

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 Castleblayney Enterprise Centre, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan on Monday 21st December 2020 at 12:10pm

Present : Cathaoirleach Aidan Campbell

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

In Attendance: Paul Clifford, Director of Service, Damien Thornton, A/District Coordinator, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer, Julieann O’Reilly, Clerical Officer

Cathaoirleach Campbell opened the meeting by thanking Amanda Murray, Staff Officer, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer and the MD team for carrying on the work of the MD during difficult times. Cllr. Campbell welcomed Damien Thornton, A/District Coordinator and wished him the best of luck.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan the minutes of the November Monthly M.D. meeting held on Monday 23rd November 2020 were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Carthy requested an update on Farney Street Bye Laws.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that these are being worked on presently.

Cllr. Carthy spoke about the manhole issues on the street.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe replied that the MD have liaised with Irish Water about this issue.

Cllr. Carthy wished to clarify that the requested “Children at Play” signs were for Rakeeragh, not Mokeeran as mentioned in the November minutes.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that these have been ordered and it is hoped they will be installed early January.

Cllr. Carthy sought clarification that the benches at Lisanisk will be installed in the coming weeks?

District Engineer Matthew Lambe confirmed same.

Cllr. Carthy also wished to confirm that the road markings at the entrance to Drumillard have been completed.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that they are complete.

Cllr. Keelan spoke about the possibility of acquiring i-boards.

He noted that there are some outstanding issues concerning Dun Ard Estate in Inniskeen.

District engineer Matthew Lambe replied that they will be dealt with by early next year.

Cllr. Keelan acknowledged the works carried out to repair trip hazards around Carrickmacross and requested that upgrading signs and road markings be looked into around town, particularly on the Kingscourt Road.

District engineer Matthew Lambe advised that this will be investigated.

Cllr. Keelan asked for an update on the tree felling activity on the Dundalk Road and Covent Avenue.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe replied that the matter is with the Gardai.

Cllr. Campbell complimented the works at White Island and asked for an update on works at The Orchard.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that they are on-going.

Cllr. Campbell commended the great job done from the old Lyric cinema to Huenna.

3.0 Correspondence

- i. Letter from Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan regarding reinstatement of Block Grants.
- ii. Letter from Niamh Smyth TD re: Representation to Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan

Cllr, O’Hanlon questioned the funding being based on mileage within the county. He stated that funding has been cut and the reality is that we are not spending the same amount of money on roads as we were 10 years ago. He went on to say that his view was to write directly to the Minister for Transport to seek additional funding. The following proposal by Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan was unanimously agreed:

“That this M.D. calls on the Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan to facilitate a meeting with the members to increase funding for roads throughout the District”.

- iii. Letter from the office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment regarding companies receiving contracts in 2021 from Northern Ireland post Brexit.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that the concern is in relation to Northern Irish companies receiving contracts from M.C.C. He commented that he believes that more consideration should be given to companies in Southern Ireland and used the example of local company Broomfield Construction getting a contract and the benefits to the local economy because of this. Cllr. O’Hanlon asked what will happen with these contracts in the situation of a No Deal Brexit – what impact will this have on companies in Southern Ireland?

Cllr. Keelan stated that he agrees with a lot of what Cllr. O’Hanlon has said and that he believes that Social Clauses built into contracts could be a solution to help achieve a level playing field.

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. McCooey, the following was unanimously agreed:

“A letter be sent to the Minister for Jobs in relation to Government Contracts being issued in 2021 for Goods & Services, that local companies along the border are on a level playing field with their counterparts in N. Ireland”.

iv. Letter from TII regarding Funding for National Roadworks

Cllr. O’Hanlon asked the Executive if funding was received in early 2020, in January or February? Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that he accepts that there have been little works carried out this December and went on to query if it can be taken that, going forward, no road works will occur on our Regional roads in the month of December?

Director of Service Paul Clifford responded that MCC usually receive the allocation in Q1 of the year. However, other programmes come up throughout the year, for example the Active Travel Scheme, the closing date for this was October.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that he would like to raise the matter of not having roadworks in December with the Minister of Transport at the proposed meeting.

4.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

Cllr. Carthy:

Thanked A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton for his report and wished him luck in his new position.

Asked if the area of St. Macartan’s Tce can be taken into consideration for CCTV?

Reply – it is not in the original plan, however as we are not at design stage yet, it can be considered. Costing for lighting in this area is €8,500.

Received a letter from a local Climate Action Group regarding the revitalisation of Castleblayney Town Centre. It asked if the volume of bins can be increased, can they be made look more vibrant and can a second re-cycling bin be added?

Reply – This will be taken into consideration.

Has received complaints about dog fouling issues at St. Mary’s Church, Bree and Knocktornagh in Castleblayney.

In Carrickmacross, vendors have asked why a sawdust product is being used to cover dog foul instead of it being picked up?

Reply – Outdoor staff have raised the issue of dog fouling. A campaign will be arranged to help tackle this issue.

Cllr. Keelan:

Welcomed works at the Market House Carrickmacross.

Raised the issue that the public toilet was unavailable for a period of time.

Acknowledges that Inniskeen Public Realm Plan should be completed in early 2021.

Asked for an update on a proposal to put a pedestrian crossing at the Patrick Kavanagh Centre.

Reply – no update.

Stressed that local businesses’ need to use online marketing.

Asked for the number of outstanding repairs on the Patching and Repair list.

Reply – there are approximately 54 outstanding.

Welcomed that the CCTV application is progressing

Cllr. McCooey:

Welcomed A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton and wished him well.

Asked if it would be possible to carry out a speed survey on the Dublin Road in the future to see if works have improved safety. Possibly investigate the option of adding a ramp at the Church.

Reply – Road safety audits will be carried out.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Formally acknowledged the €473,000 additional funding received for “The Ridge” Enterprise Hub, Castleblayney.

Spoke about the dog fouling issues in the towns and stated that there are bags and bins provided for this purpose. The onus is on dog owners to take responsibility. Also noted that dogs should be kept on their leads.

Cllr. Campbell:

Welcomed the additional funding for the Enterprise Hub.

Commented on the fantastic works happening at the Gate Lodge.

Reminded all that the survey is available regarding the Market House.

Suggested that the old Railway Line routes are investigated alongside other MD’s.

Voiced concern about the dangerous crossing between Annyalla School and the junction.

Reply – Monaghan Municipal District are currently reviewing this junction.

5.0 Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. P.J. O’Hanlon for December 2020 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. In relation to the current application for funding for the C-Tech II Building in Carrickmacross, can you please provide details of previous applications which were unsuccessful.

Response:-

Monaghan County Council recently submitted an application for funding to construct a new C Tek 2 building under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund for 2020. The closing date for receipt of applications was 1 December 2020. Previous applications to the RRDF in 2019 and 2018 for funding to construct C:Tek 2 were unsuccessful.

In addition, Monaghan County Council submitted applications for funding under the Enterprise Ireland Border Stimulus Fund in 2020 and Enterprise Ireland Regional Enterprise Fund in 2019 to deliver Training and Digital Programmes incorporating a new C Tek building. Both applications were unsuccessful.

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

2. With regard to the Pilot Residential Town Centre Scheme in Castleblayney and Revitalization of a Town Centre for Living Well.
 - (A) What plans are in place to pursue the recommendation from the report?
 - (B) With Covid-19 causing difficulty to gather in any form is it possible to have meetings about pursuing the outcomes of the Shaffery Report?
 - (C) Have the MD commissioned engagements with the cluster of property owners that engaged in the first round process?

Response:-

The Council are currently investigating ways to pursue recommendations from the report completed by Shaffrey Architects to continue engagement with property owners.

3. With the great works which have taken place at Lough Muckno and Black Island with the removal of the old fenced off compound and the opening up of the area now for a picnic area with outdoor seating which is getting great use and also the area around the bridge now being pedestrian only.
 - (A) Can the MD liaise with Coilte to continue the ongoing works which is taking place at Lough Muckno, Black Island and particular to upgrade the path around the Black Island which is in need of a new surface layer?
 - (B) Can the MD look at the provision of more outdoor seats for the area and around the Hope Castle and walks out to the Dundalk Road?

Response:-

This MD will meet with Collite in early 2021 to discuss funding options for a surface upgrade.

This MD will examine the viability of the installation of additional outdoor seating in the area mentioned.

4. With the Inniskeen Kavanagh Centre recently getting funding of €25,000 for use to provide an external canopy and outdoor screen under Town and Village Renewal Scheme to provide safe environments during Covid-19.
 - (A) What is the update on getting these works complete?

Response:-

These works are currently at procurement stage

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

5. What is the up-to-date progress on the Cycle/Walk way between Carrickmacross and Kingscourt?

Response:-

Surface overlaying and minor road repairs have been carried out along the proposed route and signage for the route is being presently being procured. It is envisaged that signage will be erected early in 2021.

6. When is it expected bollards/barrier will be fitted at the Cloughvalley Primary Schools, Carrickmacross, to prevent illegal parking at school times?

Response:-

This works is at present in progress.

7. When will the parking design for Farney Street, Carrickmacross, be made available for members and public consultation?

Response-

The Engineering Department are currently working on an overall design for the town of Carrickmacross which will be presented to the member on completion.

8. When is it expected that footpath repairs will be carried out on York Street, Castleblayney, to deal with tree root damage?

Response:-

This works has been completed.

6.0 Motion

On the proposal of Cllr. McCooey and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon it was unanimously agreed: *"That this MD will investigate all possible options to alleviate the parking issues in Castleblayney so that a viable solution could be found for the business owners, their staff and those who shop in Castleblayney will have a safe alternative"*.

Cllr. O'Hanlon acknowledged the MD for providing parking signage in Carrickmacross.

Cllr. Carthy supported the motion but noted that owners/workers of local businesses take up spaces on Main Street. Those from both towns need to seek alternative parking.

Cllr. Campbell echoed these comments.

Director of Service Paul Clifford stated that he takes on board the motion, however he wished to note that there is plenty of car parking spaces available in both towns. Also, a commitment

has been given to provide a Traffic Warden for Castleblayney and Carrickmacross. Funding for the Traffic Warden is provided by Monaghan Pay Parking.

Cllr. McCooey replied that the issue is raised constantly with her and wants a solution at this stage. Suggested CCTV at long term parking locations.

7.0 Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

Vote of congratulations was extended to Colleen O'Grady from Lisgal on her recent success with the launch of "an eyelash vending machine" which has hit the national papers for the idea.

8.0 AOB

Cllr. Keelan:

Raised a road safety issue located at The Diamond, Magheracloone. (Between Kingscourt and Shercock).

Reminded all to continue to Shop Local.

Cllr. Carthy:

Sewerage system issues at Conabury Hill Estate, Castleblayney. How often have water services had to call and how is the issue being rectified?

Carrickmacross Lions Club have asked for consideration that signs located at the entrance of the town state that they are active in the town.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Welcomed A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton and wished him well.

Cllr. McCooey:

Spoke about a road safety issue at the Cremartin Roundabout on the N2. Can TII be written to in order to request more warning signage on approaching the roundabout?

Are the lights fixed at Hope Castle?

Cllr. Campbell:

Confirmed with District Engineer Matthew Lambe that matters are in hand regarding surface water on the Doohamlet Road.

Cathaoirleach Campbell wished all a Peaceful Christmas and New Year and thanked the Municipal Staff for all their work throughout the year.

The meeting concluded at 13:15pm.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator