

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 27th January 2020 at 10:00am

Present : Cathaoirleach Noel Keelan

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

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

Cathaoirleach Noel Keelan welcomed all to the meeting and congratulated Magheraclone Mitchells on their performance at the weekend. Hard luck but a fantastic achievement. These sentiments were echoed by all members. Cllr. Campbell wished to also add congratulations to Blackhill who also had a great year. It was unanimously agreed by the members to send a Vote of Congratulations to both teams.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Kerr Conlon and seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon the amended minutes of the December monthly meeting held on Monday 16th December 2019 were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised the members that the HGV report has been forwarded to the solicitor.

Cllr. O’Hanlon asked if there is any update about possible funding for CTek II and wished to clarify if Enterprise Ireland funding is being applied for?

Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that all funding options are being pursued. An application will be sent in by the end of February.

Cllr. Keelan wished to note the issue of accessing GP services in Carrickmacross. Something needs to be done.

Cllr. Keelan also spoke about the Pedestrian Crossing at the Donaghmoyn Road. There is poor visibility and the lighting needs to be improved. Can this be investigated?

Cllr. Keelan discussed the housing development at Close Drummond. He stated that there is poor visibility and the security fencing/hoarding needs to be improved. Young people have recently gained access to the site.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe informed the members that he has spoken with the contractor and they have advised him that the hoarding is due to be removed next week. They will revert to him about the security issues this week.

Cllr. Keelan voiced his concern about the access road to Killanny. When it is wet or frosty, the surface is very slippery. Some works were carried out; however, the road surface is very poor. Can engineering staff re-visit this issue?

District co-ordinator Gareth McMahon advised that this road was re-surfaced last year.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that there seems to be an issue with this road and believes it may have something to do with the surfacing work done. It should be investigated.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that it is due to be investigated and this road has been placed on the consideration list for gritting for 2021. The situation will be monitored.

Cllr. O'Hanlon requested that the Council look at the number of potholes on the Kingscourt Road, and the District Engineer agreed to do so.

3.0 Presentation by Pauline McClean – “Processing Personal Data by Elected Representatives”

The members thanked Data Protection Officer Pauline McClean for her presentation.

4.0 Presentation by Cathal Flynn – 3 Year Capital Programme

Cllr. Campbell:

Observed that there is a lot of good in the programme which is long overdue for Castleblayney – over €6 million in funding.

Stated that it is important to note that the Enterprise hub will hopefully create up to 60 jobs.

Gate House number 2 will enhance the area and is very welcome, as is Castleblayney Fire Station.

Spoke about the Market House and was glad to hear funding is being applied for under Rural Regeneration.

Noted that Hope Castle is not in the plan.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Stated that Castleblayney have been very fortunate and that Carrickmacross have been very unfortunate. He said that he felt that the amount of funding for each town was disproportionate. However, he wished to make it clear that he is glad for Castleblayney, however he would have thought that rate payers in Carrickmacross would have received better value for money.

Spoke about how a CTek II is badly needed. CTek I was filled very quickly. People want to work from Carrickmacross but cannot due to lack of facilities. Will continue to fight for a CTek II at every opportunity.

Cllr. McCooey:

Expressed delight at funding in Castleblayney.

Queried the funding for the Market House. Acting Director of Services Cathal Flynn clarified that the money mentioned is a guestimate of what might be spent. Director of Services Paul Clifford added that the application will be in by the end of February and the result should be known mid-year.

Spoke about receiving lots of complaints about the dullness of the LED lights which have been installed. Acting Director of Services Cathal Flynn responded that this is a matter of perception – the new LED's actually produce more light.

Cllr. Carthy:

Stated that he has an issue with Carrickmacross not receiving as much funding, however, he acknowledged that Monaghan County Council are working very hard to secure funding for Carrickmacross.

Acknowledged that the Capital Programme is aspirational but remains confident that we will push forwards for Carrickmacross – Castleblayney.

Cllr. Keelan:

Stated that he is conscious that a lot of housing developments are happening locally.

Smaller villages would like to see small housing developments in their areas.

The upgrading of the Dundalk – Shercock Road is an on-going issue. Welcomed the good works done recently however government funded works are needed.

5.0 Correspondence

- *Acknowledgement Letter from Deputy Humphreys – CTek II*

Cllr. O'Hanlon expressed his disappointment that there was not more of a response.

- *Hudsons Funfair – permission to use Drummond Etra Car Park over St. Patrick's period.*

Proposed by Cllr. Kerr Conlon and Seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon. All members unanimously agreed. Cllr. O'Hanlon asked that local businesses' / residents are liaised with and kept informed.

- *Castleblayney Twinning Committee – requesting financial assistance of €2150.00.*

On the proposal of Cllr. Campbell and seconded by Cllr. McCooey, the members agreed to send a letter to Monaghan County Council CPG for consideration.

6.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

It was agreed that the Footpath and Lighting Programme meeting will be held at the next Monthly Municipal District Meeting.

Cllr. Kerr Conlon:

Asked for an update on the public toilets.

Reply – A single toilet is being retained for public use.

Cllr. Campbell:

Asked for an update on Castleblayney Community CCTV.

Reply – Currently in Public Consultation for the revised design. Should no issue/objections arise, an application will be made to the Garda Commissioner.

Stated he is looking forward to the Shaffrey Report coming back.

Cllr. Keelan:

Regarding Back land developments – the rear of BOI would be an excellent location to be investigated.

Reply – This falls under the envelope of the Local Area Action Plan.

Stated that we need to mind our towns and do all we can to improve areas around the main streets and back lands.

Called for the Pothole blitz to continue. Is overtime and using contractors possible?

Reply – There are 2 crews at present on all roads. We are getting through the list as quickly as possible. The process has changed in order to achieve a longer lasting effect.

Voiced concerned about the length of time it is taking to address the issue of Tullyvaragh junction.

Welcomed that CCTV in Castleblayney and Carrickmacross is progressing.

Queried the roadworks at Aclint. Is there an issue with the surface? Does it need to be replaced?

Reply – The Contractor is obliged to carry out works to the correct standards. Roads Section manage this contract. Defects have been identified and must be rectified.

7.0 Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for January 2020 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. As previously requested, and subsequently added to the MD's list of works for consideration, will the executive commit to the tidying up of the green space between upper and lower Drummond Etra, Carrickmacross (i.e. resurfacing works on access lanes, trimming of trees etc)?

Response:-

This M.D will examine the green space between upper and lower Drummond Etra, Carrickmacross and ascertain what exactly is involved. We will then evaluate budget available and decide if the necessary funds are available to complete such a request.

2. When is it envisaged the works to the Market Square phase 2 development, Carrickmacross, will be completed?

Response:-

Works will be complete by the end of Q1, 2020.

3. What is the up-to-date situation with the promotion and development plan for Hope Castle and Annex Building in Castleblayney?

Response:-

Tenders have been received in relation to a call for appointing property consultants for this project and are currently being evaluated.

4. What is the up-to-date position on works required to both the Woodvale and Pearse Avenue estates, Carrickmacross, i.e. additional signage, repair works etc?

Response:-

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

5. When is it expected the works will commence on the Gate House 2 and the Enterprise Hub projects in Castleblayney?

Response:-

In relation to the Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration scheme which involves a refurbishment and extension to Gate Lodge 2 to provide a modern public library and public realm upgrading works to the existing streetscape around the Gate Lodge building, Monaghan County Council are required to submit relevant information and correspondence to the Department of Rural & Community Development for a number of stages under the Department's funding approval process (Approval in Principle / Pre Tender Approval / Approval to Proceed) prior to securing approval to proceed to project construction. Having regard to associated timelines for the project stages and subject to Monaghan County Council satisfying the Department requirements and securing funding approval, it is anticipated that construction works will commence early in Q3 of 2020.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aoife McCooey for January 2020 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. Can the MD outline their plans for the upgrading of lighting in Castleblayney, with respect to the new LED lights? Can we look at putting in brighter LED bulbs in certain areas, particularly in The Crescent, Castleblayney, as many residents have raised with me how little light is omitted and how dark the estate is.

Response:-

The public lighting budget 2020 will be put before the members in the coming months. This item can be placed on the agenda for consideration by the members.

7. Can the MD investigate the traffic lights in Castleblayney for a possible fault with the pedestrian button? It's been reported people are waiting in excess of 6 minutes for the green man to come on. Can we check if the buttons work and possibly decrease the wait time for pedestrians?

Response:-

Engineering staff reviewed the traffic lights sequencing at the Junction of Main St and York St on the 9th of January 2020. They observed the lights for 10 sequences and there was no apparent sign of a fault. The pedestrian light came on when a pedestrian pushed the button to cross with no excessive delay. The issue has been referred to the contractor who installed the lights and they will be in area over the coming weeks to check the buttons for faults and excessive waiting times.

8. Can the MD outline their road salting programme? Can we also make provisions to add the L3700 Churchill Road to the plan for next year's scheme? Many complaints have been made regarding this road.

Response:

Monaghan County Council's winter service plan for 2019-2020 was agreed in early November 2019, based on the resources available to the Council. The routes are published on the Council's website. There are 2550km of public roads in the county. It is not possible to grit all routes with the resources available and priority is given to national and regional routes. The priority routes cover 610km, which accounts for 24% of the county's roads network and exceeds the 18% national average which is provided by other Local Authorities.

The agreed winter service plan will not be amended mid-season but will be reviewed at the end of the season. Any submissions made will be taken into account in this review.

9. Can the MD provide information on its plans for roads safety with regard to crash barriers, namely the one at Broomfield on the L4110 and on the bend on the Oram Road, which have had numerous accidents at over the winter.

Response:-

This M.D. is currently risk assessing the need for a crash barrier on the L4110. There are many similar locations throughout the district which require traffic containment measures. Following the risk assessment engineering staff will have to evaluate budgets, wages etc on completion of Regional Improvement and Surface Dressing Works and then decide what can or cannot be complete.

This M.D is currently procuring a contractor to replace the section of crash barrier on the R182 Oram Rd.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for January 2020 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

10. What's the up to date position in relation to the provision of a CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross town and its environs?

Response:-

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

11. What's the up to date position regarding the provision of safe walking routes/footpaths throughout Inniskeen village?

Response:-

Funding under Town & Village 2019 was received to provide a public realm plan for Inniskeen. This will identify walking routes around the Village which can be developed.

12. Will this Council examine the possibility of refurbishing/upgrading the bridge at Corcrin, Carrickmacross and also the bridge at Corbane as inspected by the Council engineering staff?

Response:-

Both bridges have been examined and have been added to the bridge repair list, it is envisaged that both bridges will be repaired by the end of Q2 in 2020.

13. Will this Council examine the possibility of putting in place extra traffic calming measures in Inniskeen including Dunard estate?

Response:-

This MD will examine the locations and ascertain if extra traffic calming is required. There are many similar locations throughout the district which require traffic calming measures. 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.

14. When does this Council hope to commence its county road program which includes resurfacing of selected roads?

Response:-

The drainage works on the roads agreed under the 3-year programme for 2020 will commence in the coming weeks.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for January 2020 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

15. When will the MD commence the works around the Big Tom Statue which includes some street furniture and works to enhance the area which was due to take place prior to the Market House road closures?

Response:-

New street furniture has been ordered for the area around the statue and works are ongoing on this project.

16. With the recent announcement of funding for Mindszenty Park for surfacing and drainage works and also funding being announced for work at to upgrade the area at the Point in the Black Island to upgrade paths and the picnic area, when will this work commence?

Response:-

Tender documents will be developed in the coming weeks with a view to having work commence in Q2 of this year.

17. When will work commence on the taking down of the iron fencing which is around the compound before the bridge at the Black Island? Can this area be looked at with some funding for an open picnic area?

Response:-

These works will be done as part of the Point, Black Island project.

18. With the road surface on the Main Street, Castleblayney in such bad condition, when will this important road surface be upgraded?

Response:-

This section of road pavement in Castleblayney is on the 2020 Roads Programme and it is envisaged that this works will be completed by the end of Q3 2020.

8.0 Director of Service Orders

Orders 1/2020, 2/2020, 3/2020 and 4/2020 were duly noted.

9.0 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were extended to the following:

John Clinton on the death of his mother Anna; The Family of Noleen Keenan on the death of Noleen; Jim Crossan & Family on the death of Gerry Crossan; Fiona McNulty & Family on the death of Tony Walsh and Michael Fee & Family on the death of P.J. Fee.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:

Magheracloone Mitchells GAA Club on the achievement of reaching the All-Ireland Intermediate Club final and to Blackhill Emeralds GAA club on reaching the All-Ireland JFC Semi- Finals.

10.0 AOB

Cllr. Keelan

- Stated that Breffni house on the Dundalk – Donaghmoynne Road is in a poor state of repair and looks unsightly.
Response – A notice has been sent to the owners.
- The Drumganny Road is in poor condition.
Response – It is hoped to carry out works this year.

Cllr. Carthy

- Spoke about the Beagh Road remaining closed and stated that this is unfair to local residents.
Response – MCC have done all they can. It is now a matter for the Courts.
- 12 – 18 months ago a walking map was produced for Carrickmacross. Is there anything we can do to provide signage for routes?
Response – MCC will not consider putting signage where there are no footpaths in the interest of public safety.

Cllr. McCooey

- Queried the new speed limits on the Dundalk Road to Castleblayney. What is the situation with this?

Response – This is dealt with at County Council level. Decisions are made there.

Cllr. O'Hanlon

- Warmly welcomed the New Base Factory. Asked if there is an update on when it is opening?

Response – this is not a matter for MCC as it is a private company. However, we will write to the management to request an update.

- Wished the new owners of The Nuremore Hotel the best of luck and expressed thanks to the Gilhooley family for all their work over the years. These sentiments were echoed by Cllr. Carthy.

Cllr. Keelan wished all the campaigners in the upcoming General Election the best of luck and encouraged all to exercise their right to vote.

The meeting concluded at 12:20pm.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator