

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 23rd September 2019 at 10.00am.

Present : Cathaoirleach Noel Keelan

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

In Attendance: Gareth McMahon, 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. McCooey the minutes of the July meeting with Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce held on Monday 22nd July 2019 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Kerr Conlon the minutes of the July monthly meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2019 were adopted

2.0 Matters Arising

From Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce meeting:

Cllr. Keelan stressed the importance of the Traffic Warden's presence to deal with parking issues and asked for an update on the public toilets.

District coordinator Gareth McMahon advised that an increase of the frequency of Traffic Warden visits is being looked into. A contractor has been appointed to carry out works on the public toilets and is due to commence in the next couple of weeks. One toilet will be retained as a public toilet. Local businesses have been contacted to seek interest in providing use of premises as public toilet facilities.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that the parking issues in Carrickmacross need to be dealt with.

Cllr. Kerr Conlon noted that shop keepers in town play a part in not obeying the two-hour parking.

Cllr. O'Hanlon spoke about HGV's causing issues in the town. He noted that this has nothing to do with lorries providing services/deliveries in town – it is the HGV's using Carrickmacross as a short cut instead of using the bypass.

District Engineer, Matthew Lambe replied that a 24-hour CCTV survey was carried out and he has only just received the report. This will be analysed, and a report provided.

Cllr. Keelan asks if this can be provided at the October meeting.

District Coordinator Gareth McMahon noted concerns about the enforcement of Bye Laws in relation to HGV's in the town.

From July Monthly Meeting 2019:

Cllr. Campbell acknowledged the works done at Annadrummond, Church Hill Road and Corrygarry however he stated that completion of works shouldn't take so long.

Cllr. Campbell noted that Drumcrew Bridge was still fenced off and asked when will the works be complete?

District Engineer Matthew Lambe responded that it is being given time for settlement and should be re-open in two weeks.

Cllr. O'Hanlon thanked officials and particularly acknowledged Engineer Craig Connolly for the top-class job at Steadfast Junction. Cllr O'Hanlon also acknowledged that the lights at Corduff are now fixed. Cllr. O'Hanlon asked for an update on the missing link in Lurgan's footpath?

District Engineer Matthew Lambe replied that this matter is still in progress.

Cllr. Carthy also commended the work on Steadfast Junction. Cllr. Carthy suggested that a pedestrian crossing between Cloughvalley Playpark and Rockdaniel Road may be something to be looked at in the future. Regarding the possible future use of the Market House, Castleblayney, Cllr. Carthy informed the members that he had heard a group being mentioned at the event in Castleblayney last weekend. He asked if it would be possible to meet with this group. Possibly invite them to give a report to the members?

Cllr. Keelan agreed with this idea.

Cllr. McCooey stated that she believes that this group have applied for funding from Failte Ireland.

District Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon agreed to make contact with a view to arranging a meeting.

3.0 Presentation by Grainne Shaffrey – Residential Occupancy Pilot Scheme, Castleblayney

Grainne Shaffrey and Maire Cullinan made a presentation to the members about the project. She advised that 25 property owners had engaged in the process. While this is still the preliminary stage, to identify problems and solutions, the scheme is looking at the potential of existing buildings and backlands. The findings, when completed, would be presented to the members at a later date.

4.0 Correspondence

(a) Letter from Minister for Health, Simon Harris concerning the inclusion of fibromyalgia on the Long-Term Illness Scheme.

Cllr. Carthy expressed his disappointment that there no are plans to include this illness on the scheme.

(b) Letter from Tommy McGuire, Muckno Mania Festival expressing their thanks.

Cllr. Keelan acknowledged this.

(c) Letter from Carrickmacross-Carhaix Twinning Association regarding re-nomination to their committee.

Cllr. Keelan proposed that Cllr. O'Hanlon and Cllr. Carthy were re-nominated. Cllr. Campbell seconded this.

(d) Letter from Carrickmacross Festival Committee. Requesting that the MD members nominate their representative to act as VP for the next five years.

Cllr. O'Hanlon proposed that Cllr. Carthy be re-nominated. Cllr. Keelan seconded.

5.0 Municipal District Co-ordinator's Report

Cllr. Campbell

Asked for an update on the works at the Big Tom Statue.

Reply – Works should be complete within 6 weeks.

Is there an update on Mindszenty Park?

Reply – On standstill until confirmation of funding received.

Commended Castleblayney Regeneration Committee for organising the festival.

Cllr. Carthy

Added his thanks to Castleblayney Regeneration Committee for organising the festival and congratulated all involved.

Asked for clarification about the cost estimate of the Carrickmacross – Dundalk Greenway.

Reply – Estimates are based on similar projects, already delivered, chosen by the consultants. There is no detailed design – it is a rough cost estimate.

Welcomed the idea of Carrickmacross online market and the appointment of consultants to carry out a feasibility study.

Reply – The MD will bring the results of this feasibility study to the members when concluded.

Cllr. O'Hanlon

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. O'Hanlon:

"A letter be sent to Minister Michael Ring on Rural Ireland being short changed of €270 million and when does he expect to outline how this gigantic sum of unspent monies will be addressed".

A vote was taken with the result as follows: 4 in favour (Cllr. O'Hanlon, Cllr. McCooey, Cllr. Keelan, Cllr. Carthy) 2 against (Cllr. Campbell, Cllr. Kerr Conlon).

Reply – The Co-Ordinator stated that in cases of Grant Aid that is project based, for example The Castleblayney Enterprise Hub, the funding will follow the project. It may take years for the project to be completed and a large percentage of the monies will not be drawn down until the completion of the project. However, the monies would be made available until the project was complete.

Cllr. Keelan

Asked for an update on the extension to Ivy Lane Car Park and stressed the importance of backland developments.

Reply – The Council are in the process of procuring consultants for the develop of Local Area Action Plans. It is likely a new Part 8 Planning application will be submitted.

Voiced concerns about the delay in getting the Tullyvaragh Junction project delivered and the Drumganny Road as the road is in bits.

Cllr. Keelan stated that he felt the Hedge Trimming Programme was very poor this year in the town.

Reply – The responsibility of hedge cutting lies with the land/property owner. MCC do not maintain hedges that are not our responsibility. Hedge cutting season must also be taken into consideration.

6.0 Consideration of Draft Bye Laws for the Regulation and Control of the Consumption of Intoxicating Substances in Public Places in County Monaghan (drafted by the Monaghan MD)

For the members consideration. It was agreed to send to the full Council.

7.0 Questions

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

1. Can the MD update the members of the status for a Playpark in Bree?

Response:

There are no plans a present for a playpark at Bree, however, this matter can be investigated.

2. Can the MD investigate the feasibility of implementing traffic calming measures @ 1) Monaghan Road Castleblayney 2) Shercock Road into Castleblayney before the Crescent?

Response:

The Monaghan Road Castleblayney has recently been examined and preliminary designs for the installation of traffic calming measures are currently being prepared. This MD will examine the Shercock RD in Castleblayney, carry out preliminary investigation works and prepare preliminary designs to ascertain the feasibility of installing traffic calming.

3. Can the MD investigate implementing a crash barrier at the dangerous bend on the Churchill Road?

Response:

This MD will examine this location and ascertain if a vehicle restraint barrier can be installed. There are many similar locations throughout the district which require

road safety improvements. We will have to evaluate budgets, wages etc on completion of Regional Improvement and Surface Dressing Works and then decide what can or cannot be completed.

4. Can the MD update the members on the works recently carried on the Churchill road and when they will be completed?

Response:

These works were delayed due to unforeseen circumstances, however, works will be completed in the next two weeks.

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

5. What is the latest up-to-date situation with the introduction of a loading bay on Farney Street, Carrickmacross?

Response:

The public consultation date has now closed and a report has been compiled by the District Engineer. This item has been placed on the agenda for discussion by the members.

6. What plans have the Municipal District to introduce by-laws on Farney Street, Carrickmacross, to bring in 2-hour parking and will it consider marking out parking spaces along the road?

Response:

A report on this issue is being circulated today.

7. When is it expected hedge-cutting works will be carried out on Pearse Avenue, Carrickmacross?

Response:

These works were completed at the end of August, 2019 under the Hedge Cutting Programme.

8. When is it envisaged that work will conclude on the new Dog Park in Carrickmacross?

Response:

An application for funding for the dog park has gone in under the Town and Village Renewal fund. There has been no announcement in this regard to date. If successful, works will be carried out in early 2020.

9. When is it expected that road marking works will be carried out next in Castleblayney and will the council consider enlarging the Disabled Parking bays on Muckno street?

Response:

A line marking company has been procured and are currently carrying out works in this Municipal District which includes completing works on the disabled parking bays at Muckno St Castleblayney.

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

10. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of a CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross town and its environs as such a system would help in crime prevention and detection?

Response:

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

11. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of much needed traffic calming measures at the very dangerous Essexford junction?

Response:

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

12. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of WiFi facilities throughout our village areas including for example Donaghmoyne, Corduff, Lisdoonan, Inniskeen given the very poor, or in some cases non-existent, broadband in these areas?

Response:

Monaghan Co. Council has submitted 4 applications for wifi4EU funding which is the maximum allowed for each local authority. It is expected that only half of the LAs will receive funding for one proposal in the first round. Each successful application will receive €15,000 funding and The Dept. of Rural & Community Development will match fund this amount. In view of this, it is expected that each installation will cover more than a single village if appropriate. It is important to note that Wifi4EU presupposes that high speed broadband is already available in the towns or villages where the WiFi is scheduled to be installed.

13. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of much needed proper safe walking routes / footpath links throughout Inniskeen village & in particular across the River Fane & out past Magee's corner?

Response:

The primary constraint to installing a footpath at this location is the width of the existing bridge over the River Fane. At present there are no agreed proposal for dealing with this constraint. A funding application has been made under Town & Village Renewal Scheme for a Public Realm for Inniskeen in which linking the village into the Monaghan Way will be explored.

14. In order to play our part in combating climate change, will this MD prepare our own plans and strategies in conjunction with the County Council including examining the possibility of putting in place electric car charging points throughout our village areas. Can we work with the local GAA clubs, community organizations and the providers of such facilities to progress this important issue?

Response:

At the September meeting of Monaghan County Council, the Monaghan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 was approved. The strategy outlines a range of actions to be progressed by all units and sections within the Council over the lifetime of the strategy to improve Monaghan County Council's resilience to the impacts of climate change. In relation to electric vehicle charging points The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Richard Bruton on August 26th announced funding to support the rollout by local authorities of up to 1,000 on-street public charge points for electric vehicles over the next 5 years. This new scheme will support the widespread roll out of electric vehicles over the period 2020 to 2025.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for September 2019 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

15. When will the MD be in a position to get the Disabled Car Parking spaces marked at Oram Church?

Response:

A line marking company has been procured and are currently carrying out works in this Municipal District which includes completing works on the disabled parking bays at Oram.

16. With significant works carried out on the Pilot Project where Castleblayney was one of six towns selected to participate in looking at proposals to bring town centre living back to some unused buildings and recognizing the work done by Castleblayney Regeneration Team and the Council

- What are the findings to date with this pilot scheme?
- What are the next stages of this plan?

Response:

This question is up for discussion as part of the agenda with a presentation on the current status of the project from Grainne Shaffrey

17. Has the MD received the reports on the traffic calming measures requested for the Dublin Road out of Castleblayney from the Church and including the two schools on this busy road?

Response:

The area in question has recently been examined and preliminary designs for the installation of traffic calming measures are currently being prepared.

18. With the increase in traffic on the Shercock Road into and out of Castleblayney where there are a number of developments now taking place, can the MD look at traffic calming measure for this area?

Response:

This MD will examine this location, carry out preliminary investigation works and prepare preliminary designs to ascertain the feasibility of installing traffic calming.

8.0 Consideration of Report Re: Loading Bays at Farney Street and O'Neill Street, Carrickmacross

District Engineer Matthew Lambe presented the report.

District Coordinator Gareth McMahon stated that there will be a full, detailed public consultation carried out. We are ready to appoint consultants.

Cllr. Carthy requested that all information is passed onto those who took the time to make submissions.

District coordinator Gareth McMahon responded that a letter will be drafted and sent to those who made submissions and a copy sent to Carrickmacross Chamber.

9.0 Consideration of Report on Monaghan Way Trail

District Engineer Matthew Lambe presented the report.

Cllr. Keelan expressed his thanks for the comprehensive report and for the works carried out.

Cllr. Campbell asked where the Council is in relation to looking for an alternative route along the N53 and whether was it worth trying to preserve the existing route (Castleblayney to Clontibret)?

District Coordinator Gareth McMahon replied that the current route is not an actual established path. Feedback from use indicates that it is not used. Running costs and maintenance costs are the biggest. Having to re-instate the route would not incur major costs or issues. We are investigating an alternative route in the future with possible funding from the Outdoor Recreation Scheme. Following a discussion on the matter, it is unanimously decided to re-visit the issue in October.

10.0 Notice of Motions

The following notice of motion was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Carthy seconded by Cllr. Keelan:-

"The Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District Council calls on the Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD, and the Minister of State for Disability Issues, Finian McGrath TD, to immediately deal with the lack of specific day-centre resources for people with Neurological conditions in Co. Monaghan."

The following notice of motion was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Carthy seconded by Cllr. Keelan:-

"The Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District Council requests a meeting with Bus Eireann to discuss the current routes available in the MD, with a specific focus on collections/drop-offs to and from Dublin Airport."

8.0 Director of Service Orders

Director's Orders 30/2019, 31/2019, 32/2019, 33/2019, 34/2019, 35/2019, 36/2019 and 37/2019 were noted.

9.0 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Vote of congratulations were extended to Castleblayney Taekwondo Team on winning over 50 medals (Gold, Silver and Bronze) at the European Taekwondo Championships; to Carrick Aces Athletics Club and Yared Derese on coming first in the Dublin Half-Marathon on 21st September and to Carrickmacross GAA U15 Boys on winning the Championship. *Votes of sympathy* were extended to the McKeogh family on the death of Paddy McKeogh.

10.0 AOB

Cllr. Keelan

Appealed to landowners to carry out their hedge cutting obligations in order to keep the roads safe. For the small minority who don't, the MD should take a strong line with them. Cllr. Keelan also appealed to walkers to wear hi-Vis vest.

Acknowledged the local businesses Frankies Fashions and Conways Emporium and requested that a letter be sent to both business owners.

Asked for an explanation as to why the pedestrian lights were out for such a long period, in both Castleblayney and Carrickmacross?

District Engineer, Matthew Lambe, advised that there were difficulties getting a replacement part for the pedestrian lights and this had delayed its repair. It was also noted that lights had been upgraded at the pedestrian crossing at Main Street. This followed a decision by the members when they registered their displeasure at the brightness of new lights which had been installed.

Acknowledged the musician Paddy Cole and the great event that occurred over the weekend. A thank you to the Castleblayney Regeneration Team and the Council for all their efforts. Cllr. Keelan also acknowledged Donaghmoyle GAA for the opening of their walking route – it was a fantastic event. It was great to see Katrina Coleman, Vincent McConnon and Martin Daly recognised.

Cllr. O'Hanlon

Complimented all involved in the Donaghmoyle GAA event.
Acknowledged the good work completed on the Shercock Road, Carrickmacross.
Is there an update about the 2 lights at Killanny Church?
District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that this is being looked at.
Voiced concern about the state of the Broomfield Road and the section of the Ballybay Road.

Cllr. Carthy

Can the Market House/Courthouse bend be included in any Low-Cost Safety plans? There is a lot of speeding and accidents in this area.
Can the sink in the gents Market Square toilets be tidied up?
Is there an update on the proposed second EV car parking bay?
District Engineer Matthew Lambe responded that Kelly's are currently on site and this is part of their contract.
Spoke about areas and housing estates in Carrickmacross that have no access to fibre broadband despite the infrastructure being there. Eir refuse to provide it. Ask if the Executive will write to Eir about this. All members agreed with this.
Expressed thanks to the staff and CEO of MCC for participating in World Remembrance Day for Pregnancy and Infant Loss on Oct 15th by lighting up the building in pink and blue.

Cllr. Campbell

Asked for an update on Muckno Street – the sewerage system was updated, and the road is in a state.
District Engineer Matthew Lambe responded that Irish Water had carried out a temporary repair. We are in consultation with them to fix the issue.
There are finishing works to be completed in Bree where the new houses were built .
District Engineer Matthew Lambe replied that the MD will investigate same.

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm.

Cathaoirleach

Meeting Administrator

Dated _____

