

# 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> March 2021 at 2.30pm.

**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 February Monthly M.D. meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 were adopted.

#### **2.0 Matters Arising**

Cllr. Keelan asked the Executive to follow up the state of repair of Breffni House.

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton advised that letters were issued in July 2020 and February 2021. No response to date.

Cllr. Keelan enquired if there was any update on the previous motion proposing a Park N Ride system?

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton replied that the MD will follow up on this.

Cllr. Keelan stated that the webcam in Carrickmacross is still not working.

Staff Officer Amanda Murray advised that Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce are aware of the issue – they are having difficulty getting somebody to fix it.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that he was delighted to hear that a full complement of outdoor staff was back in place since Monday but hopes that there will not be an issue with works planned for the summertime. Cllr. O’Hanlon wished to clarify that funding received will be spent and that hopefully no works will occur in the month of December.

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton advised that the MD Executive do not envisage any issue with meeting the Roads Programme targets for this year.

Cllr. Carthy commented that if funding is received in late October works will need to be done – it is not ideal but there is no choice. Cllr. Carthy asked, that if this does occur, that notice is given to those affected.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that he hopes as much works as possible are done in the summer months.

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton agreed that nobody wants to carry out works in December, however the MD must apply for any relevant funding. Notice will be given to anyone affected if it should arise.

### **3.0 Correspondence**

#### **i. Response from Minister Rabbitte Office**

Cllr. Carthy stated that it is good to see such an extensive reply and hopefully over the next few months we will see a return to normality.

#### **ii. Response from Meath County Council – Winter Maintenance Plan**

Cllr. Carthy commented that the issue is that the Drumcondrath Road is salted up to a point. From the border onwards it is not, which is dangerous to those unfamiliar with the road. Cllr. Carthy stated that he believes that the issue should be pushed.

Cllr. Keelan stated that the Drumcondrath Road is a busy road and does not think that the response should be accepted. Cllr. Keelan advised that he shall undertake to speak to colleagues in Meath County Council about the issue and asked the Executive to revert to their colleagues there also.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that Monaghan County Council have done an excellent job on this road. He commented that he will speak to his colleagues about the issue but that it is out of our remit. It is up to Meath County Council.

Cllr. O’Hanlon asked if a response was received from the HSE regarding scheduling a meeting about Covid 19?

Staff Officer Amanda Murray advised there has been no response to date.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that he is flabbergasted by this and spoke about how people living near the border are particularly affected. People a few miles away in N. Ireland are being vaccinated. Cllr. O’Hanlon asked that the letter is resent which Cllr. Keelan agreed with.

### **4.0 Schedule of Municipal District Works 2021**

Damien Thornton went through the proposed Schedule.

Cllr. Carthy wished to remind the Executive that in 2018 a list was put to members and they were asked to prioritise projects. The back lane at Drummond Etra was one of those jobs.

Cllr. Carthy asked if this remains on the list for consideration?

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton advised that there is funding available to undertake these works.

Cllr. O’Hanlon queried if the Lough Na Glac to Ardee project was going to be part of the Nuremore to Dundalk road and asked if there is provision in this for lighting?

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton advised that the application did not include specific provision for lighting.

Cllr. Keelan stated that it was given to understand that there would be huge savings with the retro fitting of LED lights. Cllr. Keelan wished to welcome a lot of the initiatives and queried if the figure for the Public Realm Plan was for works or consultancy fees.

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton clarified that it was for consultancy fees.

Director of Services Paul Clifford commented that he is aware of the long list/demand for public lighting however there is a limited budget. The retro fitting of lights was borrowed against our electricity bills in order to reduce our carbon footprint.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that people will not be happy about property tax being collected if it is not spent back in their town and suggested that the next application made should include provision of lighting.

Cllr. Carthy asked if works will be carried out for future provision of lighting?

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton advised that the provision of ducting will be explored

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Campbell, the Schedule of Municipal District Works was passed by the members.

## **5.0 Municipal District Coordinators Report**

### Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Regarding the Public Realm Plan, asked about the back lands, querying what the situation is in relation to Main Street stating that he would have hoped that there would have been something more concrete at this stage.

Reply – Applications were made under Rural regeneration for CTek II – this was the priority.

### Cllr. Carthy:

Reminded the Executive to consider St. Macartans Tce at the upcoming meeting regrading Carrickmacross CCTV.

## **6.0 Presentation by AP&E on Castleblayney Market House**

Miriam Delaney presented the report to the members.

### Cllr. Campbell:

Thanked AP & E for the report.

Noted the importance of restoring the Market House, commenting that this may be the 9<sup>th</sup> such report. Stresses that it needs to be progressed.

Stated that he really liked the idea of blended use.

Commented that the rood and build need to be made stable.

Liked the idea of having commercial units.

Asked if there are plans to make a presentation to the groups involved in the consultation and questioned where we are at re: the next phase (designing/planning/seeking funding).

Cllr. Carthy:

Thanked AP&E for the report.

Commented that the report highlights what can be possible.

Noted that emergency access and disable parking may need to be facilitated in pedestrianised areas.

Stated there is a need to be proactive and that this report is the ammunition needed to carry on and seek funding.

Cllr. Keelan:

Thanked AP&E for the report.

Stated that the condition of The Market House has been an eyesore for the people of Castleblayney.

Commented that it needs to be a phased approach and obviously the initial stage would be roofing and securing the building.

Stated that the blended approach is an excellent idea.

Wondered what the next stage will be and how quickly can funding be sourced?

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Thanked AP&E for the presentation.

Queried costs. Who will pay for Capital and Running costs?

Noted that events were top of the list on the survey and commented that Iontas runs events. Also, that cafés and restaurants were high on the list and the Castleblayney is not short of these.

Stated that it is clear that Castleblayney people are passionate about The Market House and for it to work there is a need for a broad spectrum of people in the town to work on it.

Commented that he would not have MCC within 100 miles of it, when The Market House is built it needs to stand on its own two feet.

Asked if there have been meetings with local business people regarding their contribution?

Cllr. McCooey:

Thanked AP&E for the presentation.

Asked what the next step is? Are there opportunities for MCC to apply for funding?

Miriam Deleany, AP&E, gave the following responses:

It is intended to invite various groups to meetings and hear the feedback. The report will be made available.

Detailed designs will be carried out by a specific design team. This report presents strategies.

The report talks about outdoor events. It is not seen as a competitor to the Iontas.

The blended approach strikes the right balance – there is a stable income, but it also remains a public building.

It is premature to identify specific businesses presently.

A/Director of Services Cathal Flynn advised that the project has been approved for funding under the Rural Regeneration Fund. The next step will be to engage design consultants to put some meat on the bones – this will commence immediately. It is hoped to have a design team in place by early June 2021. Once this step is complete, we will make a Category A Application under the Rural Regeneration Fund.

## 7.0 Questions

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

1. Where are we with the Local Area Active Plan for the Back lands in Carrickmacross and when will we see work on the ground?

Response:-

Future Analytics Consultants submitted concept strategies for each Local Area Action Plan site on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2021. The MD executive, in collaboration with the Planning Section, are currently reviewing the appropriateness and feasibility of the alternative proposals. It is envisaged that finalised plans for each LAAP site shall be completed by the end of Q2 2021. The schemes shall then proceed to the detailed design/statutory planning process stage, followed by any necessary land and property acquisition. Implementation shall be dependent on the successful completion of the foregoing and the securing of Category 1 funding under future Rural Regeneration and Development Fund calls for funding. The MD executive shall actively explore all potential sources of funding towards the implementation of the various elements outlined in the finalised Plans.

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

2. In relation to the Conabury Hill Housing Estate, Castleblayney, will the council:
  - review the drainage to the Conabury Hill road itself, to ensure that surface water is drained off road rather than its current path (through this estate)?
  - Consider a review of the gullies in the estate to ensure they are clear and properly clearing surface water from the estate?

Response:

The Housing Estate in question has not been taken in charge by Monaghan County Council however the MD Executive have requested that the Planning Section keeps them abreast of any potential taking in charge application.

3. When is it envisaged the proposed parking strategy design for Carrickmacross will be presented for public consultation?

Response:

It is envisaged that public consultation shall commence in line with public consultation on the proposed introduction of a revised car parking Schedule for Carrickmacross Town. The MD Executive are currently awaiting legal opinion on the adequacy of the underpinning car parking Byelaws, which form a key element of the *Carrickmacross Town Car Parking Strategy*. The MD executive hope to receive legal clarification within the coming weeks and shall present any findings to the Elected Members at the earliest opportunity thereafter.

4. Will the Municipal District consider introducing measures to reduce littering along the Convent Avenue, Carrickmacross, including around the Civic offices (i.e.: Camera's, increase in lighting, extra bins etc); also, are there any plans to repair section of damaged pathway at rear of the Library (near outdoor exercise equipment)?

Response:-

Costings have been compiled for the provisions of lighting to a Section of the Convent Avenue between the Ardee Rd entrance and the Civic Offices and this has been placed to the public lighting list for consideration. Regarding the damaged pathway plans are afoot to repair same. CCTV Security Design Consultants have been asked to examine the viability for the installation of CCTV for a section of the Convent Avenue.

5. When will the traffic calming design for the Ross Road, Carrickmacross, be available for review?

Response:

At present Engineering Staff are preparing design solutions for the traffic calming on the Ross Rd Carrickmacross

6. Has the Council executive considered the addition of public lighting to the N2 junction on the Doohamlet road out of Castleblayney (will it be added to our public lighting list)?

Response:-

The Council Executive are at present investigating the viability of the installation public lighting on the R182 Doohamlet Castleblayney Rd at the ramp accesses with the N2 and on completion of designs and costing this project will be added to public lighting list.

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

7. With regard to the investigations into the feasibility of a possible greenway between Castleblayney and Ballybay. What is the update on this project?

Response:-

Ballybay -Clones Municipal District sought tenders for suitably competent consultants to prepare a Technical Scoping and Constraints Study along the route of the now disused Dundalk to Eniiskillen Railway between the towns of Ballybay and

Castleblayney. This study will inform Monaghan County Council of any constraints along this route, and the next steps required to further develop the project.

Clandillon Civil Consulting with Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants assisting have been appointed to carry out this work.

It is envisaged that these works will be completed by mid Q3 2021 with a presentation given to the elected members in both the Ballybay Clones and the Castleblayney Carrickmacross Municipal Districts

8. With the eminent publication of the report by AP& E architectural consultants in relations to the Market House and square in Castleblayney regarding the proposed regeneration of the building and area and possible future uses for the building and with so many groups and individuals who took part in the process of gathering the information and engaging with AP & E to give their views.

(A) When will this report be available to the public?

(B) With Covid-19 making it so difficult to meet up. What plans has the council to circulate and distribute this report?

(C) With the funding which was obtained under Rural Regeneration for this project and the next step in the process being to begin preparation of tender documents for the engagement of Design Team Consultants. What is the process for this part of the project in terms of advertising and timelines?

Response:-

AP & E are giving a presentation to the members at the March monthly meeting of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney and will be available to address all queries from the members.

9. What is the update on the outdoor fitness trail and exercise trail which is planned for Lough Muckno?

Response:-

Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD are currently consulting with Monaghan Sports Partnership with a view to development of a plan to address the fitness needs of users of Muckno Park. On completion of this plan, works on the project will commence.

10. With the large numbers using Muckno and the surrounds of Hope Castle and the Black Island. Would the MD investigate the idea of a counter at the entrance at Hope Castle gates where one was previously in place to evaluate numbers and movements of people in the area which could be used to feed into future applications for funding for the area and also show the peak times for use?

Response:-

The MD executive will explore all feasible options, having regard to social distancing and GDPR requirements. At present there is no budget for this proposal however, the MD executive shall actively pursue all potential sources of funding.

11. With Covid-19 restrictions still in place causing a hold up on most capital works including our roads programme for the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross MD. When do we expect works to commence on our local roads?

Response:

All works deemed essential are being carried out. All planned programme works will commence following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions.

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

12. In welcoming the publication of the draft public realm plan for Inniskeen how is it proposed to carry out the widest possible public consultation on the plan given current Covid-19 restrictions etc , following on from this process when is it hoped to see the delivery of the plan on the ground including the provision of safe walking routes throughout the village?

Response:

Due to the threat of Covid-19, it is not planned to hold large scale public consultation events. The MD executive are currently reviewing/exploring on-line and digital technology options, having regard to best practice demonstrated in more recent public consultation exercises undertaken by, and on behalf of, Monaghan County Council.

Following public consultation, the implementation of the various elements of the Plan shall initially be dependent on securing funding for detailed design and obtaining any necessary consents. A funding application for the detailed design of pedestrian and cyclist facilities has been submitted under the Active Travel Programme 2021. Should this application be successful, it is hoped that “shovel ready” projects may be available for consideration under future calls for funding in 2022. The MD executive shall actively pursue all potential sources of funding towards the implementation of the various measures outlined in the Plan.

13. In welcoming the funding for the upgrading of the bridge at Rossdreenagh adjacent to the Culloville regional road ( R179 ) when is it expected that works will commence , what improvements is it hoped to carry out with the funding available including safer access for vehicles and pedestrians onto the busy Culloville Road?

Response:

At present Engineering Staff are preparing design solutions to improve sight visibility at the junction of the R183 with the L8660 at Rossdreenagh under the 2021 Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme. Following a design solution and agreement with adjoining landowners works can then commence.

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

Response:

Engineering staff are at present liaising with CCTV Security Design Consultants and An Garda Síochána regarding the provision of a CCTV system for the Main St in Carrickmacross.

15. In welcoming the extra traffic calming measures carried out at the very busy and dangerous Essexfort junction including the provision of driver feedback signs etc, will the Council examine the possibility of securing extra funding to resurface this area and improve the road markings?

Response:

Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD have received funding of €25,000 under Low Cost Safety Measures for additional works at Essexford Junction.

16. What plans have this Council to improve the access roads into the Killanny area in particular the access road into Killanny school and church etc , and also will this Council liaise with Louth County Council with a view to improving the access road into the GAA club and community centre?

Response:-

The following approach roads to the Killanny area LP47011-0, LT30106-0 and the LP4702-0 in Co. Monaghan do not form part of the adopted 3 Year Road Improvement Programme (2021-2023) however this Municipal District will continue to carry out maintenance repairs until such time these roads are placed on an adopted programme or another similar funding stream.

## **8.0 Date for Roads Area / Budget Meeting**

It was suggested to wait until the next government announcement due on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of April was agreed.

## **9.0 Motions**

After a discussion amongst the members the following motion proposed by Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan was unanimously agreed:

*'The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District calls on Tuath Housing Association to allocate the 7no. completed 3-bed housing units in Droimain Clois (Magheross unfinished housing estate), Carrickmacross, as soon as possible; we also call on Tuath to do everything they can to avoid any further delays in the completion of the 4-bed (phase 2) and 2-bed units (phase 3).'*

Cllr. O. Hanlon supported the motion but suggested that a Tuath Rep needs to be invited to the next meeting to investigate what happened? Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that he doubted that Tuath had held up the allocation of houses.

Cllr. Carthy clarified that the motion is not about blaming anyone. The units are ready to move into.

#### **10.0 Directors Orders**

Directors Orders 03/2021, 04/2021, 05/2021, 06/2021, 07/2021, 08/2021, 09/2021, 10/2021, 11/2021, 12/2021 and 13/2021 were duly noted.

#### **11.0 A.O.B.**

Cllr. Keelan:

Asked the Executive if there are any plans in place, alongside Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce, to put outdoor seating in place to aid the hospitality sector? Mentioned Covid-19 funding for outdoor spaces.

Reply – The funding that was referred to is not for individual businesses. MCC have always worked with local publicans re: outdoor events.

Cllr. Carthy:

Commented on the high level of littering in Carrickmacross. It is disgusting to look at, particularly when local groups work hard by doing spring cleans. Can the executive write to local schools to encourage students to dispose of their rubbish correctly?

Reply – MCC will help wherever we can, particularly now that there is a full complement of staff. Will liaise with Environment Section regarding following up on littering issues.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Stated a first-class job has been done on the footpaths on Main Street Carrickmacross. However, further down towards Beech Drive there are holes in the pavement. Can here, along with O'Neill and Farney Street, be looked at.

Suggested that a survey is carried out on footpaths to bring all to the same high standard of Main Street.

Reply - the MD will investigate.

Cllr. Campbell:

Spoke about a flood that occurred at Drumillard after heavy rains.

Requested that a survey / inventory is carried out on signs in the MD as they are all shapes and sizes. Believes there should be a uniform approach and suggested that Town & village funding can be sought for same.

Reply – the MD is actively looking into this – it is a considerable task. Will seek funding sources.

Spoke about littering on Black Island. Shout out to the public to bring your rubbish home with you.

Both Cllr. Campbell and Cllr. Carthy noted that it is the public's responsibility to not litter. Littering comments have no reflection on MCC.

## **12.0 VOS / VOC**

*Votes of sympathy were extended to the following:*

Elizabeth Armstrong & Family on the death of Ivan Armstrong and to MCC A/Senior Engineer Gareth McMahon on the death of his mother Maureen McMahon.

The meeting concluded at 16.50pm.

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Cathaoirleach

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Date

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Meeting Administrator