

## 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 virtually on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 11:00am.

**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

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

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Carthy the minutes of the Adoption of Supplementary Standing Orders held on Monday January 25<sup>th</sup> 2021 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon the minutes of the January Monthly M.D. meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were adopted.

#### **2.0 Matters Arising**

Cllr. Keelan asked for an update on the tree felling on the Dundalk Road.

Director of Services, Paul Clifford replied that the Gardaí were contacted and subsequently an individual contacted MCC about the issue. MCC are seeking to reclaim costs from this individual.

Cllr. Keelan suggested that it could be used as an opportunity to enhance the area and asked the Executive to liaise with the local Tidy Towns.

Cllr. O’Hanlon concurred with the sentiment of Cllr. Keelan, but stated that since the land had been in the ownership of Monaghan Co. Council since 2004, it was necessary to erect a boundary fence around the Council’s property.

Cllr. Carthy asked if there was any response to his previous query about Carrickmacross Online Market.

A/District Co-Ordinator Damien Thornton advised that year one is free and will seek clarification on costs after this period.

Cllr. Carthy stated that all members should actively promote local businesses to use this service.

A/District Co-Ordinator Damien Thornton replied that it being promoted. Recently seven invitations were issued to a training day. Only two turned up. Both plan to sign up.

Cllr. Campbell asked if there is an update about the outdoor exercise machines?

Cllr. Carthy asked for an update about a bin on the Donaghmoyne – Culloville Road.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that it is due to erected over the next couple of weeks.

Cllr. Carthy stated that he has previously asked for consideration to tidy up/paint Hope Castle and noted that in the short-term the building looks untidy. Cllr. Carthy asked if it is possible to tidy up the façade.

Director Services Paul Clifford advised that there is no budget to carry out the extensive works necessary.

Cllr. Keelan spoke about the state of Breffni House, mentioning that he had brought this matter up previously. He requested that the issue be followed up noting that small money would make a big difference.

### **3.0 Correspondence**

#### **i. Response from Department of Early Learning and Childcare**

Cllr. Carthy stated that an extensive response had been given. He acknowledged that funding has increased. Cllr. Carthy said he thinks the heart of the motion has been lost in the response – the entire model needs to be looked at. Cllr. Carthy welcomed the response but stated that members should continue to push the issue.

Cllr. Campbell noted the funding increases and stated that the unprecedented amounts must be acknowledged.

#### **ii. Letter of Acknowledgement from HSE Re: Crannóg House**

#### **iii. Letter of Acknowledgement from Minister Donnelly re: Crannóg House**

#### **iv. Letter of Acknowledgement from Minister Rabbitte re: Crannóg House**

Cllr. Carthy advised the members that he has spoken to various families who raised the issue with him, and they have advised that services have started to resume.

### **4.0 Municipal Coordinators Report**

#### **Cllr. Carthy:**

Welcomed the report stating it was very positive.

Asked for confirmation that further works will be carried out on Carrickmacross town centre footpaths.

Reply – works are due to re-commence

Wondered about the policing of the HGV restrictions in Carrickmacross, stating that there seems to be a recent increase in the number of HGV's in the town.

Reply – Policing is the role of the Gardaí Siochana.

Spoke about being previously informed that the process of repairing potholes had slowed down due to improved outcome of works. Cllr. Carthy asked for consideration to retuning to the measures used in 2019 as this does not seem to be happening now.

Reply – Stone based roads are causing issues. We are reviewing what is currently being done.

Cllr. Carthy shared an image of a HGV sign blocking another sign and asked what the plan is regarding same?

Reply The MD will have the sign appropriately re-located. There appears an issue with signage clutter around the Town, and the MD executive intend to undertake an audit.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Acknowledged the MD’s role in securing funding for Main Street, Carrickmacross.

Asked if Covid-19 is having an impact on current road repairs works, noting that members are receiving a lot of calls about the state of the roads. If it is not related to Covid-19, Cllr. O’Hanlon suggested a need to consider organising meetings with the Engineers and with Minister Ryan about the state of the roads.

Stated that he thinks there is a need to convey to the public that MCC are not operating as normal and suggested publishing a letter to clarify this.

Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that we are in the middle of Level 5 restrictions. There are services such as the public counters which cannot be provided however staff are online and on the phones. The Outdoor staff are doing as much as possible within the restrictions. There is no need to print a letter as a list of services available are on the MCC website.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated he believes the message could be clarified in a better way to the public.

Cllr. McCooey:

Spoke about a hedge between the football ground and footpath on the Dublin Road. It has been thinned out and there is now a dangerous drop. Who is responsible for this and can MCC do anything?

Response – this will be investigated.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commended the report, stating that there are a lot of positives in it.

Stated that he is conscious that MCC are carrying out essential works on the roads, noting that some County Councils have closed completely. Asked if the time can be used to get our roads in good repair? Cllr. Keelan stated that the roads are an embarrassment at the moment.

Welcomed progress on the Carrickmacross Community CCTV Scheme.

Asked if the Executive can follow up on the provision of i-boards for Carrickmacross.

Requested that the issue of Tullyvaragh Junction is addressed asap.

Response – Roads Section are trying to progress this as quickly as possible.

Acknowledged the Safety and Improvement Works at Essexford Junction and asked the Executive to consider sourcing funding for the surfacing of this junction.

Welcomed funding for Main Street, Carrickmacross and asked the Executive to keep an eye out for funding for the approach roads in Carrickmacross.

Cllr. Campbell:

Stated that we need to push on with the canopy and bike rental scheme in Inniskeen.

Response –The MD Executive has engaged *The Paul Hogarth Company Limited* to generate alternative design solutions that are sympathetic to the building.

Asked why the Castleblayney CCTV Application is taking so long?

Advised that he is also receiving a lot of calls about the poor state of the roads and concurred with sitting down to see what can be done.

Welcomed the Active Travel Scheme.

## **5.0 Motions**

After a discussion amongst the members the following motion proposed by Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. McCooley was unanimously agreed:

*“That Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD call on the HSE to provide a virtual meeting, as a matter of urgency, to discuss the high instances of Covid-19 in our area and what we can all do together to eradicate the virus as soon as possible.”*

The following motion proposed by Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Carthy was unanimously agreed:

*“That this Council executive will liaise with Jacobs Consultant Engineers and Monaghan County Council roads department / planning department and other interested stakeholders in order to identify suitable lands that could be accessed and utilised into the future for such facilities as a park & ride, housing and industrial development in the environs of Carrickmacross town.”*

Cllr. Keelan particularly wished to mention examining the possibility of A Park & Ride system for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney. Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that he is happy to support anything that will bring jobs to the town and noted that it is important to not wait until the N2 works are done. Cllr. McCooley asked that Castleblayney is included in the motion and suggested that a Greenway between the two towns as an idea. Cllr. Carthy stated that he has no problem adding Castleblayney to the motion and agreed with Cllr. McCooley’s idea but also noted that designs include cycle lanes. Cllr. O’Hanlon noted that the motion is in relation to housing and industrial development, not the connectivity of the two towns.

## **6.0 Questions**

*Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for February 2021 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:*

1. In relation to the road network can the executive confirm:
  - What is the total number of roads (regional & local) in this municipal district?
  - What is the cumulative/total length of roads in our network?

- What percentage of roads are in disrepair (4 or less on the point scheme allocated to road conditions)?
- The average length of roads we can resurface annually under current funding levels (roads programme)?

Response:-

- *There are 523 Local Roads and 9 Regional Roads in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD.*
- *The total length of National, Regional and Local road networks in the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD is 723km.*
- *17% of roads have a PSCI rating of 4 or less.*
- *The average length of road surface overlaid and surface dressed on annual basis is 9.8km under the Restoration Improvement Roads Programme in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD.*

2. When is it expected that new 'dog fouling' signage will be added to areas of concern in Castleblayney and Carrickmacross and has there been a list formulated for areas to receive new dog fouling bins in the Municipal District?

Response:-

Dog fouling signs will be erected in Castleblayney and Carrickmacross when restrictions are eased.

3. What is the up-to-date status of the fence between Woodvale and Coill an Ri estates, Carrickmacross; has the council any indication as to when it will be repaired?

Response:-

This works will be completed when restrictions are eased.

4. When is it expected that design works will be completed on the Carrickmacross parking strategy and what is the current plans for the introduction of revised parking by-laws?

Response:-

Engineering staff are in the final stages of compiling a revised schedule and corresponding maps to outline current and proposed new parking restrictions in the town of Carrickmacross. New proposals will then be brought forward for public consultation.

5. Has costing work been completed on the proposed development of a slipway onto Rahan's lake, Carrickmacross?

Response:-

A design is currently being prepared and on foot of the design, costings can be prepared.

Questions raised by Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon for February 2021 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. On what date is the decision on the application for funding for the CTec II in Carrickmacross due to be announced?

Response:-

The Department of Rural and Community Development has not indicated when the outcome of funding process will be announced

7. On what date is the decision on the application for funding for the Lough na Glac walking trail, in Carrickmacross due to be announced?

Response:-

An application has been submitted for funding for a walking trail under the ORIS funding programme. The MD is currently awaiting a decision from the Department on this funding.

8. Has there been any correspondence from the Department regarding the provision of funding for works on Main Street, Carrickmacross?

Response:-

Funding has been received for resurfacing of Main Street, Carrickmacross under the Former National Road Rehabilitation Grant announced this week.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for February 2021 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

9. In relation to Inniskeen village, what is the up to date position regarding the roll out of the bicycle rental scheme?

Response:-

Funding has been received under Town & Village Scheme, 2020 and the MD hope to have infrastructure in place by the end of Q2 2021.

10. In commending the Council for following up on a number of hedge cutting / trimming issues throughout the area, how many of these issues remain outstanding, what actions will the Council take to insure that hedge cutting notices are complied with before close of the hedge cutting season on the 28th February next?

Response:-

There is one hedgecutting issue outstanding and the executive are currently in consultation with the landowner regarding same.

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

Response:-

This works is currently in progress.

12. As a follow on from a recent report indicating that 25% of our local county roads are in need of reconstruction and resurfacing, how many roads in this MD does the 25% equate to and how many local county roads will be reconstructed and resurfaced this year?

Response:-

Monaghan County Council use a Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) rating system to evaluate the condition of the non-national road network. The PSCI comprises a 10-point rating system, with ratings of 1 to 4 indicating the requirement for a structural overlay. At present, 17% of the local road network in this MD has a PSCI rating of 4 or less. There are 78 No. local roads containing sections of pavement with a PSCI rating of 4 or less. The adopted 2021 Roads Restoration Improvement Programme will see 7 local county roads and 4 sections of Regional Roads receive a structural overlay. There are no roads to be reconstructed in 2021.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for February 2021 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

13 What is the update on the provision of the Public Information digital notice boards for the town centre in Castleblayney?

Response:-

The MD is currently seeking costings for the provision of a public information digital notice board for Castleblayney under funding allocated under the Town and Village, 2020 scheme.

14. With regard the CCTV system which is in Castleblayney. Has the MD received the required communication from An Gardai?

Response:

This matter is still with the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána and we are awaiting correspondence from him in order to proceed.

15. With so many people using Muckno Park and the Black and White Island and with the fact Coilte have carried out some work around the path however there is more work needed in this area. Can the MD investigate partnering with Coilte in order to apply for funding for the upgrade of the walks around the Black Island which are prone to flooding in certain areas?

Response:-

The Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney will assess all funding options available to them in order to progress enhancement works at Lough Muckno.

**7.0 Presentation by Ronan McParland and Anthony McGuigan, The Paul Hogarth Company  
Inniskeen Public Realm Plan**

Cllr. Campbell:

Thanked the presenters for their report.

Noted that the issue of car parking / buses is one that had been raised in the past by members.

Very interested to hear about the playpark being tired and would like this topic to be flushed out.

Complimented the locals of Inniskeen who do so much work in the village.

Stressed the need to have buy in from the locals.

Commented that initial works could be carried out for small money, e.g. – signage, potting plants etc.

Stated that a traffic light system would not be an option.

Cllr. Keelan:

Thanked the presenters for their report.

Spoke about the strong community spirit in Inniskeen and stated that it has not reached its full tourism potential.

Commended locals who have helped with the Patrick Kavanagh Centre over many years.

Mentioned the huge tourism potential of the Pitch & Putt, Irish Country Quads, Brehon Brewery and the keen angling scene.

Stated that there are no proper walking routes in place from the Patrick Kavanagh centre and this is something that needs to be put in place.

Agreed that a traffic light system is not an option.

Asked re: funding - how is it hoped that it will be progressed? How is the plan going to be published and queried the provision of safe, proper walking routes.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Thanked the presenters for the report.

Stated that the residents of Inniskeen need to be happy with the plan and buy into it.

Commented that we need to see what funding is available, what resources we have and know how it is going to be delivered.

Cllr. McCooey:

Thanked the presenters for their report.

Noted that Inniskeen has received a lot of investment and stressed the importance of marketing the village .

Cllr. Carthy:

Commented that the village has a lot to offer.

Stated that it is important to remember that the Patrick Kavanagh Silhouette was designed by a previous Inver College student named Barry Connolly.

Stressed the importance of a priority list as funding will not be available all at once.

Director of Services Paul Clifford thanks the presenters for the draft plan. He spoke about Inniskeen being a unique location and noted that MCC have heavily invested in the Patrick Kavanagh Centre and will continue to do so. He stated that it is critical to take our time to preserve the integrity and character of Inniskeen Village and map how we go next very carefully. The draft plan provides good building blocks.

Anthony McGuigan provided some feedback to the members comments. He stated that community engagement is vital, also noting that if good infrastructure is put in place this will encourage the community to take ownership. Safe walking routes are a priority. He suggested a focused meeting with locals in order to find out what the priorities are, advising that strategy helps a community to focus on one thing to complete before moving onto the next.

## **8.0 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations**

*Votes of Sympathy* were extended to the Kelly family on the death of Michael Kelly, Monaghan County Council Dog Warden and the McCabe family on the death of John and Peter McCabe, Corrygarry.

## **9.0 A.O.B.**

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Asked if MCC were associated in any way with the house in Carrickmacross that was involved in a cannabis growth house which was on the national news recently?

Cllr. McCooey:

Conveyed her good wishes to Gael Scoil Lurgan on the news they will receive a new site for the school.

Cllr. Carthy:

Stated that the Kingscourt and Magheross Road into the town centre has deteriorated. Also spoke about access for the residents.

Reply – Designs are in progress

Asked if a latch will be added to the gate at the Convent Lands Playpark?

Reply – the gate was made to specification for a playground. No latch will be added.

Highlighted that areas on the Doohamlet Road, Castleblayney have no public lighting. (Leading to the North and Southbound junctions).

Reply – Will investigate.

Cllr. Keelan:

Asked if non-working webcams in Carrickmacross can be investigated?

Requested that MCC make a comment on the recent Public Notice in the local newspaper regarding a right of way.

Reply – MCC have no comment to make due to on-going legal proceedings.

Cllr. Campbell:

Commented that there is a lot of surface water lying in the Annyalla School area, particularly after the rain.

Reply – This is within Monaghan MD and comments will be forwarded to same.

Asked if works have commenced on the Cremartin-Doohamlet Road?

Can the MD investigate the issue of dog fouling? Noted that it is a national issue. Spoke about the small designs on the footpaths in Castleblayney to remind people not to allow dog fouling. Can these be enhanced? Called out to Dog Owners to be responsible.

The meeting concluded at 13:30pm.

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Cathaoirleach

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Date

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Meeting Administrator