

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 on Monday 26th April 2021 at 11.30am.

Present : Cathaoirleach Aidan Campbell

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

Apologies: Cllr. 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

Cllr. Campbell opened the meeting by stating that he was glad to be back in the Civic Offices. Cllr. Campbell proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of Patrick McGinley, Donegal who recently passed away after an accident at the Tullyvin Roundabout. All members wished to be associated with this expression of sympathy and all also expressed their thanks to the emergency services. Director of Services Paul Clifford added condolences to the McGinley Family on behalf of the Executive and expressed gratitude to the emergency services.

Cllr. Campbell spoke about the landmark day last week with the announcement of €3.1 million funding for the remote working hub in Carrickmacross by Minister Heather Humphreys. Cllr. Campbell stated that it proves that this Government is committed to Rural Ireland. Cllr. Campbell also wished to compliment Director of Services Paul Clifford for all his efforts. Cllr. Campbell spoke about the positive effect the project will have on Carrickmacross and noted that match funding will be needed as the total costs exceed the €3.1 million. Cllr. Campbell pointed out that LPT will be used/put towards this.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that the announcement of the CTek II marks one of the best days in Carrickmacross. Cllr. O’Hanlon noted that it was the fifth application put in and wished to acknowledge Minister Humphrey’s and the MD team working behind the scenes.

Cllr. Hanlon requested that the MD does what it can to link up the CTek buildings to the Main Street in Carrickmacross.

Cllr. O’Hanlon spoke about the recent agreement at the last County Council meeting for a new head office in Monaghan. He stated that the Environment Section needs to stay in Carrickmacross, and that the CEO had agreed to this.

Cllr. O’Hanlon expressed his delight that the Group Home in Carrickmacross will be opened soon and wished to acknowledge the role that Senator Robbie Gallagher had played in this and in the CTek building.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that LPT increases are unpopular, however it is being used to help create the CTek and jobs.

Cllr. Carthy thanked the Executive for the work carried out regarding CTek II and thanked Carrickmacross businesses for all their positive works going on in the background.

Cllr. Carthy commented that Senator Robbie Gallagher had zero input into the opening of the Group Home, but he was to be commended for pushing the issue. The main people to thank are the families of the service users. Cllr. Carthy stated that he had no wish to be aggressive about the issue but that all members of the Oireachtas have worked on it. Cllr. Carthy went on to say that he will wait for the building to open before commending anyone.

A robust discussion followed between Cllr. Carthy and Cllr. O’Hanlon. Cllr. O’Hanlon wished to clarify that he has always stated that it was Cllr. Matt Carthy at the time who made the proposal. Cllr. O’Hanlon commented that from when the new Government was formed funding was received within 6 months after lying idle for 4 years. Cllr. Carthy stated that he felt the MD is not the correct venue to commend Matt Carthy and pointed out that he has not done this.

Cllr. Campbell advised that he wished to acknowledge the works done by Minister Heather Humphreys.

Cllr. McCooney stated that she was delighted with the announcement and commended all involved.

Cllr. Keelan thanks the Executive for their work. He stated that he hoped the CTek II will allay concerns that Carrickmacross were not “getting their fair share”. Cllr. Keelan commented that Deputy Matt Carthy has been raising the issue of the Group Home for the past 15 years. He also acknowledged all the other Public Representatives who have helped with this issue. Cllr. Keelan stated that the families of the Service Users are the most important people.

1.0 Presentation by Michael Carroll, Horticulturalist and Sharon Finnegan, Environment Section – Biodiversity Projects

All members thanked Michael and Sharon for the presentation.

Cllr. Carthy:

Requested that a hard copy of the presentation is sent to all members.

Thanked Sharon Finnegan for all her work in the background.

What is the plan for the remainder of the Gallows' Hill site?

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Asked if the presentation has been done at schools?

What is the final plan for Gallows' Hill? Noted that it is a facility that is not used in Carrickmacross. Stated that there is a need to stamp out anti-social behaviour in the area.

Cllr. McCooey:

Stressed the importance of Biodiversity.

Asked if the signs around Castleblayney and Oram are MCC or Tidy Towns?

Cllr. Keelan:

Stated there is a need for wide consultation with people educate them on future plans.

Noted that Gallows' Hill is an important heritage area - it needs to be done sensitively.

Michael Carroll, horticulturist advised that he believes that Gallows' Hill should be left as natural as possible. He suggested the possibility of an outdoor classroom area to learn about the native trees etc. He also informed the members that there are current trials using organic weed killer.

Sharon Finnegan, Environment Section, MCC spoke about outdoor classroom settings and how they incorporate biodiversity into lessons – MCC promote this. The signs in Castleblayney and Oram are probably a mixture of signs promoting biodiversity.

Cllr. Campbell asked what is the next stage of the plan for Gallows' Hill?

Michael Carroll, horticulturalist advised that it is at concept design at the minute and noted that planting times for apple trees is in the Autumn. He also stated that public consultation can be arranged.

2.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon the minutes of the March Monthly MD meeting held on Monday 22nd March 2021 were adopted.

3.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan asked that the issue of Breffni house is pressed on and requested that MCC possibly carry out works if there is no response.

Cllr. Keelan asked for an update on the Park N' Ride system.

Cllr. Keelan spoke about the struggles of the hospitality sector noting that the local authority can apply for funding up to €200,000 for outdoor covered areas. He stated that elected members have a responsibility to help these people. Cllr. Keelan asked if areas in both towns can be selected where outdoor seating could be placed.

Cllr. Carthy noted that he has spoken to a colleague in Meath County Council about the Drumconrath Road and asked that the Executive do the same.

Cllr. Carthy asked for an update on when works may take place on the rear access lanes at Drummond Etra.

Cllr. Carthy welcomed funding applications by Environment Section for CCTV at St. Macartans Tce and they are investigating a new gate.

Cllr. O'Hanlon concurred with Cllr. Keelan's comments about the hospitality sector. He enquired if car parking spaces can be used for outdoor seating and does food need to be provided? Cllr. O'Hanlon asked if there is anything in place for young children using the example of Dartry Park.

Cllr. O'Hanlon suggested that the MD needs a special meeting in relation to this topic.

Cllr. McCooey stated that taking away car parking spaces is not a realistic option for Castleblayney and suggested that there are areas with wide footpaths which could be utilised.

Cllr. Campbell stated that the AP&E presentation was very well received by the public.

Cllr. Campbell suggested setting aside some time at the next meeting to discuss outdoor seating and asked Director of Services Paul Clifford to comment on people placing seating outside their doors. Cllr. Campbell enquired if there is opportunity to seek funding for outdoor areas around Hope Castle/Muckno.

Cllr. Keelan requested that the Executive contact Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce to offer any help needed and work collaboratively.

Cllr. Campbell asked for a report on the funding available for outdoor seating at the next meeting.

Cllr. Carthy suggested an online meeting to discuss same.

Director of Services Paul Clifford stated that a circular regarding the funding has only been released today and the Executive will revert to the members. He advised that there are two parts to the scheme. One concerns infrastructure and the other part is restricted to businesses who currently serve food on their premises. There is an online facility to apply for this funding. He also stated that a licence is needed if a footpath or carpark spaces are being used. There is no scheme at present for Public houses. Mr. Clifford advised that MCC will deal with people flexibly and pointed out that MCC needs to be conscious of the safety and planning regulations which may affect residents in the areas.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, it was unanimously agreed: *"That this Municipal District provides a proper link up from the Civic Offices / C Tek to the Main St in Carrickmacross."*

4.0 Correspondence

- i. Response from HSE re: organising a meeting with members concerning Covid 19

Cllr. O'Hanlon commented about the length of time it is taking to simply arrange a meeting.

5.0 MD Coordinator Report

Cllr. McCooey:

Asked what is the role of the Horticulturalist regarding the Monaghan Road?

Reply – to soften the area and not just have concrete / lines.

Re: Oram Garden - is there any money leftover for outdoor sockets to be used for Christmas Lights.

Reply – this will be investigated.

Cllr. Carthy:

Stated that he is happy to see an alternative being sought for the Patrick Kavanagh Centre.

Asked for consideration to be given to coat manholes in gritting paint?

Reply – this will need to be raised with Roads Section.

Cllr. Keelan:

Asked if the land at the back of BOI is being considered in relation to Carrickmacross Town Renewal.

Reply – will revert about same.

Enquired if the bus stop at Paddy Powers can be extended as a taxi rank / bus stop.

Reply – MCC are awaiting advise on the By Laws and will revert when received.

Cllr. Campbell:

Welcomed the works at Ballinacarry Bridge.

Requested an update on Annyalla Pedestrian Crossing.

Reply – Roads Section will be contacted.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Stated that he thinks that CTek 2 should be discussed every month.

Cllr. Campbell suggested that "Capital Projects" is placed on the Agenda each month.

Warmly welcomed the €4.5 million funding for roads this year and thanked the MD team for putting in the applications.

Reply – any progress on CTek 2 will be covered under the Coordinators report.

6.0 Questions

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

1. Will the MD Executive consider a review of the footpaths, kerbing and drains in the Drumillard housing estate, Castleblayney, with a view to repairing damages; also, are there any plans to carry out repair works to the roads that run through the estate, many of which are in a very poor state of disrepair?

Response:-

Plans are afoot to carry out repairs to footways, kerbing and drainage. There is eight sections of road pavement totalling 1300m in the Drumillard Housing Estate with an average PSCI rating of 8. There are no sections of road pavement within the Drumillard Housing Estate with

a PSCI rating below 4 thus not applicable for inclusion on the adopted 2021-2023 Restoration Improvement Programme.

2. Will the Council consider erecting signage on the Monaghan Road, Castleblayney, to notify drivers of the new Fire Station location (and upcoming-junction)?

Response:-

This matter has been forwarded to the Chief Fire Officer for consideration.

3. When is it expected that works will commence on the new Active Travel scheme in relation to new footpaths, cycleways etc throughout the MD?

Response:-

It is envisaged that these schemes shall commence in early Q3.

4. Will consideration be given to adding dog fouling bins and signage to new footpaths that are being introduced as part of any walking strategy?

Response:-

This MD will consider this request when reviewing the existing Walking and Cycling Strategies in the District.

5. When is it expected that designs will be made available for parking strategy on Farney Street and Traffic Calming on Ross road, Carrickmacross?

Response:

Parking Strategy on Farney Street

A revised Car Parking Schedule and complementary mapping/design layout are completed. The MD Executive are currently assessing the adequacy of the underpinning Car Parking Bye-Laws. It is envisaged that Public consultation shall commence in early Q3.

Traffic Calming on Ross road, Carrickmacross

It is envisaged that public consultation shall commence in early-mid Q3.

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

6. In welcoming the €3.9 million funding to Monaghan for area of Active Travel, which is so important in getting people out and active walking and cycling
- (A) How much of this funding has come to Castleblayney/Carrickmacross Municipal District?
 - (B) What is covered under this funding for the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross Municipal District?
 - (C) When is it hoped that these important works will commence?

Response:-

- (A) The recent "Active Travel" funding announcement shall realise an investment of €869,000 in walking and cycling infrastructure in Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District.

(B) The funding, aimed at promoting a modal shift in commuter traffic, shall provide for the development of 12 no. schemes within the Municipal District. The scope of individual projects ranges from the development of detailed designs, to the construction and installation of enhanced walking and cycling infrastructure.

(C) It is envisaged that these schemes shall commence in early Q3.

7. Can the Municipal District look at the junction which comes down from Conabury/Alms houses to meet the main road at Saint Mary's Church where there are some road markings to allow a crossing - but not enough. However, with two schools, Castleblayney College and the Boys School, using this junction to walk to and from school it needs to be made safe. On this same stretch of road which runs down from Conabury there is further road markings needed particularly in the middle of the road where there is none. When will these markings be put in place?

Response:-

This MD will examine the junctions and crossings in question and will examine the extent of road markings required.

8. In regards to the recent funding which has been made available for Tourism and Hospitality Business Scheme which is to provide a level of financial support to the tourism and hospitality business in our town centers to purchase or upgrade equipment to provide additional outdoor seating and therefore increase their outdoor dining capacity for the summer of 2021. These businesses have been hit so hard during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Scheme which will provide up to 75% of the ex-Vat cost of equipment purchase/installed with a maximum allowable contribution of up to €4,000 per applicant. Has the MD examined the idea of using public areas and in some cases Car Parking spaces to allow businesses which have no option or space but use the public spaces?

Response:-

Business owners have been advised to make application to the MD regarding proposals for their business and each application will be looked at individually, with the needs of each business assessed with a view to achieving optimum service capacity.

9. Regarding the bridge rehabilitation works due to be carried out on the Bridge in Drumleek South L-3700. When will this work commence?

Response:-

The repairs planned to this bridge is restricted to the months July to September as specified by The Inland Fisheries as instream works is required. A programme of works will be agreed with the Contractor in the coming weeks to ensure completion of works within the specific timeframe for working instream.

10. What is the update on the directional walking signs for Carrickmacross?

Response:-

It is envisaged that works shall be completed by early Q3.

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

11. In relation to the CIS scheme in Magheraclone, I know that 7 roads have already been completed, where are the final roads going to be under the 2021 programme and what timeframe is in place?

Response:-

Monaghan County Council has received funding of €544,000 for Community Involvement Schemes in 2021. A list of schemes has been identified, including the remaining roads in Magheraclone and subject to tender prices and the applicants making the required Local Contribution of 15% the schemes will progress in June 2021.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aoife McCooey for April 2021 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney
Municipal District Council:

12. Can the MD please investigate opportunities for the possible development of walking tracks and signage at Mullyash Mountain. eg. Signage with information on which area you are looking out towards at four points.

Response:-

The MD Executive will explore all feasible opportunities for the development of walking tracks, including the provision of directional signs, at Mullyash Mountain.

13. Can the MD outline it’s biodiversity plan for Castleblayney and Oram this year. Particularly in areas which will be left to grow wild - how are we managing this or selecting areas?

Response:-

Regarding the areas outlined, Monaghan Co. Council have drawn up a pollinator plan for Oram which consists of planting of pollinator friendly bulbs around the Village.

14. Can the MD give clarity on its plans to add bins around the Lough Muckno area. Rubbish is a continued problem around here, and will only get worse as more people use the facility in the summer months.

Response:-

There is the provision for 1575lts of litter capacity in Lough Muckno area through 5Nr. 75 Litre bins and 1Nr. 1200litre Solar Powered bin which are emptied daily. There is adequate litter capacity in the area.

15. Can the MD investigate traffic calming measures for Oram village, particularly on the Newtownhamilton side of the village.

Response:-

This MD will carry out a traffic and speed survey over a 14 day period to ascertain the 85th [percentile operating speed](#) on this section of road pavement. On receipt of this information should there be evidence of speed violations this section of pavement will be placed on the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme list for consideration in 2022 for the provision of traffic calming measures.

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

16. In relation to crime prevention and detection, what is the up-to-date position regarding the provision of a CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross town and its environs?

Response:-

The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney have been in discussion with security advisors regarding the scope and location of CCTV in Carrickmacross. Plans are currently being drawn up in relation to this.

17. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of traffic calming measures on the Donaghmoynne road, including the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the very busy Lisanisk/Donaghmoynne road junction?

Response:-

This MD carried out a speed survey over a 14 day period and the 85th [percentile operating speed](#) on this section of road pavement was registered at 52km/hr which is 2km/hr above the 50km/hr speed limit restriction which is in place. This section of pavement has been placed on the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme list for consideration in 2022 for the provision of traffic calming measures”.

18. In welcoming the funding for the design of a pedestrian/cycle bridge to cross the river fane in Inniskeen , when is it hoped that design options will be available, will this Council ensure that local residents and community organisations will be consulted on this very important and sensitive development?

Response:-

It is envisaged that public consultation shall commence towards the end of Q3. The MD Executive shall endeavour to undertake a comprehensive public consultation exercise.

19. While acknowledging some progress in relation to the maintenance and improvement of the local road network, how many complaints are still outstanding from the general public, how long is it expected to take in order to address these complaints, when will the resurfacing of the roadways on the programme for 2021 commence?

Response:-

The are at present 51 complaints outstanding with 181 complaints completed to date in 2021. Complaints are received on a continuing basis from the public, elected members and defects are also picked up on a daily basis by Engineering and Outdoor staff. The Roads resurfacing Programme in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD is scheduled to commence week beginning the 14th June 2021.

20. In relation to Inniskeen, village what is the up-to-date position regarding the provision of extra traffic calming measures to deal with the ongoing problem of excessive speeding in the village, including the provision of a pedestrian crossing adjacent to the pitch and putt course and Patrick Kavanagh centre and also the provision of extra speed ramps on the Carrickmacross approach road to the village?

Response:-

Engineering staff are examining possible design solutions regarding traffic calming in the village. Funding has been applied for the provision of a Pedestrian Crossing on the LP4623-0 adjacent to the pitch and putt course and Patrick Kavanagh centre under Clar 2021. Funding has been applied for and secured under Active Travel to provide a Pedestrian Crossing on the LP4622-0 near Mary Mother of Mercy Church.

6.0 Motions

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

"That this Municipal District calls on the Government to suspend the collection of rates for a minimum period of 6 months for all businesses when they officially reopen so as to give them a chance to get their cash flow back up and running."

Cllr. O'Hanlon commented that the Rates system needs to be reviewed. All members agreed that businesses need to be supported.

Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that any motion like this needs to name where alternative funding will come from as services will not be able to continue.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Carthy the following motion was also unanimously agreed:

"That Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District Council supports in every way possible the residents of Annyalla and community representatives in their request to have a number of improvements carried out , including the provision of extra traffic calming measures on the main road (Old N2) , the provision of extra footpath links , and also the provision of a bus shelter and other associated works , that we work in close collaboration with our colleagues in the Monaghan Municipal District Council to advance these proposed improvements."

Cllr. O'Hanlon suggested that there is a need to sit down and discuss the issue with colleagues in Monaghan Municipal District.

Cllr. Campbell stated that he supports the motion and noted that the area have received a lot of enhancements to date.

Cllr. Keelan requested that the motion is forwarded to Monaghan and Ballybay – Clones Municipal Districts.

7.0 A.O.B.

Cllr. Keelan:

Is there an update on the proposed Carrickmacross – Inniskeen – Dundalk Greenway?

Reply – Will update at next meeting.

Can the provision of a pedestrian crossing adjacent to St. Joseph's cemetery be investigated?

Cllr. Carthy:

Asked for an update on The Hilly Way.

Stated that the issue of a bad smell on the Monaghan Road, Castleblayney persists. Can the Executive try and get some resolution?

Reply – this is a historic problem and is with Water Services.

Can consideration be given to adding lighting and widening the footpath at Drumillard Playpark?

Reply – this will be investigated.

Is there an update on works at Highfield by Irish Water?

Reply – an arborist report was provided.

Re: the new bollards at Cloughvalley School – there remains an issue with people parking on the road. Is it possible to prevent this?

Reply – this will be investigated.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Can a letter be sent to the New Bose factory to enquire when it will be opened?

When will the current pothole list be extinguished?

Reply – There are 50 outstanding complaints and 180 completed to date. The MD try to get through the list asap, however it is rolling on all the time.

Cllr. Campbell:

There is water running across the road at Oram Church.

Reply – The MD are aware of this.

Can traffic calming measures be investigated for the Shercock Road, Castleblayney?

Is there an update for road surfacing on The Lurgans and how far up will the new footpath go?

Reply – This MD will seek other funding for road surfacing.

Cllr. Campbell complimented Castleblayney Regeneration Town Team for the new map they have produced.

The meeting concluded at 13.40pm.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator