

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 Carrickmacross Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Wednesday 28th October 2020 at 10.45am

Present : Cathaoirleach Aidan Campbell

Cllrs. Aoife McCooey, PJ O’Hanlon, Mary Kerr Conlon, Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan

In Attendance: Paul Clifford, Director of Service, Matthew Lambe, Acting District Coordinator, Julieann O’Reilly, Clerical Officer

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. McCooey the minutes of the Presentation by Aecom (Parking Strategy Carrickmacross) meeting held on Monday 28th September 2020 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. McCooey the minutes of the September monthly meeting held on Monday 28th September 2020 were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan spoke about the importance of liaising with Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce and Castleblayney Regeneration team, particularly in Covid times and in the run up to Christmas. Cllr. Keelan stated that he would like to meet with a rep from each group in the next week or two.

Cllr. Keelan asked if the possibility of “i-boards” in the town can be examined?

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that if there is anything that members can do to aid local businesses it should be done. He acknowledged that MCC have put helpful interventions in place such as the suspension of rates.

Cllr. O’Hanlon also stressed the importance of shopping locally and mentioned that the Christmas lights will be very important this year.

Cllr. O’Hanlon enquired if any correspondence had been received regarding the loss of Block Grants?

Clerical Officer, Julieann O’Reilly advised that an acknowledgement of receipt of the letter sent is the only correspondence received to date on the matter.

Cllr. O'Hanlon expressed his disappointment about this.

Cllr. McCooley concurred with sentiments supporting the importance of meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and Regeneration Team to see if the members can help in any way in these difficult times.

Cllr. McCooley noted that many local businesses are offering online and/or click and collect services.

Cllr. Carthy remarked that members support the local towns voucher schemes every year and stressed the importance of encouraging people to use these to support local business.

Cllr. Campbell acknowledged there may be difficulties organising meetings during Covid restrictions.

Cllr. Campbell asked if there is an update on the Traffic Warden in Castleblayney?

Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that it will be raised at the CPG to seek extra resources for the provision of a Traffic Warden.

Cllr. Carthy stated that he is aware that Acting District Coordinator Matthew Lambe has been working on this issue and that there has been a more visible presence in Carrickmacross.

Cllr. Carthy spoke about a previously raised issue about parking at school times at Cloughvalley and requested that this MD investigate installing a railing/barrier as previously suggested.

Cllr. Carthy asked for an update on the lighting design for St Macartan's Tce.

Acting District Coordinator Matthew Lambe advised that Vincent McKenna is currently putting together costings and there are some civil works to be completed.

3.0 Correspondence

No Correspondence

4.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

Cllr. Carthy:

Is there an update on the Carrickmacross – Kingscourt Cycle Way?

Response – in progress.

Is there an update on the proposed benches at Lisanisk, Dundalk Road?

Response – in progress.

Advised that people have expressed concerns about the Monaghan Road out of Castleblayney. There is heavy traffic during busy times which could potentially cause issues at the new fire station. There is no yellow box or right turning lane.

Response – These comments have been taken on board.

Cllr. Keelan:

Welcomed that the Public Realm Plan for Inniskeen is progressing.

Spoke about Carrickmacross Online Market and appealed to people to go online.

Welcomed the very comprehensive hedge cutting programme in the towns.

Expressed concerns that Part 8 planning has been put on hold for Tullyvaragh Junction.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Wished to particularly congratulate the local business who won the contract for Gate Lodge II construction works. He stated that he firmly believes that contracts should only be offered to companies within the Republic of Ireland in the current economic climate.

Cllr. McCooey agreed with this, stating that she believes that local companies will take more pride in their work and that the onus is on members to protect local jobs and businesses.

Cllr. Campbell supported this proposal and agreed with Cllr. McCooey’s comments.

Cllr. Carthy suggested that it may be smarter to call for changes to legislation regarding the tendering process. He stated that he believes the current proposal is futile.

Cllr. Keelan stated that he understands the members views however he believes in taking an all -Ireland view. He stated that the mechanism used should be social clauses.

Cllr. McCooey stated that she agrees with Cllr. O’Hanlon’s proposal in principle but also understands that the tender process needs to be followed. Cllr. McCooey suggested that if a local company has tendered and does not win, could they be offered the opportunity to match the lowest price as a possible solution?

The members continued a discussion about Cllr. O’Hanlon’s proposal and it was unanimously agreed, seconded by Cllr. McCooey to support it with the following motion would be sent to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and circulated to local Oireachtas members and all MD’s in the border counties:

“That all contracts under €3 million issued in Co. Monaghan are given to companies locally while the Covid Epidemic is in place”.

Cllr. Campbell:

Welcomed works to the Memorial Garden in Oram.

He asked for an update on the Monaghan Way for the next meeting.

He requested that the Engineering team inspect White Island regarding flooding issues.

Response – A solution will be sought.

Welcomed the seats at Black Island.

5.0 Questions

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

1. Can the MD outline any plans for taking the bends out of the road to Oram, the R182?
Response:

The Preliminary Appraisal Report for Specific Improvement works has been submitted to DTTAS in September 2020, this will be reviewed by DTTAS and funding maybe allocated next year for the design and Land purchase with construction works to be completed in 2022. Please note that funding allocation for this project is not guaranteed.

2. Can the MD identify alternative ways of securing funding for a footpath out to Drumlish from the outskirts of Castleblayney, outside of the footpath allocation?

Response:-

The Municipal District will investigate all avenues to secure funding for the provision of footpaths throughout the district.

3. Can the MD outline plans for signage at the Big Tom Statue, directing visitors to other attractions in the town?

Response:-

The Municipal District have made application under Outdoor Recreation Funding Scheme for the provision of additional signage around Castleblayney.

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

4. When is it expected that parking by-laws (2 hour max) will be introduced for Farney Street, Carrickmacross and will the Council be street marking parking spaces to ensure correct capacity?

Response:-

The Municipal District is currently in the process of seeking legal advice on the requirements for the introduction of new regulations on Farney St, Carrickmacross. Farney St will be resurfaced in 2021 and new street markings will be installed.

5. Has the MD Executive carried out any preliminary works in relation to the future use of the back building of the Carrickmacross Workhouse and will it consider carrying out a study/survey to evaluate the needs of the south Monaghan area (in conjunction with the Workhouse committee)?

Response:-

Funding of €35,000 has been received under the July Jobs Stimulus package which has allowed the commencement of protective measures to the rear buildings to ensure the safety of the roof on the derelict building.

Monaghan County Council in partnership with Farney Community Development Group also made application under the 2020 Rural Recreation and Development Fund to restore, in full, the Carrickmacross Workhouse site and develop a new multipurpose Community Hub to cement its future as a focal point and centre for social and community services in Carrickmacross town and the South Monaghan area. This application was unsuccessful; however, future application streams are being explored.

6. Has the executive looked at providing a security gate to the rear access of the Pearse Avenue estate to help prevent instances of anti-social behaviour and littering?

Response:-

This MD is currently procuring a contractor for the supply and fitting of a security gate at Pearse Avenue.

7. Will this executive look at mechanisms that would secure the bowing wall along Ivy Lane, Carrickmacross, to avoid potential damage to cars caused by any future collapse?

Response:-

MD engineering staff will examine the walls on Ivy Lane and will write to the landowners advising them of any defects.

8. What is the up-to-date position on the Enterprise Hub in Castleblayney and when is the project expected to commence and be completed?

Response:-

Monaghan County Council has awarded **PJ Treacy & Son** the contract to design and build the new facility known as the "The Ridge" and works are due for completion in early 2022.

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

9. In welcoming the recent announcement of funding for safety works and also now further funding under Active Travel for the cycle lane on the road from the Church to the football field out of Castleblayney, (The Dublin Road out of Castleblayney); this stretch of road encompassing Castleblayney College, The Boys School, Castleblayney Enterprise Centre and a number of retail outlets, Circle K filling Station, Saint Marys Church and the Faughs football field; has become so busy with traffic traveling too fast and pedestrians feeling vulnerable:

- (A) With the recent survey of traffic on this busy road what were the outcomes of traffic movement on this particular in relation to speeding on this stretch of road?
- (B) What plans are now being recommended to slow the traffic and make this busy section of the road safer?
- (C) With the restrictions around Covid-19 and the difficulty of having public gatherings, have these planned works been advertised for the local stakeholders to have their views or can the plans be published in the local media? Section 38 notice in paper
- (D) When is this important safety work due to commence?
- (E) How long will this work take?

Response:-

- (a) Following on from the traffic count, violations were noted.
- (b) It is planned to carry out works to the carriageway to reduce speed at this location.
- (c) A section 38 Notice was placed in the Northern Standard on the 24th of September 2020 inviting input from interested stakeholders.
- (d) Works commenced on the Dublin Rd in Castleblayney on the 27th of October.
- (e) It is envisaged that works will be completed by the close of Q4.

10. Can the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross Municipal district evaluate and put in place traffic calming measures on the Conabury Road which leads down from the back of the boy's school as far the junction at the Church in Castleblayney. This road also needs road markings down the centre as the traffic on this road is traveling too fast and is a danger despite several ramps?

Response:-

This MD will carry out preliminary investigation works and prepare a preliminary design to ascertain the feasibility of installing traffic calming measures at this location.

11. Regarding the Monaghan Road into Castleblayney and excessive traffic speed, in particular approaching the junction with the Ballybay Road at Corraghcloughan:
- (A) What is the outcome of the traffic speed survey which was due to be carried out?
 - (B) What measures can the MD put in place to overcome this issue of speeding and put some traffic calming plans in places as this is very dangerous?

A traffic and speed survey were completed from the 5th of October to the 12th of October with 55% speed violation noted. This MD is at present preparing traffic calming designs for this section of pavement and new measures will be installed in conjunction with the Active Travel Programme.

12. With the recent announcement of funding of over €300,000 under the Active Travel funding for Cycle lanes for the Monaghan Road, Castleblayney; when is this work due to commence?
- (A) How long is this work envisaged to take to complete?
 - (B) Can the MD write to Gardai to look for increased traffic monitoring on this stretch?

Response:-

Works have now completed the tender stage and submissions are currently under assessment. A traffic count has also been carried out and the results of this is also under assessment which will provide a basis for discussion with An Garda Síochána.

13. With the underground works complete and the ducts to underground all the overhead wires around the Castle Square and the Market House in Castleblayney:
- (A). When will the ESB be completing this work?
 - (B). When will the new decorative lights be installed?

Response:-

It is planned to have all works at this location completed by the end of November, with installation of the new decorative lights to be carried out in tandem with ESB works.

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

14. What is the up to date position in relation to Dunard resident's association request to have a number of issues addressed in the estate including extra traffic calming measures, the provision of lined vehicle spaces and some other minor items as discussed on site with our engineering staff?

Response:-

These items will be addressed in the coming weeks.

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

Response:-

This MD is at present carrying out preliminary designs to ascertain the extent of extra traffic calming requirements at this junction with works programmed to be completed by year end.

16. What is the up to date position in relation to a public realm plan for Inniskeen village which should include a plan for the provision of safe walking routes/footpath links throughout the village area?

Response:-

The Paul Hogarth Company Consultants have now been engaged to complete a Public Realm Plan for Inniskeen and this will be completed in Q4 2020.

17. What plans have the Council to carry out the resurfacing of a number of the approach roads to Carrickmacross town including the Castleblayney road, Main Street and a number of other streets that are in a poor state of repair?

Response:-

A section of the Castleblayney Rd will be resurfaced in the coming weeks under the Active Travel scheme.

O'Neill St, Farney St at the roundabouts at Shercock Rd and the Dundalk Rd are programmed for structural overlaying in 2021 as part of the Annual Roads Programme.

At present there are no plans to resurface the Main St.

6.0 Motion

Motion raised by Cllr. Carthy and Cllr. Keelan for October 2020 meeting at Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District council:

“The Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District Council reinstates its views that the Childcare and Early Childhood Education sector needs further supports from Government in order for it to remain sustainable to providers, the workers in the sector and the parents of those who attend;

We call on Government to:

- *Invest in Childcare and Early Childhood Education so that all staff receive, at a minimum, at least the living wage (€12.30ph)*
- *Subsidise the sector further to ensure it is affordable for parents who wish to work to be able to have care provided for their children*
- *Work towards a publicly run and staffed childcare model that will reduce costs in the long term for parents and the state*

We also highlight our disappointment at the lack of investment in this sector in the 2021 Budget and suggest that Government implement measures now in order to avoid possible closures, job losses and increased costs to parents.”

The motion was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Carthy seconded by Cllr. Keelan.

7.0 Chief Executive & Directors Orders 2020

Orders 17/20 CMX-CBY MD, 18/20 CMX-CBY MD and 19/20 CMX-CBY MD were duly noted.

8.0 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Votes of sympathy were passed with the following:

Thomas Martin & Family on the death of Briega Martin,

The Finn Family on the death of Eileen Finn,

Maureen Crawley & Family on the death of Monica Crawley,

Pat McNally & Family on the death of Peter James McNally,

The Duffy Family on the death of Gerry Duffy and The Keenan Family on the death of Eugene Keenan.

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, the members unanimously agreed to send a letter to Philip Treanor & Family to acknowledge his achievements and recent sponsorship of the County team.

9.0 AOB

Cllr. Carthy:

Asked for an update on Children at Play signs on the Aghaile Road and Mokeeran.

Is there a possibility of blocking the open area at Cloughvalley Play Park to deter graffiti and other anti-social behaviour?

Cllr. Keelan:

In 2007 the Town Council initiated a study on Magheross Church and graveyard. Can the Co-ordinator look at this report and see if the experience can be further enhanced?

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

There are signs around the town that are lop-sided. Can this be investigated?

Proposed that local shops in Carrickmacross be facilitated to set up stalls outside their premises during Covid Restrictions. Cllr. Keelan seconded this and suggested including Café's and Restaurants.

Director of Services Paul Clifford advised the members that the Casual Trading Market is open for essential retailers only. He noted that there is no issue with shops using part of the pavement outside their premises once it is not being blocked and does not cause Health & Safety issues.

Cllr. O Hanlon requested that instead of the above proposal, an email be sent to Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce advising them of this.

The meeting concluded at 11:40pm.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator