

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 25th January 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, Gavin McEntee IT

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan the minutes of the Tullyvaragh Junction meeting held on Monday 21st December 2020 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Campbell the minutes of the Castleblayney Market House Presentation held on Monday 21st December 2020 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Carthy the minutes of the December Monthly M.D. meeting held on Monday 21st December 2020 were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan asked if the matter of acquiring I-boards for Carrickmacross can be investigated. Director of Services Paul Clifford stated that any such installation in Carrickmacross will need to be done in tandem with the Town Realm Plan.

Cllr. Keelan asked if there was any update from the Gardai in relation to tree felling on the Dundalk Road / Convent Ave.

Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that the Planning Department have issued a warning letter about specific trees. The Gardai are continuing their investigation.

Cllr. Keelan asked if the matter can be followed up with the Gardai.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that he believes this would not be appropriate as it is an on-going investigation.

Cllr. Carthy spoke about the bad road surface at Drumillard Housing Estate entrance and asked if there is a plan to look at this?

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that the road markings are complete, and it is hoped that re-surfacing will occur in the summertime.

Cllr. Carthy asked for an update on signage for the Cycle/Walkway between Carrickmacross and Kingscourt?

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that we are awaiting delivery of the signage.

Cllr. O'Hanlon questioned why there are presentations occurring during Virtual Meeting? He stated that there are enough difficulties without having these as well.

Cllr. O'Hanlon noted that there was no correspondence back from the Minister about Block Grants. Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that Carrickmacross street is in a bad state of repair and asked if the street down to Church Hill will be done this year? If not, funding will need to be sought.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that an application for funding had been submitted.

Cllr. Keelan asked for an update on the proposed pedestrian crossing at the Patrick Kavanagh Centre.

District Coordinator Damien Thornton replied that funding has been sought under the Active Travel Scheme.

Cllr. Campbell asked if there is any update on the Shaffrey Report for the pilot Town Living Scheme?

Director of Services Paul Clifford replied that there is nothing further to report presently.

3.0 Correspondence

- i. Letter of acknowledgement from the office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment regarding the members question in relation to Government Contracts issued for goods and services in 2021.

4.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

Cllr. Carthy:

Asked if St. Macartans Tce have been added to the CCTV Scheme for Carrickmacross?

Reply – Due to Covid restrictions a meeting was cancelled between the Gardai and consultants. It will be considered.

Commended all involved in the Carrickmacross Online Market. Wondered if there are costs to the businesses involved and what measures are being used to encourage others to join?

Reply – this will be followed up.

Stated that there seems to be a discrepancy between HGV's using Carrickmacross as a shortcut and those who are making deliveries in town. Spoke about previous requests to provide signage in town and contacting haulage companies.

Cllr. Keelan:

Acknowledged the work of MCC particularly as other County Councils are closed.

Asked if the time can be used to carry out the repairs needed on the roads?

Reply – We cannot go "wholesale" repairing the roads. There is a requirement to restrict our movements as much as possible. Essential repairs will be carried out.

Welcomed the progression of Inniskeen Pedestrian Crossing.

Requested further information about the Bike Rental Scheme in Inniskeen.

Reply – A meeting has been arranged with the Centre manager. We will know more then.

Is the land at the rear of BOI being considered for Back Land developments?

Reply – Will revert to you about same.

Are large tractors and trailers considered as HGV's?

Reply – A tractor and trailer over the 3-axle limit will need to use diversionary routes.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Warmly welcomed funding allocated to the towns. Hopes that Carrickmacross will receive the funding that was previously mentioned in February.

Stated that there is a need to implement the new HGV rules.

Requested an update on the Low-Cost Safety Scheme for the Shercock Road.

Reply – An application has been sent to roads and the Shercock Road is listed as a priority.

Thanked the MD for dealing with road issues, particularly in the instances of funerals.

Stated that there is a need to address the issues of Main Street, Carrickmacross.

Cllr. Campbell:

Welcomed on-going works and funding for outdoor exercise machines as these will enhance the area.

Welcomed potential funding for cycle lanes and walkways under the Active Travel Scheme.

Noted the fantastic work in Oram Village Plan. Asked if the District Coordinator could make contact re: a walking track.

Reply – Will arrange to speak with Oram Village Group and the GAA and advised there are funding streams available such as LEADER and Sports Partnership.

Spoke about past applications made regarding flooding at Annadrummond. Asked if this matter can be investigated again, noting that a resident gets "locked in" when flooding occurs.

Reply – A number of funding applications have been unsuccessful due to the cost benefit analysis ratio. Estimated costs were €600k plus for a 1km stretch of road. The MD will try again and investigate if there are any other possible funding streams available.

5.0 Presentation by Michael Carroll, Horticulturalist, Monaghan County Council. "Vegetation Management for Biodiversity and Pollinators".

Cllr. Campbell:

Stated that the body of work will be getting the mindset out to the public. There is a tendency to see uncut areas and think it is untidy. There is a need to get the message out that this is not the case.

Horticulturalist Michael Carroll advised that local groups/residents/tidy towns are being consulted in order to keep them better informed.

Cllr. Carthy:

Stated that there were a couple of areas in Carrickmacross where a poor start was made, naming Gallows Hill as an example. There is a need to keep certain areas tidy and accessible for the public to enjoy.

Agreed with consultation with local groups.

Advised that he has supported pollinator plans since they were introduced.

Suggested that members need to be corresponded with.

Commended the work carried out to date and wished Michael Carroll the best of luck in his role.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Commented that the presentation needed to be done in the Civic Offices to do it justice.

Noted that Japanese Knotweed is a serious issue in Castleblayney and is glad to see it being dealt with.

Suggested that the Tidy Towns and Council workers need to sit down together.

Asked if this presentation has been shown to local primary schools?

Stated that if the public see overgrown grass, they will seek for it to be cut.

Stressed the importance of keeping relevant groups informed,

Cllr. Keelan:

Stated that the presentation should have been given prior to works being carried out.

Asked if this presentation will be given to all MD's and perhaps at a full Council meeting?

Stressed the need for public consultation and buy in from various groups.

Certain areas should be set aside by agreement for pollination.

Horticulturalist Michael Carroll advised the members that the presentation will be given to the other MD's and that he is looking to engage with local groups. It is planned to talk to and educate the Council workers on the plan.

Cllr Carthy asked if there will be a preliminary design for Gallows Hill?

Horticulturalist Michael Carroll replied that it will likely go to public consultation.

6.0 Questions

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

1. Will the executive consider my previous request to add a litter bin to the Donaghmoynne/Culloville road, Carrickmacross, close to the pedestrian crossing at the Paupers Graveyard?

Response:-

The MD will examine the area and look at the possibility of providing an additional litter bin.

2. Has this MD executive any plans to further develop the Convent Avenue, Carrickmacross, to the section that starts on the Ardee Road (at the Social Welfare office) and runs to the 1916 monument; i.e. works to the footpath surface, lighting etc?

Response:-

There are no plans at present to carry out works at this location, however, it can be considered as part of future funding projects.

3. When is it expected the outdoor performance spaces (including canopies) will be fitted at both the Civic offices (Carrickmacross) and the Patrick Kavanagh Centre (Inniskeen)?

Response:-

Tender documents are currently being drawn up and it is expected that they will be advertised by late January/early February.

4. What progress has been made on adding signage (dog fouling fines) and dog bins to Castleblayney?

Response:-

Dog fouling signs have been ordered for Castleblayney and will be erected in the coming week. There are a total number of 3 combi dog fouling bins which include dispensers and a further 5 standalone dispensers. As dog fouling is a littering offence, there are joint patrols of parks and areas with the Litter Patrol Officer and the Dog Warden throughout the year. As a further progression, the Environmental Awareness Officer has met with Castleblayney Tidy Towns and this was one of the items discussed with a view to placing additional dog fouling bins and dispensers in the priority locations highlighted by the Tidy Town group.

5. When is it expected that an update on the progress of the Hope Castle/Annex Buildings will be presented to the Council and, in the meantime, will the Council be tidying up/painting the Hope Castle this year as per my previous requests?

Response:-

Due the Covid restrictions there has been no progress made in relation to Hope Castle/Annex Buildings. Travel restrictions are impacting on site visits by advisors engaged by Failte Ireland. There are no plans to paint Hope Castle this year and funding has not been provided for same in the Annual Budget. The MD will seek to maintain the area around the Castle.

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

6. What is the up to date position in relation to the 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 Inniskeen Public Realm Plan is in the final stages of drafting and the report will be presented in the coming weeks.

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

Response:-

New signage has been ordered for this location but delivery has been delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions. On delivery, signage will be put in place.

8. In relation to crime prevention and detection what is the up to date position in relation to the provision of a CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross town and environs?

Response:-

Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD staff are currently consulting with security professionals to ascertain the needs of Carrickmacross regarding provision of CCTV.

9. When will the Council commence the 2021 road reconstruction and resurfacing programme including the roadway at Finnegans Cross in Inniskeen which is in a poor state of repair?

Response:-

Drainage works will commencement when current restrictions have been eased. It envisaged that resurfacing works in the latter half of Q2 2021.

10. Will the Council carry out improvements and upgrading to the signs and road markings at the very busy junction known as the (Diamond) Magheraclone on the R162 Kingscourt to Sherlock regional road?

Response

Signage and road marking upgrade works will be completed in the coming weeks.

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

11. With regard to the memorial garden in Oram:-

(A)When will work on this project commence now?

Response:

Works will commence on this project when the current restrictions have been eased.

(B) What is the exact scope of works involved for this project?

Response:-

The proposed Big Tom Memorial garden will consist of hard and soft landscaping, hedgerows coupled with an extensive array of grassing, tree and shrub planting

12. With the recent announcement of funding of for the detailed design stage on works on the N53 Ballynacarry Bridge:-

(A). What is the scope of this design?

Response:

The TII have given approval for the Feasibility Report for the replacement of the N53 Ballynacarry Bridge. The proposal is for the construction of a new bridge crossing with road widening and reconstruction works of existing road on either side of bridge which would tie into the new bridge. The full scope of the design is yet to be determined.

(B). What and when are the next stages of this plan to align this dangerous bridge?

Response:

MCC Road Section are currently preparing a tender to procure Consultants through the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Framework of Bridge Consultants for the design of the scheme. This will be carried out in accordance with the Public Spending Code and a Strategic Appraisal Report (SAR) has been submitted to TII/DTTAS for approval.

(C). What level of engagement has Monaghan County Council having with DFI roads department in the north.

Response:

A meeting took place between representatives of the Department for Infrastructure (NI) , Monaghan County Council & TII Bridges via MS Teams on 16/10/2020 to discuss the project.

At the meeting and subsequent to it, DFI (NI) confirmed support for the project.

13. With works to the Market House in Carrickmacross substantially complete now with the Carrickmacross Lace Gallery and Craft Shop, what is the update on the new Craft Studio which has also been recently completed?

Response:-

The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney are currently in talks with local artists to ascertain the best-use of the space, with a view to agreeing a new tenant.

7.0 Motion

After discussion amongst the members, on the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan the following motion was unanimously agreed:

The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District calls on the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, the Minister of State with responsibility for Disability, Anne Rabbitte TD, and the HSE to immediately reinstate services to the CRANNOG HSE day-service centre in Castleblayney.

We ask that:

- ** the redeployment of staff from CRANNOG, which has been happening since the start of the pandemic, cease and the service users be shown the respect they deserve.*
- ** Recognition be given to the support this service gives to the users and their families and ask that the HSE consider alternative means of staffing Covid testing/care*

We also note:

- ** that the HSE received significant volumes of volunteers/healthcare workers through their 'Be on Call for Ireland' campaign and has yet to make proper use of those who have volunteered.*
- ** A partial service had been provided in CRANOG in recent weeks (two days per user per week) and now that is gone.*
- ** All CRANOG users have additional physical/sensory needs and they are being sacrificed yet again*

8.0 Chief Executive and Directors Orders 2021

Directors Orders 01/2021 and 02/2021 were duly noted.

9.0 A.O.B.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commended MD Office and outdoor staff for the good works at Magheross Church. Asked the MD to follow up on any funding opportunities.

Requested that the MD follow up with the owner regarding the state of repair of Breffni House.

Expressed concerns about the state of roads in Inniskeen: Drumass, Finnegans Cross and Blackstaff Road.

Response – Finnegan's Cross is included on the 3-year Roads Programme. Patching repairs will be carried out on the others.

Proposed a vote of thanks to all the front-line staff who are doing heroic work at present. Also, to all the people who continue to work during the height of this pandemic.

Cllr. O' Hanlon wished to add Council workers to this acknowledgment. All members were in agreement with these sentiments.

Cllr. McCooey:

Requested an update on signage at the Cremartin roundabout on the N2.

Asked that funding opportunities are investigated regarding parking at Lakeview.

Response – these will be investigated.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Acknowledged the role of MCC in works on the footpaths in Carrickmacross. The streets are now safer.

Stated that there is a need to look into a pedestrian crossing at Inniskeen Football Field.

Response – these will be investigated.

Cllr. Carthy:

Mentioned the new gate at the Convent Park Playpark. There is no lock to stop it swinging open. Can a catch be placed on it?

When will the dog fouling bin be replaced?

Response – these will be investigated.

Has received a number of complaints about breeds of dogs on the dangerous list not being placed on a leash or muzzled. There are concerns around the green area of Cloughvalley.

Can signage be placed about this?

Response – look at implementing additional signage.

Can Meath Co. Co. be contacted about salting the Drumconrath Road on their side of the border?

Response – a letter will be issued.

Wished to note the issue of a Pedestrian Crossing on Rockdaniel Road was not mentioned in previous minutes. District Engineer Matthew Lambe has advised that it would be investigated.

Response – A survey is in progress.

Cllr. Campbell:

Voiced concerns about a lack of a crossing at Annyalla as previously spoken about. Some of the residents who are concerned live within Carrickmacross – Ballybay MD.

Asked for an update on the road which borders with Ballybay – Clones MD.

Response – this is on the patching list.

Requested that a Pedestrian Crossing at Inniskeen Football be investigated.

Has been contacted by people re: disabled access at Lough Muckno. There are difficulties accessing benches and gravel is causing issues for motorised wheelchairs / scooters.

Response – this will be investigated.

Cllr. Kerr Conlon:

There are works being carried out on Carrickmacross Main Street at present. Can there be a light placed on the footpath for safety reasons?

The meeting concluded at 13:05pm.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator