry & employment and also for the future provision of social and affordable housing?

Response:

Each year Monaghan County Council advertises for suitable land for housing and at present is in the process of dealing with and acquiring properties and sites under derelict sites legislation, for example, Monaghan County Council has received preliminary funding approval in the amount of €3.7million for the provision of 21 new homes on six derelict sites acquired in Clones.

The process of acquiring property is commercially sensitive so detailed information cannot be provided in response to this question however the following information can be shared.

In response to the expression of interest advertisements for properties suitable for social housing purposes Monaghan County Council has received a reasonable number of enquiries from property owners interested in selling their houses. In 2018 approximately 40 individual houses have been considered of which 15 purchases are proceeding.

Several landowners and Developers have expressed an interest in selling land and/or completed houses to Monaghan County Council under turnkey proposals. Each proposal is considered on its own merits and assessed. Monaghan County Council expects to receive further proposals from interested Landowners and Developers in the coming months and, subject to Department funding, hopes to proceed with further new build projects if suitable and feasible.

Monaghan County Council examines potential sites arising and has made offers for suitable land and The Council are exploring various possibilities for the provision of housing and for industry and employment creation.

16. In relation to this Council's planned Public Lighting Programme, what projects are currently outstanding; when is it hoped to complete the Public Lighting project from Inniskeen village to the Inniskeen Grattans GAA club grounds?

Response:

The Public Lighting on the approach roads to Killanny and Inniskeen Villages will be completed in the coming weeks.

Questions raised by Cllr. Crowe for November 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

17. Can the Municipal District Council please provide an update on the application for a pedestrian crossing at York Street, Castleblayney?

Response:

The National Transport Authority has approved funding for the appointment of a consultant to prepare tender documents on behalf of the Municipal District. The process of procuring a consultant has commenced and it is envisaged the pedestrian crossing and accessible bus stop will be completed by mid-2019.

18. Can the Municipal District Council provide an update on the status for the new Castleblayney Fire Station?

Response:

Tenders have been received for the new Fire Station in Castleblayney and are currently being evaluated prior to seeking DPHLG approval to proceed to construction stage. It is anticipated to award contract in December with a view to commencing construction in January, and the project duration will take 12-14 months to completion.

19. While acknowledging the work of the Council on the playpark at Drumillard Play park, can the Municipal District Council provide update on provision of goal posts?

Response:

Goal posts have been ordered and we expect delivery and installation of same within the next two weeks.

20. Following on from the recent survey carried out at the Monaghan Road, Castleblayney which highlighted speeding at this location, can the Municipal District Council advise what steps will be taken to address this problem?

Response:

The District Office will begin reviewing traffic calming options for the Monaghan Road in accordance with the recently adopted Traffic Calming Policy. This review may involve employing consultants to prepare an overall traffic calming and streetscaping plan for the Monaghan Road, starting at the Ballybay Road and ending at McGrath Road.

21. Can the Municipal District Council provide an update on the provision of 8 no. social houses at Bree Castleblayney?

Response:

The Bree Housing Project consists of the construction of 8no 2-bedroom houses in Bree, Castleblayney at a projected cost of €1.6m

The following is an outline of the progress to date and anticipated progression and completion of this project:

- Tenders received 20 March 2018
- Tender recommendation received from Housing Agency 26th April 2018
- Letter of intent and letters of notification issued to successful and unsuccessful Contractors 27 April 2018
- Stage 4 application to appoint Contractor submitted to the Department 27 April 2018
- Stage 4 approval to appoint Contractor received from the Department 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018
- Contractor commenced works July 2018
- Works are progressing well on site.
- Expected completion Q2 of 2019

Block A comprising of four two-bedroom single storey houses

- Works completed: substructure, subfloor, external walls, roof timbers and roof finishes

Block B comprising of four two-bedroom two storey houses

- Works completed: substructure, subfloor and the external walls are part complete

## **5. Notice of Motions**

Motion proposed by Cllrs. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan that

*“This Municipal District calls on the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection to introduce the Social Welfare Christmas Bonus to those in receipt of Illness Benefit; we note that his annual payment, which is paid this time of year, is made to a wide array of social welfare recipients but excludes those on Illness Benefit and we ask that this anomaly be rectified.”*

Members agreed that it should be amended to ask that it will be considered for 2019 and onwards. This was passed unanimously by all members.

## **6. Directors Orders**

Directors Orders 75/2018 to 84/2018 were duly noted by members.

## **7. Vote of Sympathy**

*Vote of sympathy was passed to:*

Brian Busby on the death of his mother Dympna Busby

Owen Joe McGahon and Family on the death of his brother Bernard McGahon

*Vote of congratulations was passed to:*

Our Lady’s Secondary School Castleblayney on winning the All – Ireland Show choir competition.

Castleblayney Hurling Club on winning the Ulster Final recently and winning Away in Birmingham to reach the All-Ireland Semi-Final.

## **8. Consideration of S183 Notice – Disposal of Land at Drummond-Otra**

A Section 183 in relation to land at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross was put before the members by Alison Condra. Cllr. Mc Nally proposed and Cllr. Keelan seconded this. It was passed unanimously by all members.

## **9. AOB**

*An Cathaoirleach Carthy*

- Asked why there is CCTV signage in place in town when we do not have proper CCTV in place?
- Members of the public have voiced concerns about pet dogs worrying sheep.
- Is there an update on the trees in Drummond Etra?
- He asked for additional electric parking spaces on Carrickmacross Main Street so that cars can be charged at each point.
- He acknowledged the recent works done on fences near the Respond Houses, however, the remainder of fencing in that area needs work. He asked if heavy-duty fencing be considered?

*Cllr. Keelan*

- Spoke about an ongoing issue of littering on the Donaghmoyne Road, Mannon Castle. He asked if it is possible to put fencing in the area? There is a CCTV camera in place already.
- Stated that the public lighting on Main St remains an issue that will not go away. They are not bright enough.
- Voiced concern that there has been no response from An Post about the proposed post-box in Donaghmoyne and asked the executive to contact An Post again.
- requested that the Local Executive be proactive in acquiring land banks for future housing and business opportunities.
- Wished to remind all to “Shop Local” over the Christmas period.

*Cllr. Campbell*

- Asked when will the dips on the roads in Braebury Walk, Church Hill Road, Annafarkin and Broomfield be fixed?
- Congratulated Castleblayney Faughs on their 2k and 5k event on 25/11/18 which had over 700 participants.

*Cllr. O’ Hanlon*

- proposed a motion should be passed re: placing a weight restriction on lorries going through Main St., Carrickmacross. He proposed that lorries that are not stopping for deliveries should have weight restrictions placed on them.

Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that this matter needs further thought and consideration. He suggested that it be discussed further before bringing a formal motion.

*Cllr. O’Hanlon*

- asked that the footpaths in Mulinary are looked at as they are unsafe, particularly for older people.

*Cllr. McNally*

- Notified the meeting of his hope that contracts will be exchanged within a week In relation to the Ardee Road Housing Development. The developer has stated that he is available to meet the councillors in

January. The members unanimously agreed to meet a delegation from the Ardee Road Development in January.

- There is heavy traffic in town, particularly from Eastern and Western directions. There should be signs on all approach roads – “Service Vehicles Only”.
- Asked what are the plans for Breffni House? It is very unsightly.
- Asked if there is an update for the meeting re: the schools traffic management at Cloughvalley?
- Asked to replace a bin in Emmet Park.
- Asked if a sewer vent pipe on Church Street could be removed
- Asked to place a ramp on Farney Street due to the speed of cars?
- Acknowledged that there has been a lot of work completed this year and loose ends tied up.

*Cllr. Crowe*

- Asked the engineers to look into the crash barriers on the N53 where there is rubber lying about and reinstate signs at the roundabout in Castleblayney,
- Offered his congratulations to Castleblayney Faughs on their successful 2 and 5k event. He also congratulated all involved in the turning on of the Christmas Lights in Castleblayney.

All Councillors expressed their heartfelt thanks to District Engineer John Lennon for his work over the past few years. They all stated how sorry they were to see him go and wished him all the best in his future endeavours. Director of Services Paul Clifford also thanked John Lennon, congratulating him and wished him well from all at Monaghan County Council.

District Engineer John Lennon thanked all the members for their support over the years.

Meeting concluded at 12pm.

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Cathaoirleach

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Meeting Administrator

Dated : 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2018