

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 July 2021 at 11.00am.

Present : Cathaoirleach PJ O’Hanlon

Cllrs. Aoife McCooley, 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, Julieann O’Reilly, Clerical Officer

Cllr. O’Hanlon opened the meeting by expressing his condolences to the family of Philip Traynor who passed away recently in New York. Condolences were also expressed to the family of Brendan Óg Duffy on his recent tragic passing and to the family of Michael Hoey who also tragically passed away recently. Cllr. O’Hanlon noted that the past 10 days has been a very sad time for a number of families in the County. Cllr. Campbell wished to be associated with these comments and also sympathised with the family of Mariea Kelly, former Cathaoirleach of Castleblayney Town Council.

Cllrs. Keelan, Kerr-Conlon, Carthy and McCooley all wished to be associated with the comments.

On behalf of the Executive, Director of Services Paul Clifford also wished to be associated with the comments and thanked Mariea Kelly (RIP) for her service.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Campbell the minutes of the June AGM meeting held on Monday 28th June 2021 were adopted.

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2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan asked that Monaghan County Council contact Meath County Council for an update on the Greenway.

Director of Services, Paul Clifford, advised that Monaghan County Council has already been in contact with Meath County Council. Each Local Authority is responsible for developing their respective sections. There is no funding available to progress at this stage.

Cllr. Keelan commented that the project might be a long time coming.

Cllr. Keelan requested that the issue of Bully's Acre is followed up. He stated that he is seeking some sensitive works to be carried out.

Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that that a path is not appropriate and MCC works alongside Tidy Towns to keep the area with low level maintenance.

Cllr. Keelan requested a follow up on i-boards for Carrickmacross.

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton advised that the MD will follow up seeking appropriate funding streams.

Cllr. Keelan stated that debris /litter has built up at the bridge in Inniskeen and asked if this can be monitored?

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton advised that this can be arranged.

Cllr. Campbell advised that a meeting occurred with the local Gardai re: parking in Castleblayney. Cllr. Campbell appealed to all business's on Main Street, Castleblayney to use off street parking. Cllr. Campbell asked that the car park at the back of the old Council Yard is investigated – the bottle banks take up a few spaces.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that presently there seems to be ample off-street parking spaces available.

Cllr. Carthy thanked the Executive for the quick action taken on the clean up of the Bog Town walkway.

Cllr. Carthy commended District Engineer Matthew Lambe on the massive job carried out at Thorndale. He stated that there are areas left that need to be tidied/cleared. Also, children/young people now have access to an area with a steep incline and residents' privacy has been affected.

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton stated that the possibility of fencing will be explored.

Cllr. Carthy asked if a plan can be put in place for the future.

Cllr. McCooey asked for updates on the speed survey in Oram, the Irish Language Map for Castleblayney and the Corrygarry Road?

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton advised that the speed survey is in progress, no update for the Irish Language Map to date and the Corrygarry Road is on the repairs list.

3.0 Presentation – Castleblayney – A Town Centre for Living Well. Shaffrey Architects. Grainne Shaffrey and Maire Cullinan

Grainne Shaffrey presented the report to the members.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Thanked Shaffrey Architects for the report and also thanked the Shaffrey team and Maire Cullinan for their work with property owners in the area.

Wished to clarify if there will be a final workshop and when this will be?

Cllr. Campbell:

Thanked Maire Cullinan and Grainne Shaffrey.

Stated that there are lots of opportunities and stressed the importance that momentum is maintained.

Commented that there are a lot of Backland with potential. Named Hope Arms which was a hotel. The owners had to stop renovating due to heritage regulations. Cllr. Campbell stated that a common-sense approach is needed.

Asked when Shaffrey’s will get back to the property owners?

Acknowledged that there have been many works in Castleblayney by MCC.

Stressed the importance of linking in with the Lough Muckno Report.

Noted that a lot of new business have opened since Covid-19.

Cllr. Carthy:

Expressed thanks for the presentation.

Welcomed the use of clusters to phase works.

Asked Marie Cullinan if MCC envisage an application going forward using the back lands? EG – Social / Older Person Units.

Cllr. McCooey:

Thanked the presenters for the report.

Re: The Back lands – how much of the land adjacent to Lough Muckno is privately owned?

What opportunities are there available for MCC to develop derelict properties?

Presumes that this report will help going forward with funding opportunities.

Cllr. Keelan:

Thanked the presenters for the report.

Concurred with the other members comments.

Stated that there needs to be momentum going forward and would love to see a cluster of works start to happen.

Looks forward to seeing progress.

Grainne Shaffrey responded:

Lots of positive things happening in Castleblayney.

There needs to be an awareness of the challenges that people face – the aspects of doing up properties – a “one stop shop resource”, more holistic approach is attractive.

Further workshops are to present the report to the people.

Marie Cullinan responded:

MCC have been proactive in regard to derelict properties.

There is a vacant homes officer.

For future developments it would be a prime location for social / older people housing.

4.0 Correspondence

- I. Response from Department of Transport – Funding for Roads in Carrickmacross – Castleblayney

Cllr. O’Hanlon suggested that this issue should be kept on the burner. He accepted that Covid-19 restrictions has played a part in delaying meetings etc.

- II. Response from TII (forwarded from Dept. of Transport) - Funding for Roads in Carrickmacross – Castleblayney

Cllr. Keelan acknowledged that every Euro is welcome. However, there are 70 local and secondary roads which need an overlay. A massive injection of money is needed to get these roads done.

Cllr. Carthy commended the MD for recent works on Main Street, Carrickmacross. Cllr. O’Hanlon agreed with these comments.

- III. Response from Macray Properties – Breffni House

Cllr. Keelan acknowledged the response and commended the MD for following up on the issue.

5.0 MD Coordinator Report

Cllr. Campbell:

Commended the MD on the body of work carried out.

Stated that the progress of Castleblayney CCTV seems to be very slow. Cllr. Campbell proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. McCooey:

“Call on the MD to write to the Gardai again to expedite the ongoing issues regarding CCTV in Castleblayney. With the cameras already in place they need to be in use for the community”.

Complimented all involved with the great works at the Big Tom Memorial Garden in Oram.

Stated that it would be great to see the Bike Rental Scheme progressed.

Advised that there is verge maintenance needed at the R178 – from Kellys of Essexfort to Carrickmacross – there is a very blind corner.

Cllr. McCooey:

Commended MCC on the works at Oram and expressed thanks to Marina O’Neill.

Also wished to note the footpath cleaning works in Oram and expressed thanks to MCC Engineer John Fox for organising fencing.

Advised that verge maintenance is needed at the Keady turn out of Castleblayney (heading for Newtownhamilton).

Cllr. Carthy:

Commended all involved in the works at Oram Memorial Garden.

Gave some feedback re: Gallows Hill – local residents have some concerns about the maintenance of the areas surrounding it.

Spoke about the public consultation due to start soon regarding Parking Bye Laws on O’Neill Street and Farney Street. Asked the keep clear signs are included in the line markings.

Requested that members have a copy emailed to them.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commended the MD staff for all the works carried out recently.

Spoke about how the Hospitality Sector has been hit badly by Covid 19 Restrictions.

Requested that meetings are arranged with Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce and Castleblayney Town Team with a view to preparing a plan as to how footfall can be increased in both towns.

Welcomed the Public Realm Plan for Inniskeen and the public consultation which is in progress.

Wished to note that the area at the back of BOI in Carrickmacross has huge potential if it could be acquired.

6.0 Questions

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

1. When is it expected the design for the Ross road ‘low cost safety’ works (Carrickmacross) will be presented to the council?

Response:-

Currently consultants are being procured for the provision cycle lanes/shared surface, traffic calming infrastructure and junction modelling in Carrickmacross. The low-cost safety improvement works on the Ross Rd forms part of this tender. It is envisaged that design will be available for presentation at the September meeting.

2. Has the executive investigated the issue of speeding on Chapel Lane, Carrickmacross, and will they consider adding a narrow ramp at footpath height to force cars to slow in this area?

Response:-

At present there is 3 No. speed ramps on Chapel Lane, Carrickmacross, for a 150m section of pavement from Main St to Church Grove. Engineering staff will carry out a traffic and speed survey to ascertain the nature and extent of any speeding issues.

3. Understanding that works have progressed on the undergrowth at Thorndale, Castleblayney, will the council consider adding fencing to secure the cleared area?

Response:-

Works have been completed regarding the removal of vegetation at the rear of all houses in Thorndale, Castleblayney. The executive will investigate the possibility of erecting fencing.

4. When is it expected that signage will be added to alert traffic of the location of the Castleblayney Fire Station (fingerpost signs)?

Response: -

The MD Executive are awaiting a response from the Chief Fire Officer in relation to this proposal.

5. What is the up-to-date position on the two new biodiversity zones for Carrickmacross (Tullynaskeagh & Gallows Hill)?

Response: -

Tullynaskeagh East

A detailed landscaping and biodiversity plan for Tullynaskeagh Linear Park is complete. It is envisaged that works on the scheme this year will provide for setting out/landscaping, the construction of paths, the installation of bat boxes, "bug hotels" and some seating.

Gallows' Hill

Public consultation concluded on Friday last, the 25th of June. It is anticipated that planting shall commence in September 2021.

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

1. What is the up to-date position in relation to the roll out of the bicycle rental scheme for the Inniskeen area?

Response:-

It is envisaged that the scheme will be operational by the end of Q3.

2. What is the up to-date position in relation to the proposed CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross town and its environs?

Response:-

The proposed design for the Carrickmacross CCTV is at public consultation stage at present and will run to the Friday the 30th July at 16.00hrs.

3. In relation to funding that may be available from the east border region (peace programme) for the provision of electric vehicle fast charging points will this council examine the possibility of securing funding from this programme in order to roll out a scheme of charging points in our village areas such as Corduff, Lisdoonan , Inniskeen and at community facilities including GAA facilities?

Response:-

Funding under the East Border Region FASTER Rapid EV Charger programme is limited and it is envisaged that only two fast (50kw) charging points will be provided in the county.

4. What is the up to date position in relation to the upgrading of the bridge at Rossdreenagh and improving the visibility for vehicles and pedestrians accessing the Carrickmacross to Culloville regional road R179?

Response:-

The development of Preliminary Designs, in consultation with a local landowner and a utility company, are on-going. It is envisaged that this works will commence in September 2021.

5. What is the up to date position 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.

7.0 Director of Service Orders

Directors Orders 19/2021; 20/20/2021; 21/2021 and 22/2021 were duly noted.

8.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of Sympathy were extended to the family of Philip Traynor; the family of Brendan Óg Duffy; the family of Michael Hoey and the family of Mariea Kelly.

9.0 AOB

Cllr. Keelan:

Commented that it has been a tragic week in relation to Water Safety.

Are there Designated Water Sports areas in Castleblayney and Carrickmacross?

Are there lifeguards assigned?

Voiced concerns about the hoarding located at close Drummond – it does not seem to be fit for purpose. There is a very large drop. Can the developer be contacted to make the area safer?

Commended the recent works in the MD. Spoke about the funding received this year for Main Street, Carrickmacross. Will there be a funding application for the other roads in the vicinity of the town for next year?

Cllr. Carthy:

Asked for an update on the proposed gate at the rear of Pearse Avenue and the lighting at St. Macartans Tce.

The meeting concluded at 13:00pm.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator