

# 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 Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 10.00am.

**Present** : Cathaoirleach Noel Keelan

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

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

Cathaoirleach Noel Keelan opened the meeting at 10am and began by strongly condemning the attack on Martin Kenny T.D. The members strongly agreed with this condemnation and on the proposal of Cllr.Keelan seconded by Cllr. Kerr-Conlon it was agreed to write a letter to Deputy Kenny highlighting the Council’s support and condemning the attack.

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

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Carthy the minutes of the September monthly meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 were adopted.

#### **2.0 Matters Arising**

Cathaoirleach Keelan proposed to discuss a Notice of Urgent Business put forward by him, regarding the Group Home in Carrickmacross. All members were in agreement to do so.

Cllr. O’Hanlon asked if there was an update on HGV’s going through the town? Also, if there was any correspondence from Minister Ring?

Response: District Engineer Matthew Lambe will present a report during the meeting on HGV’s in Carrickmacross.

This office has received no correspondence from Minister Ring.

Cllr. O’Hanlon requested that the letter is resent to Deputy Ring’s office.

Cllr. Keelan asked for an update on the Traffic Warden patrolling in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney?

Response: This office is liaising with Monaghan District Council regarding this issue. It will be reinforced with management that there is a need for a Traffic Warden in both towns.

Cllr. Carthy asked for an update on inviting the group who have put in a funding application to Failte Ireland for the Market House in Castleblayney to meet with the members?

Response: Director of Service, Paul Clifford advised that MCC have met with the Restoration Committee group and given support when needed.

Cllr. Carthy proposed and Cllr. McCooey seconded that the group are invited to give a presentation to the members. This was unanimously agreed by the members.

Cllr. Carthy asked if a plan had been put in place for full public consultation regarding Farney Street traffic measures?

Response: AECOM have been appointed as consultants to develop a parking strategy for Carrickmacross. There will be extensive public consultation which should be rolled out over the next couple of months.

### **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 advising that the matter is currently receiving attention and a further reply will issue as soon as possible.
- (b) Letter from Brendan Smith T.D concerning the lack of day care provisions for people in Co. Monaghan with neurological conditions advising that he has made representations to the Minister for Health and will be in touch again once a response is received.

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

#### Cllr. Carthy

- A local business man has raised concerns about the work at the Market House, namely the public toilet facilities. He would have concerns about the public using his premises as just a toilet facility and would like an update on the matter.  
**Reply** - There was not a great response from local businesses to the expression of interest in relation to using business premises as a public toilet facility during works. An alternative solution will have to be found if local businesses are unwilling to participate.
- Complaints have been made that motorcyclists are using the Convent Avenue.  
**Reply** – This office was unaware of such activities and have received no complaints. This will be investigated and Gardaí contacted.

#### Cllr. O'Hanlon

- In relation to the community roads scheme (C.I.S.), the following proposal by Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. McCooley was unanimously agreed:

*"A letter be sent out to Small/Medium businesses in Rural South Monaghan to make them aware of the Community Roads Scheme where grants are available, but a contribution of 15% has to be given by the applicant".*

**Reply** – District Coordinator Gareth McMahon advised that the CIS Scheme is well advertised in The Northern Standard, on social media and on the website. It is the Roads Section who administer the scheme.

Director of Services Paul Clifford clarified that the CIS is open to anyone to apply.

Cllr. O'Hanlon asked for an update on the CTEK II building?

**Reply** – Director of Service, Paul Clifford advised that there is no update and no known timeline.

Cllr. O'Hanlon proposed that a letter is sent to the Department to ask for an update.

Cllr. Keelan seconded this and it was unanimously agreed.

#### Cllr. Campbell

- Welcomes the Enterprise Hub and all other funding made available, including the Rural Regeneration Fund. Cllr. Campbell spoke about an issue whereby a visiting tour bus could not park at the bus stop at the Market House in Carrickmacross due to a car being parked there and required that this area is policed.

**Reply** –Re-enforcing the Parking Bye Laws, policing the area when needed and possible additional signage will be investigated.

#### Cllr. Keelan

- Stated that the area behind the Bank of Ireland in Carrickmacross has excellent potential for backland development.

**Reply** – This particular area is of interest to the Council and will be investigated.

- Is there an update on the flooding issues at Drumganny Road and Ascail Rois?

**Reply** – The OPW will provide partial funding towards Drumganny Road. A solution is currently being investigated for Ascail Rois.

## **5.0 Consideration of Report on Monaghan Way**

District Engineer Matthew Lambe went through the report. Information obtained from local walking groups and ramblers indicate that there is very little use of the Castleblayney - Clontibret section.

Cllr. Campbell stated that we have a product and if it is let go, it will be gone forever. He asked if there are any alternative routes that could be used instead? He would prefer to enhance /improve rather than close down.

Cllr. McCooey agreed with Cllr. Campbell's comments and questioned if it could be marketed better?

Cllr. Keelan sought clarification that any works are done with consent of landowners and PL Insurance is in place.

Cllr. O'Hanlon commented that the product from Castleblayney to Clontibret is not being used and that District Engineer is looking to make it safe. He stated that he understands that nobody wants to close a facility, however we need to know how much it will cost to make it safe.

Cllr. Carthy stated that he shared the preference to see it being put to use rather than closing it.

Director of Service, Paul Clifford advised that a report will be done on upgrading, improvement and maintaining costs.

District Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon advised that it is a National Trail – if the required score is not achieved – insurance will not be continued. For this route to remain open compliance needs to be achieved. District Engineer Matthew Lambe will come back to the members with figures.

## **6.0 Consideration of Report on HGV at Main Street, Carrickmacross**

District Engineer Matthew Lambe presented the report to the members.

Cllr. Carthy stated that there is a need to implement this plan and put it into the Bye Laws asap.

Cllr. O'Hanlon that the practice of unnecessary journey's through the town by HGV's needs to cease in order to make the town safer.

Cllr. Keelan agreed that it should be in the bye Laws sooner rather than later. Public safety should be paramount.

Cllr. Campbell remarked that many town centres are being pedestrianised.

Cllr O' Hanlon formally proposed moving on immediately with the plan, this was seconded by Cllr. Keelan and unanimously agreed by the members.

## 7.0 Questions

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

1. Will this Council examine the possibility and costings of putting in place a footpath link from the Dundalk regional road (R179) out to the Nuremore Hotel & also examine the possibility of developing a walking link, by agreement with hotel management, through the hotel grounds linking up to the old Ardee road?

Response:-

*“This MD has carried out preliminary costings on constructing a footpath from the R179 along the LP4700 to the entrance to the Nuremore Hotel. There are many similar locations throughout the district which require Footpath extension and improvements. We will have to evaluate budgets, wages etc and then decide what can or cannot be completed. This MD has had preliminary discussions with the owners of the Hotel about developing a walking link”.*

2. In relation to Inniskeen village will this Council, in conjunction with the housing section as discussed on-site with Dunard Residents Association, put in place a secure storage shed for their gardening equipment etc. and will this Council carry out improvement works to the access road at the rear of Deery Tce?

Response:-

*“It is not the junction of this MD to supply and place a secure storage shed for a resident’s group for the storage of garden equipment. There are various support grants available from MCC (Community & Enterprise and Environmental Services) which are advertised on the web/Northern Standard and other media outlets annually. This storage shed would be eligible for funding under the Community Infrastructure Support measure under the Community & Environment Grant programme. Contact should be made via the C&E unit of MCC and they will advise if there are any current funding opportunities available.*

*The access road at the rear of Deery Terrace is not a public road therefore funding for carrying out improvement works is limited. There are many similar access roads in estates that the Council have taken in charge throughout the district which require improvements. We will have to evaluate budgets, wages etc and then decide what can or cannot be completed”.*

3. In advance of significant funding becoming available to carry out improvement works at the very dangerous Essexfort junction on the Dundalk Road, will this Council examine the possibility of putting in place extra warning signs and road markings etc?

Response:-

*This junction has been placed on the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme list for consideration.*

4. Has any further progress been made in relation to the installation 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.*

5. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of extra traffic calming measures including a pedestrian crossing on the Donaghmoynne road as requested by a number of residents associations including the Lisanisk & Ascaill Dubh residents?

Response:-

*“This MD carried out a speed survey over a 14 day period and the 85th percentile operating speed on this section of road pavement was registered at 52km/hr which is 2km/hr above the 50km/hr speed limit restriction which is in place. This section of pavement has been placed on the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme list for consideration in 2020 for the provision of traffic calming measures following receipt of this information”.*

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

6. Can the MD examine the implementation of fencing at Lough Muckno play park where the park meets the water? And the provision and the possibility of the addition of playground amenities for younger children?

Response:-

*Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD will assess the area and carry out any necessary safety works at this location.*

*The MD have no plans at present to provide any additional play equipment for smaller children at Lough Muckno playpark.*

7. Can the MD advise of the possible addition of new and additional disabled parking spaces at both Saint Patrick’s church Oram and Saint Mary’s Church Castleblayney? Can funding or grant aid be provided to the local communities to install these?

Response:-

*In 2018 the Council provided a disabled bay at St. Mary’s Church, Castleblayney. A new disabled bay has been put in place at St. Patrick’s Church, Oram last week.*

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

8. What is the up-to-date position on the new additional EV parking space at the Courthouse car park, Carrickmacross?

Response:-

*These works have now been completed.*

9. When is it envisaged that the Disabled Parking Bays on Muckno Street, Castleblayney, will be re-lined?

Response:-

*These works have been contracted out and will be completed in the coming weeks.*

10. Has the executive any updates in relation to the further works required on the R179 (Carrick-Kingscourt road) regarding the subsidence forum discussions?

Response:-

*A programme of drilling boreholes for further assessment of the mine conditions under the R179 has been agreed between the government agencies and the company. This work is ongoing and a report on findings will be presented at the next technical meeting which is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>.*

11. When is it envisaged that work will conclude on the hedge-cutting in Drummond Etra housing estate, Carrickmacross?

Response:-

*Hedge cutting works scheduled for Drummond-Era will be completed in the coming weeks.*

12. When is it expected that taking-in-charge works in the Lough na Glack estate, Carrickmacross, will be completed?

Response:-

*This question has been forwarded to the Co. Council for inclusion on the Co. Council agenda.*

## **8.0 Notice of Motions**

Motion by Cllr. Keelan for the October Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District Meeting:

*“That this Council will, as a policy, revert back to the comprehensive verge trimming and hedge cutting practices that were in place prior to the abolition of the Town Council in Carrickmacross”.*

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that he has no issue supporting the motion as long as resources are available.

Cllr. Keelan noted that in the grand scheme of things the cost would be miniscule.

District Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that he had no issue with the proposal and noted that we are prohibited from cutting between 1<sup>st</sup> of March and 31<sup>st</sup> of August. The MD will not be doing a substantial cut out of season. One substantial cut will be done within season. Dangerous areas will be maintained with permission from the National Parks and Wildlife.

A vote was taken on Cllr. Keelan’s motion with the result as follows: 5 in favour (Cllr. Keelan, Cllr. Carthy, Cllr. Campbell, Cllr. O’Hanlon, Cllr. McCooey) 1 against (Cllr. Kerr Conlon).

## **9.0 Director of Service Orders**

Orders 38/2019, 39/2019, 10/2019, 41/2019, 42/2019, 43/2019, 44/2019, 45/2019, 46/2019, 47/2019, 48/2019 were duly noted.

Cllr. Keelan sought clarification regarding the Orders concerning the Designation of Authorised Personnel to view CCTV footage.

District Co-Ordinator Gareth McMahon explained that it is a GDPR requirement.

## **10.0 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations**

*Vote of Sympathy* was extended to the following:

Julia Finnegan & Family on the death of Hugh Finnegan;

Aidan Walsh & Family on the death of Ciara Walsh;

The Family of Mrs. Patsy Markey on the death of Mrs. Markey

Marie McNally & Family on the death of Hugo McNally.

*Vote of Congratulations* was extended to the following:

Carrickmacross Tidy Towns on the achievement of receiving their 8<sup>th</sup> gold medal in a row in the National Tidy Towns Competition.

Carrick Rovers on winning promotion to the Premier Division and on the Reserve Team winning.

## **11.0 AOB**

### Cllr. Carthy

- Expressed thanks to all involved, including Jim Gartlan, for facilitating the Wave of Light on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. Over 100 people attended the Civic Offices. He suggested that it should be made an annual event.
- Spoke about the issues involving Carrickmacross G.P. Surgery. Requested that an invite be extended to a representative of the G.P.'s surgery in Cloughvalley to make a presentation to the members.
- Stated that the footpaths in Woodvale housing estate are in poor condition.
- Requested that a letter issue to the developers currently working of the Kingscourt Road agree future access be allowed to the play area to Woodvale residents as a courtesy.

District Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon replied that a letter will be issued to the developers.

Cllr. Carthy reminded all about the Halloween event on Thursday at the football field. All welcome to attend.

### Cllr. Campbell

- Congratulated Blayney Rovers on their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Enquired if funding would be available for upgrading their changing rooms/toilets.

Cllr. O'Hanlon

- Spoke about the upcoming roadworks on the N2 from Aclint to Carrickmacross. Queried why these works would take place in winter during darker evenings. The following proposal by Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. McCooney was unanimously agreed:

*"A letter be sent to the Minister for Transport, Shane Ross T.D., TII and all local deputies in relation to work on the N2 between Aclint and Carrickmacross, that this work should take place during the summer and not on the weeks coming up to Christmas".*

- Asked if there has been anything done about overhanging trees at the Red Door on the main Kingscourt Road?

District Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan responded that a schedule of hedge cutting has been agreed to by the landowner in question.

Cllr. Keelan

- Requested that sightlines at the Drummond Ross development could be looked at. District co-ordinator Gareth McMahan replied that the MD will contact the developers.
- Called on all walkers/runners at night time to wear Hi-Vis clothing for safety.
- Sought clarification whether the Shirley Arms Carpark is public or private?  
District co-ordinator Gareth McMahan clarified that it is a private car park.

**12.0 Notice of Urgent Business**

Cllr. Carthy read out a letter which it was proposed to send to Minister for Health, Simon Harris regarding the opening of the Group Home in Carrickmacross.

Cllr. Campbell agreed with the issue, however he asked for the wording to be changed. Cllr. Carthy amended the wording as requested. On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, it was unanimously agreed to send the letter.

Cllr. Keelan brought a list of concerns /issues from Magheraclone Residents to the attention of the Executive.

Director of Service, Paul Clifford informed the members that he had contacted the Residents Committee to advise that the next meeting would be in November. He had been advised that the residents had issues, but to date had not been given a list of what those issues were. Mr. Clifford took note of the list provided by Cllr. Keelan with a view to addressing these issues at the next forum meeting.

The meeting concluded at 12.25pm.

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Cathaoirleach

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Date.

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Meeting Administrator