

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 28th June 2021 at 11.50am.

Present : Cathaoirleach PJ O’Hanlon

Cllrs. Aoife McCooey, Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan, Mary Kerr Conlon, Aidan Campbell

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 May Monthly MD meeting held on Monday 24th May 2021 were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan requested an update about the Carrickmacross – Inniskeen -Dundalk Greenway. A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton advised that Meath County Council are going to take the lead on this project.

Cllr. O’Hanlon asked for a follow up on the L4900.

Cllr. Carthy requested an update about the back-access lane at Drummond Etra.

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton stated that it is hoped to include this with the roadworks in Carrickmacross.

Cllr. Carthy asked that the Executive continue to contact Irish Water about the malodour issue in Castleblayney.

Cllr. Keelan requested an update about the Old Famine Graveyard.

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton advised that all options will be explored alongside the Tidy Towns.

3.0 Correspondence

I. Response from Newbaze

Cllr. O'Hanlon requested that a reply is sent thanking the organisation for their response and to offer to help in any way we can.

II. Acknowledgment from Minister for Disabilities Anne Rabbitte concerning carers.

Cllr. Carthy wished to note that Minister Rabbitte's Office are usually quick to respond, and this is appreciated.

4.0 MD Coordinator Report

Cllr. O'Hanlon asked if an audio system for the Chamber can be investigated as it can be difficult to hear at times due to social distancing measures.

Cllr. Campbell:

Complimented A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton on his engagement with the hospitality industry regarding outdoor seating.

Wondered if MCC intend to continue to promote this?

Reply – Details remain on MCC website and Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District are actively engaging with businesses.

Welcomed funding for Annadrummond under climate Action.

Reply – funding is for design works.

Welcomed funding for the installation of an Age Friendly seating area and wondered when this will be installed?

Requested that A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton meet with Tom Miller regarding car parking issues in Castleblayney.

Cllr: Keelan:

Stated that as much as possible needs to be done to support the hospitality industry and welcomed the provision of outdoor seating.

Asked if there are any proposals as an MD to take advantage of available funding for outdoor seating?

Reply – This matter has been discussed at length with MCC Tourism Officer. There are no appropriate pedestrianised areas in either town.

Asked if the MD have refused any applications?

Reply – none have been refused. Further information has been sought for some.

Requested an update about i-boards for Carrickmacross.

Welcomed the commencement of verge trimming works.

Cllr. Carthy:

Wished to note the previous issues with planters in Castleblayney.

Reply – The MD will take this on board.

Requested that the Bog Town walkway are is tidied up.

Asked that the area at the back of Thorndale, Bree is tidied up. Noted that a fire occurred recently in an overgrown area in this vicinity.

Reply – Contractors have looked at this area and will provide prices.

Thanked the MD for the installation of Carrickmacross Lions signage.

Cllr. McCooey:

Stated that it is great to see the Oram Memorial Garden works.

Asked if the safety audits on the Castleblayney – Monaghan Road are standard practice or have there been complaints made?

Reply – this is standard practice.

Asked if there has been any progress on the boundary fence on the Dundalk Rd?

Reply – contractor has advised that there is delays in the supply of materials.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Asked if there are any plans for outdoor family areas? Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that he is conscious of timing – the summer will be over before we know it.

Reply – at present there are a number of schemes which take these types of areas into account.

5.0 Questions

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

1. Can the Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District provide an update as brought up under AOB at the May MD meeting, on footpath washing in Oram village?

Response:-

The Municipal District executive in collaboration with Oram Tidy Towns are developing a proposal to address this issue.

2. Can the Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District Provide and update on redoing the white line in Oram village of the Newtownhamilton side of the village as it is totally faded away. Due to the problems with speeding, locals have also noted cars coming in to the village on the wrong side of the road so this may be one step in handling the speeding issue.

Response:

These white lining works as detailed forms part an extensive list of lining works that is due to be completed in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD in Q3 2021.

3. Can the Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District provide an update on the traffic speed survey which was due to take place in Oram village due to the speeding issues.

Response:

At present a 14-day Speed and Traffic survey is progressing, on receipt of this survey, results and trends will be analysed to ascertain if traffic calming provisions are

required. Should traffic calming provision be necessary this section of pavement will be placed on the Low-Cost Safety Improvement scheme for 2022.

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

4. When is the public consultation for the Farney Street (Carrickmacross) Parking strategy expected to begin/conclude?

Response:-

Public consultation for the Farney Street (Carrickmacross) Parking Strategy shall be undertaken as part of the overall public consultation process for the proposed introduction of revised Parking Control Bye-Laws for Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District.

It is envisaged that public consultation for the aforementioned Parking Control Bye-Laws shall commence in mid-Q3 2021, for an eight week period.

5. Has a design been carried out for traffic calming and pedestrian safety on the Kingscourt road, Carrickmacross?

Response:-

Engineering staff at present are undertaking a Road safety Assessment on the Kingscourt Road Carrickmacross.

On completion of this assessment items identified will be placed on the Low-Cost Safety Improvement list for consideration in 2022.

6. Has the Executive looked into the provision of lighting for the playground in Drumillard, Castleblayney; will consideration be given to adding same in the near future and what is the up-to-date position on the repair of footpaths and drainage in this estate?

Response:-

- I. The provision of public lighting for the playground in Drumillard, Castleblayney, is not included in the Municipal District's adopted Public Lighting Programme for 2021 and at present there is no funding available for this proposal. The proposed scheme shall be included for consideration under the Public Lighting Programme for 2022.
- II. The outstanding footway remedial works are included on a priority maintenance works list, and shall be attended to at the earliest possible juncture.
- III. The Municipal District Executive are awaiting an outcome report from investigative surveys that have been undertaken on the affected sections of the surface water drainage network.

7. When is it expected that works will start on the additional footpaths and cycleways planned for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney?

Response:

This Municipal District received provisional grant allocations towards the development of 12 no. schemes. In line with National Transport Authority (NTA)

approval protocols, individual Project Grant Application Forms have been submitted to the NTA for ratification, and works are not permitted to commence until this spend approval process is completed. Subject to the foregoing and the initiation of a dedicated Active Travel team, it is envisaged that works on these projects shall commence in Q3 2021.

8. There is a small section of the Coolfore road still to be resurfaced following the works carried out a few years ago, approx. 150m, has this council considered any funding/'reclaimed'scheme that would complete this road?

Response:-

Engineering staff have examined this section of pavement at Coolfore unfortunately this section of pavement does not form part of the adopted 2021-23 Roads Improvement Programme. This section of pavement will be considered for other funding streams that may become available this year.

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

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

Response:-

A preliminary design has been completed and it is envisaged that public consultation will take place in July of this year.

10. What is the up date position in relation to the rollout of the bicycle rental scheme for Inniskeen village?

Response:

The Municipal District Executive is currently procuring a selection of bicycles for the initiation of the scheme. 2 No. Expressions of Interest were received from potential operators of the scheme. It is intended that tender documents shall issue to the interested parties week commencing the 28th of June 2021.

11. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of extra traffic calming measures including speed ramps adjacent to St Daighs Tce. in Inniskeen, and also the provision of extra pedestrian crossings, as requested by local residents and community organisations given the ongoing problem of speeding traffic in the village?

Response:-

Funding has been secured under Active Travel Pedestrian Crossing at St Mary Church. Funding applications are pending under Clar and more recently Town & Village for a pedestrian at the Kavanagh Centre. Traffic and Speed surveys have been completed adjacent to St Daighs Tce. in Inniskeen and the provision of traffic calming measures has been added to the Low-Cost Safety improvement for 2022.

12. In welcoming the improvement works and new driver feedback signs that have been put in place at Essexfort junction, what plans have this council to resurfaced and re-line this area which is in a poor state of repair?

Response:-

Works were recently completed under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme at Essexfort Junction. This section of Pavement doesn't not form part of the adopted 2021-23 Roads Improvement Programme however until such time that this section of pavement is adopted on a future Roads Programme this MD will endeavour to carry out maintenance repairs.

13. Has any further progress been made in relation to the provision of a park and ride facility that will service the people of Carrickmacross and wider south Monaghan area?

Response:-

The Municipal District Executive, in collaboration with Monaghan County Council's Roads and Planning Sections, are continuing to explore all feasible options for the provision of a park and ride facility.

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

14. With the recent announcement of funding under Active Travel for footpaths. What is the current update on the plans for starting the process of consultation and planning to get the footpath started on the Keady Road from the bottom of Muckno street out towards the Central School?

Response:-

A provisional €120k was allocated to look at the possibility of providing a footpath from C'blayney out the Keady and Oram roads. A detailed application has been submitted to the NTA for approval and if approved the scheme will progress when the Active travel team is assembled to deliver the Active Travel Programme.

15. With the recent announcement under the climate mitigation, can the MD outline what roads are to be upgraded?

Response:-

The following sections of road pavement received funding under Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works:-

- L49012 Tullylougherry – Knocknacran
- LT76001 Drumaliss
- LS8831 Descart
- LT36002-0 Milltown
- R180 Nafferty
- R180 Cloughvalley Upper
- LP3720 Annadrummon Design for Flood Alleviation Works

16. Under the ongoing flooding in Annadrumond which has been causing difficulty for local residents for a number of years where one resident is completely landlocked with this flooding,

With the recent announcement of funding for this project.

- I. What are the plans for this funding?
- II. When will this work take place?
- III. What will the next stage of this process be?

Response:-

- I. The Municipal District Executive received a funding allocation towards the development of scheme design, up to and including the planning consent process and the preparation of tender documents for scheme construction.
- II. It is intended that work to develop a feasible design solution shall commence in Q3 2021.
- III. Subject to obtaining all necessary consents and the securement of further funding, the Municipal District Executive intend to engage a suitable contractor for construction of the scheme.

17. When is the work due to finish on the Dublin Road out of Castleblayney and the resurfacing and the road lining to be carried out?

Response:-

Representatives from Monaghan County Council and National Roads Design Office recently completed a Stage 3 Road Safety Audit on the Active Travel Scheme on the Dublin Road in Castleblayney. On receipt of the recommendations contained within the audit report works will be completed. It is envisaged that works will be completed in Q3 OF 2021.

6.0 Motions

The following motion proposed by Cllr. McCooey and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon was unanimously agreed:

"That the Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District requests funding from the Corporate Services of Monaghan County Council under the Scéim na Gaeilge in line with Official Languages Act 2003, that we can produce an Irish version of the map of Castleblayney that was produced in partnership with Castleblayney Regeneration Committee."

7.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of Sympathy were extended to the family of the gentleman who tragically died following the recent accident on the N2 at Cookstown.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to the Carrickmacross Emmets Rounders team on their recent All-Ireland win. The members agreed that a Civic Reception should be held once restrictions are eased.

8.0 AOB

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Spoke about the serious issues and concerns regarding the N2. On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon the following motion was unanimously agreed:

"That a letter be sent to Minister Eamon Ryan in relation to the link road between the motorway and roundabout in Ardee, that no safety aspects of this road is being addressed. This is the busiest part of the road between the motorway and Castleblayney and nothing is being done with it. It beggars belief that we are proposing to spend over €130 million on the N2 and not a penny is being spent on the busiest part of the road".

Cllr. Keelan:

There is an issue with debris in the River Fane, Inniskeen Village. Can this be investigated? Stated that progress has been slow on the Close Drummond development. Voiced concerns about drop down from the main road? Can a barrier be placed here? Noted that there has been no progress on Breffni House. Can this be followed up? On the Dundalk Road, Killanny area, the road has depressed around manhole covers making it very dangerous.

Cllr. Carthy:

Spoke about St. Joseph Tce houses. Stated that one house juts out and is flush with the edge of the road. The guttering / fascia of this property has been damaged by larger vehicles. Can a bollard be installed?

At Chapel Lane, Carrickmacross the 30km speed signage was agreed by the Speed Limit Committee. Current ramps are little / no help in aiding the reduction in speed. Can MCC add a higher ramp?

Cllr. Campbell:

There is an issue on the L83011, known locally as Flanagan's Cross. Lorries are being directed by Sat Nav to take this road but are unable to get around a bad corner. There is a large pothole on the Shercock Rd, Castleblayney as you come off the by-pass. There is a flooding issue at Oram Graveyard. Can the MD investigate this?

Cllr. McCooey:

The L4400 Corrygarry has degraded very quickly. Are there any works planned? When is the application going in for the bad bends on the Oram Road R182? Is the white line on the Newtownhamilton side on a list of works?

The meeting concluded at 12:55pm.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator