

## Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan

### Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain



## The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney

### Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of MD monthly meeting held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 10.00am.

**Present** : Cathaoirleach Noel Keelan

Cllrs. Aidan Campbell, Mary Kerr-Conlon, PJ O’Hanlon, Colm Carthy

**Apologies**: Cllr. McCooey

**In Attendance**: Paul Clifford, Director of Service, Gareth McMahon, District Co-ordinator, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer, Julieann O’Reilly, Clerical Officer

#### **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Carthy the minutes of the October monthly meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were adopted.

#### **2.0 Matters Arising**

Cathaoirleach Keelan asked that it be noted that on page 3 it should state “Ascail Rois” not “Ascail Dubh”.

Cllr. O’Hanlon queried if the HGV report is for today?

District Engineer Matthew Lambe stated that procedures to move forward to curtail movement of HGV’s in the town centre were being investigated.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that he was bitterly disappointed that the funding application for CTEK II was unsuccessful for the second time. He congratulated Castleblayney on their successes however said he could not understand how Carrickmacross have only received €632,000 funding from the Rural Regeneration Fund over the past two rounds of funding. Cllr. O’Hanlon questioned if Carrickmacross were being treated fairly in the vetting process.

The following proposal by Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan was unanimously agreed:

*“A letter be sent to Minister Heather Humphreys and Minister Michael Ring in relation to funding for a second CTEK in Carrickmacross. We have been unsuccessful in the last 2 applications and a number of people are waiting to get a place to set up their own business. I have no doubt if we had a second CTEK we would fill it quicker than the first one.”*

Cllr. Carthy thanked the MD for cutting the trees in Drummond Etra and asked if there was an update on the disabled parking bays on Muckno Street, Castleblayney?

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that this will be completed soon.

Cllr. Keelan asked when the current works on the N2 would be complete as they were causing delays. He also wondered if it would be possible to assess the timings on the traffic lights.

District Co-Ordinator Gareth McMahon advised that works were due to finish mid-December. Roads Section will be contacted to query if the traffic light timings can be assessed.

Cllr. O’Hanlon praised Minister Ring for changing the LIS to February so that works could be carried out during the summer months. He questioned why a similar approach could not be adopted regarding the roads funding programme, allowing works to be carried out during the long evenings, rather than winter time when daylight hours curtail the duration of the work day.

Cllr. Carthy wished to follow up on the issue of a letter to Cloughvalley GP Surgery.

Staff Officer Amanda Murray confirmed that a letter had been issued, however no response had been received. It was agreed to reissue the invitation to the surgery employees.

The members agreed to a change in the order of business to allow Tourism Officer Dympna Condra to answer any questions alongside District Engineer Matthew Lambe regarding The Monaghan Way.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised the members that the 52km route from Clontibret to Inniskeen will cost €70,000 to bring up to standards and €20,000 to maintain.

Tourism Officer Dympna Condra informed the members that all walks are promoted. She stated that feedback from walking groups indicate that the section from Clontibret to Castleblayney is unattractive to walkers as there are access issues.

The members discussed insurance implications and they were informed that if the route passes inspection, it is covered by IPB insurance. Currently, due to budget restrictions, it was not possible to maintain the entire walk to the required standard.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that it would be more cost effective to concentrate resources on the Castleblayney – Inniskeen route and requested costings for same at the December meeting.

Cllr. Kerr Conlon stated that she feels she cannot support Clontibret to Inniskeen walkway.

Cllr. Keelan asked where funding can be accessed for this?

Tourism Executive Dympna Condra advised that it may be eligible for Outdoor Recreation Funding.

District Co-Ordinator Gareth McMahon informed the members that funding had been applied for under the 2019 Outdoor Recreation Fund, but no decisions had been made to date.

Cllr. Keelan wondered about the possibility of collaborating with Monaghan Municipal District.

Cllr. Campbell agreed with this.

Cllr. Carthy stated that this is not about getting a return, it is about the need to provide public amenities.

District Co-Ordinator Gareth McMahon suggested that in order to bring the matter forward, it can be re-examined at December meeting.

### **3.0 Correspondence**

- (a) Letter from office of Finian McGrath, T.D., Minister for Disabilities concerning the motion on day centres for people with neurological conditions.

Cllr. Carthy stated that this response had just reiterated the problems we already identified. The following proposal by Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan was unanimously agreed: *“This MD again write to Minister for Disabilities regarding resources for people with neurological conditions in Co. Monaghan to say we are familiar with issues raised in his response of 6<sup>th</sup> November which is why we requested further resources. To again call for an increase in funding to expand existing services and allow those 65 and over to be facilitated in those services also. “*

- (b) Letter from office of Minister Michael Ring advising of the date for announcing the allocations of the Rural Regeneration Development Fund.

Cllr. Campbell commented that he was delighted with the announcement for Castleblayney, although he acknowledged the disappointment of a failed application for CTEK II in Carrickmacross.

- (c) Letter from TII regarding the schedule of works on the N2 between Aclint and Carrickmacross.

- (d) Letter from Brendan Smith TD forwarding a reply he received from Minister Ross regarding the works on the N2 between Aclint and Carrickmacross.

- (e) Letter from Minister Shane Ross regarding the works on the N2 between Aclint and Carrickmacross.

### **4.0 Municipal District Co-ordinator’s Report**

Cllr. O’Hanlon

- Asked how long it takes to spend money received from Rural Regeneration Fund?  
**Reply** – It is multi annual. It is not expected to draw down monies within a year, but over the course of the works. Detailed design cannot start until formal grant approval is received. Major capital projects tend to be 2 years planning, 1 year building.

### Cllr. Carthy

- Put forward an insurance minded query regarding the recently lined roads on the Kingscourt Road, Carrickmacross. Where do local residents stand in relation to turning into their houses?
- Spoke about excessive speeding on the Ross Road. Stated that this was brought up 3 years ago and still nothing has been done, even though this road has school and industrial estate traffic. Is seeking a ramp to be put in place. Voiced concerns from an insurance point of view.
- **Reply** – Director of Service Paul Clifford stated that he does not believe MCC would be liable. Liability would rest with the person speeding.

Cllr. Carthy asked if measures can be placed on this road?

Cllr. O’Hanlon commended Cllr. Carthy for being pro-active. He stated that he will support Cllr. Carthy to move forward with this issue if no funding is received.

**Reply** -District Engineer Matthew Lambe informed the members that Ross Road is included on an LCSi application.

### Cllr. Keelan

- In relation to road maintenance, Cllr. Keelan asked if it would be possible to do a “pothole blitz”? He noted that Lannett Road, Inniskeen is in poor condition.
- **Reply** – A patching contractor has recently been appointed. Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD are putting maximum resources to the problem.

## **5.0 Questions**

Questions raised by Cllr. Aoife McCooey for November 2019 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. Can the MD outline the feasibility of the installation of Christmas lights for Oram village in 2019?

*Response:*

*There is no allocation in the 2019 budget for the provision of Christmas lights in Oram.*

2. Can the MD liaise with the Roads Section of Monaghan County Council to prioritise the resurfacing of the Monaghan road in to Castleblayney, as it is the main access in to the town and has seen rapid deterioration of late?

*Response:*

*The section of road in question the R183-15 is not on the agreed 2020 or 2021 roads programmes but this Council will endeavour to maintain the pavement until its adoption to a future roads programme.*

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for November 2019 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

3. What is the up-to-date position on the street marking/re-design of Farney street and O'Neill street, Carrickmacross?

Response:-

AECOM has been employed to carry out a car-parking strategy for the town of Carrickmacross and Farney Street will be included in their assessment.

4. Has the roads section confirmed when it is expected that signage and bye-laws will be put in place for Chapel Lane, Carrickmacross, to reduce speed to 30km/ph?

Response:-

This matter has been put on the agenda for the next SPC meeting.

5. When is it envisaged that work will commence on the repair to footpaths and road in Woodvale estate, Carrickmacross?

Response:-

Construction works have commenced at this location weekending the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November and anticipated completion date for these works is the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2019.

6. When is it expected that safety measure will be carried out on the exit of Pearse Avenue, Carrickmacross, as discussed with the engineering section previously?

Response:

This MD is carrying out preliminary investigation works to ascertain what if any safety measures can be completed at this location.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for November 2019 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

7. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of a CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross town and its environs given the obvious benefits of such a system in terms of crime prevention & detection?

Response:-

This MD office is exploring options for the provision of a CCTV system for the town.

8. In relation to Inniskeen village, what plans has this Council to carry out much needed road improvement works including the resurfacing of an area adjacent to the pitch & putt course?

Response:

This section of road pavement adjacent to the pitch & putt course is scheduled to be structural overlaid in Q2 of 2020.

Will this Council also examine the possibility of carrying out some minor resurfacing works (half road from GAA grounds towards the church)?

Response:

The section of road in question the LP4621-0 adjacent to the Inniskeen Grattans GAA Club grounds is not on the agreed 2020 or 2021 roads programmes but this Council will endeavour to maintain the pavement until its adoption to a future roads programme.

9. Will this Council carry out some additional works to improve the sight visibility splays & road safety for those accessing the Ballybay regional road (R180) from the Lisdoonan village area?

Response:

*This matter has been forwarded to the Housing Section, Monaghan Co. Council for comment.*

10. Approximately what percentage of our local county roads network require upgrading reconstruction and resurfacing?

Response:

*“Using the year on year updated PSCI methodology for rating roads circa 21% of the local and regional roads within the district which are ranked between 1-4 require a structural overlay”.*

What percentage of our county roads will be upgraded & resurfaced in 2020 throughout the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney area?

Response:

*Using previous years allocations as a funding barometer it is anticipated that 12km of local and regional road will a be structurally overlay in 2020 therefore circa 7% of the roads evaluated between a 1-4 will receive a structural overlay.*

11. In relation to road safety, is this Council happy with the progress being made to date regarding hedge-cutting & hedge trimming along our county road network? What efforts & action is being taken against those landowners who fail to comply with hedgecutting notices they may receive?

Response:

*This MD has issued 27 Nr. Warning letters to Individual landowners advising of their responsibilities under the 1993 Road Act to maintain hedgerows, 14 of the 27 contacted where then sent a Second Notice letter. Three of which were forwarded to Monaghan County Council Roads Section to issue a Roads Act Notice. Two of these complied after receiving letter from the Roads Section. One issue remains outstanding to date and eight of the 27 issues are currently in progress and landowners cooperating with this MD.*

## **6.0 Director of Service Orders**

Orders 49/2019, 50/2019, 51/2019, 52/2019, 53/2019, 54/2019, 55/2019, 56/2019, 57/2019, 58/2019, 59/2019 and 60/2019 were duly noted.

## **7.0 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations**

*Votes of Sympathy* were extended to the following:

Clive Hand on the death of his mother Deirdre Hand, Paschal Cunningham and Family on the death of Kay Cunningham, Catherine and Pat Kelly on the death of Owenie Duffy.

*Votes of Congratulations* were extended to the following:

Bernard Marron and Brian Marron (Marron Electrical) on winning Irish Retailer of the Year and Castleblayney Faughs on the success of their recent 5k/2k event.

## 8.0 Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Monday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in Carrickmacross Civic Offices.

## 11.0 AOB

### Cllr. Keelan

- Stated that people who throw plastic bottles out their car windows, particularly on the N2, are throwing money away. The reverse vending machine in Carrickmacross will pay for these plastic bottles.
- Asked if the MD can make contact with the owners of Breffni House? The building is in a state and could do with tidying up.
- Thanked all involved in the Carrickmacross Christmas Lights event.

### Cllr. Carthy

- Can the executive contact the owner of the wall in poor condition at Ivy House Lane?  
**Reply** – A letter has been issued. If no action is taken the Dangerous Structures Act can be applied.
- Monaghan Road in Castleblayney – regarding waste management. Can the executive get involved? Local residents are having to deal with toxic smells from factories.
- Advised that there is no time limit on the Carrickmacross Chamber Gift Vouchers. Encouraged all to buy Carrickmacross and Castleblayney Vouchers.

### Cllr. O'Hanlon

- Stated that he was approached by a concerned local about the wall on Ivy Lane. Cllr O'Hanlon requested that a survey is done straight away. If it is unsafe it should be cordoned off.
- Asked that the general public shop locally, especially in the Christmas period.

### Cllr. Campbell

- Spoke about the "Green Friday" movement – to support Irish businesses particularly during "Black Friday".
- Asked if Irish Water can be contacted about the road in poor repair on Muckno Street where it had been dug up as a pipe had burst. (Drumlin Manor, bottom of Muckno Street).
- Thanked all involved in the switching on of the lights in Castleblayney.
- Wished to encourage people to use the Castleblayney Regeneration Team's voucher scheme and noted that there is a facility for businesses to buy vouchers.

The meeting concluded at 12pm.

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Cathaoirleach

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Date.

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Meeting Administrator