

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 27th September 2021 at 11.00am.

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

Cllr. O’Hanlon opened the meeting by speaking about the Gold Scott medal awarded posthumously to Trainee Garda Gary Sheehan. Cllr. O’Hanlon proposed that a letter be sent to Mrs. Sheehan in recognition of the achievement of the award. Cllr. McCooey seconded this and it was unanimously agreed by all members.

A vote of sympathy was expressed to the family of Helen Martin (nee McCabe) by Cllr. Campbell. All members wished to be associated with this. Director of Services, Paul Clifford expressed sympathies on behalf of the staff of Monaghan County Council.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. McCooey the minutes of the July Monthly Meeting held on Monday 26th July 2021 were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan requested an update on the Dundalk – Carrickmacross Greenway?

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that there is currently no funding available to advance the project. The MD Executive will continue to explore all avenues of potential funding.

Cllr. Keelan spoke about Bully's Acre, commenting that he is aware it is a sensitive issue. He mentioned an approach for a similar location in Cork where goats were used to keep an area tidy/maintained and asked that the Executive investigate this.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton stated that a number of years ago Tidy Towns took on responsibility of maintenance. The matter will be further discussed.

Cllr. Keelan asked the Executive to contact the owners of Breffni house again as no action has been taken to date.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that this will be followed up. It will be ascertained whether the owners applied for the recent Streetscapes funding.

Cllr. Keelan requested a meeting with Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce and Castleblayney Regeneration Team as previously discussed. Cllr. Keelan asked the Cathaoirleach to take action on this.

Cllr. O'Hanlon advised that there has been dialogue with both and the members will continue to support them.

Cllr. Keelan mentioned safety concerns at close Drummond and asked for an update.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that he met the developers on site. The safety concerns will be addressed in the next Phase of the plan.

Cllr. Carthy requested an update on Thorndale.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe stated that a clean up had been carried out recently.

Cllr. Campbell mentioned the CCTV motion from the previous meeting and requested an update.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that the MD have been in contact with local Gardai. There are 5 issues in total which need to be resolved regarding the application.

Cllr. O'Hanlon asked how long will this take?

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton estimated by mid-November.

Cllr. O'Hanlon asked if there would be any point inviting the local Gardai to a meeting?

Cllr. Campbell interjected that he was happy with the response given – it shows some progress.

Cllr. Keelan agreed with this comment and commented that the likes of GDPR and Data Protection all have an effect.

Cllr. McCooey requested an update on the speed survey in Oram.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that the survey is complete.

Cllr. McCooey also requested an update about the possibility of an Irish language map?

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton stated that the MD have sought quotations and are awaiting feedback.

Cllr. Carthy asked for an update on O'Neill Street and Farney Street parking bye laws.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that form part of wider Bye Laws being considered for the MD. Public consultation will not occur until after the Roads Area Meeting.

Cllr. Carthy enquired if design has concluded for Low Cost Safety Measures for Ross Road.

Cllr. O'Hanlon spoke about the vandalism occurring at Cloughvalley Playpark and public toilets. The Md seem to be constantly replacing equipment. He made a plea to those causing vandalism to respect the area.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, it was unanimously agreed:

“That this M.D. implement a CCTV system in Cloughvalley Park Carrickmacross out of our own resources if the CCTV system for the town is not in place within the next 6 months.”

Cllr. Carthy spoke about the playpark having to be closed early due to vandalism by young people. He commented that the public toilet is treated like a dump and is constantly vandalised. Cllr. Carthy supported Cllr. O’Hanlon’s call to the public who are treating public amenities with such disdain to cop on. In the future their own children will likely use this equipment.

Cllr. Keelan agreed with these sentiments. He suggested that having CCTV in place may deter anti-social behaviour and will detect those whom it doesn’t.

Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that €15,000 was spent in the past year re: repairs at Cloughvalley.

Cllr. O’Hanlon requested that a quote is sought to see how much it might cost to safeguard these facilities.

Director of Services Paul Clifford noted that the legalities of this will also need to be investigated.

Cllr. Carthy noted that these seems to be a strange idea that these public toilets are some kind of playground. If this type of behaviour continues MCC will have no option but to close them.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton stated that initial public consultation has finished for Carrickmacross Community CCTV. The MD will seek a quotation for the playpark area.

The MD executive has revisited the design on both of the submission and will seek a quotation for the inclusion of the playpark area in the revised design.

3.0 Presentation – Clandillon Civil Consulting.

Walkway from Ballybay - Castleblayney

Cllr. Campbell stated that community buy-in is very important in the early stages and asked if there have been any negotiations with landowners/community.

Reply – Not at this stage. In some areas the ownership status is unclear.

Cllr. Campbell asked if costings can be given and requested an outline of the timeline.

Reply – Phase 1 estimated Feb 2022. Phase 2 between Feb and May 2022. Phase 3 March/June 2022. Phase 4 Commencing June 2022. Will revert to members about costings.

Cllr. McCooey stated that it is a very exciting project and suggested that an early commentary would be beneficial re: community buy in.

Cllr. O’Hanlon thanked Clandillon Civil Consulting for the presentation.

4.0 Correspondence

- I. Response from Deputy Carthy - safety concerns at link road between motorway and roundabout in Ardee

- II. Response from Deputy Smith - safety concerns at link road between motorway and roundabout in Ardee

Cllr. O'Hanlon suggested a meeting about road issues with local representatives. Cllr. Keelan agreed with this, stating that there would be enough on an agenda to hold a meeting every six months.

III. Response from Chief Fire Officer – signage at Castleblayney Fire Station
Cllr. Carthy suggested re-visiting the issue should the need arise.

IV. Response from Dermot Monaghan, Head of Service, Primary Care Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal – request for meeting due to high Covid incidences
Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that Monaghan still have a high incidence rate and proposed that a meeting should still be requested. There is a responsibility on members to get the message across to the public. Cllr. Keelan seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed. Cllr Carthy wished to note that he and Cllr. Campbell attend community forum meetings where the HSE give regular updates. He also commended Cllr. Campbell on his recent social media message about Covid.

5.0 MD Coordinator Report

Cllr. Campbell:

Queried the Active travel funding – some seems to be handled by the MD and some by the County? Specifically mentioned the footpaths at The Lurgans.

Reply – the Active Travel Team will be supported by the MD. The MD are taking direct responsibility for 3 schemes and will support the active travel team in the delivery of the remaining.

Stated that all members have roads in areas which need attention in relation to the 2024 Restoration Improvement Programme. Will additional funding be sought?

Reply - additional funding will be actively sought.

Requested an update regarding the Zoom meeting last week with Shaffrey.

Reply – will get an update from Maire Cullinan and revert back.

Complimented the on-going works at Gate Lodge and the Enterprise Hub.

Cllr. Keelan:

Complimented the MD team for the huge amount of work being done.

Welcomed the Inniskeen Public Realm Plan and asked the Executive if the plan can be publicly displayed in the community centre, subject to Covid restrictions.

Reply – funding will be needed to do this, but it is not being ruled out.

Stated he wished the Executive to progress i-boards in Carrickmacross.

Reply – we are exploring all avenues of funding

Has received a number of complaints from local farmers in Inniskeen regarding the Monaghan Way project. They have had people wandering around fields/property. They have concerns over insurance and gates being left open.

Reply – requested contact details.

Cllr. Carthy:

Has received communication from public about the tight timeframe involved in the Streetscape application.

Reply – the tight timeframe is acknowledged. The Chamber have written to the Minister about this.

Queried if Market Square is still seeking a tenant? What is the delay?

Stated that he is hopeful that tenders will be received.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Notes that Ian Donnelly & Associated were appointed as Technical advisors for CTek II and commented that it would be great to see a local company carrying out the works here. Cllr. O’Hanlon clarified the target date and stated that he will monitor same.

Spoke about the safety issues on the Shercock Road, Carrickmacross and confirmed the proposed target date.

Stated that he hopes there are no works going to be carried out during the 6-week run up to Christmas – we need to be conscious of local businesses.

6.0 Date for Roads Area Meeting

It was decided to hold the Roads Area Meeting on Wednesday 13th October at 3pm in Carrickmacross Civic Offices.

7.0 Questions

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

1. Will this Municipal District carry out repairs to the ramps along the Convent Lands estates, Carrickmacross, to fix holes/breakages etc and will consideration be given to carrying out a review of existing ramps in the MD in order to establish where further repairs are required?

Response:-

This MD will carry out a review off all ramps within the District and will carried out repairs on ramps that have defects.

2. Will this Municipal District include 2-3 streetlamps to the Lurgans Hill area of Carrickmacross to join existing illuminated areas (there is a stretch of road with no lighting in between areas that are currently lit); also, there is one streetlight that hasn’t been replaced with LED bulb on the Lurgan Hill (Bogtown) and has not been working for a number of years – can you get this light upgraded and in use please?

Response:

The Public Lighting Programme was adopted earlier this year and the location outlined was not included in this programme. Regarding the existing LED bulb on the Lurgan Hill not working this issue will be forwarded to the relevant section.

3. Has the Council started its public consultation around parking, by-laws, road markings etc on Farney street; can I get an update on the process and what is the current position on the Ivy Lane Car Park expansion proposal also?

Response:

Public consultation on Parking Control Bye-Laws, road markings etc. for Farney Street shall be undertaken as part of the overall public consultation process for the proposed introduction of updated Parking Control Bye-Laws for Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District.

It is intended that public consultation for the aforementioned Parking Control Bye-Laws shall commence following the next Roads Area meeting.

Shirley House Lane Car Park Development:

The MD Executive intended to submit a revised Part 8 Planning Application within the coming weeks.

4. When are speed limit signs being added to Chapel Lane to highlight the new 30km speed limit and has the requested traffic/speed count been carried out in this area?

Response:

A traffic and speed count was completed from the 28th of July to the 4th of August 2021 on the LS8511 Chapel Lane and 0.0% speeding violations were recorded. The Average Daily traffic count for this section of pavement was 747 vehicles.

5. What is the up-to-date situation on the malodour on the Monaghan Road, Castleblayney and what measures have been taken to deal with this ongoing problem?

Response:

This query has been forwarded to Water Services Section, Monaghan Co. Council for a response, which will be circulated to members on receipt of same.

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

6. With regard to the Market House in Castleblayney:

- a. What is the update in appointing the design team?

Response:

The tender evaluation process and statutory notification period is now completed and Monaghan Co. Council are currently liaising with the apparently successful tender in relation to information required under the contract. Subject to receipt of all satisfactory information, it is envisaged that the Design Team will be formally appointed in early October 2021.

- b. When will this work commence and exactly what will their brief be?

Response:

The appointed Design Team Consultants will be engaged to prepare Preliminary and Detailed Designs and obtain all necessary statutory approvals inclusive of Part VIII Planning in relation to the proposed refurbishment of the Market House and associated

Public Realm works in Market Square. It is anticipated that Preliminary Design works will commence in mid October.

c. What is the timescale of this work?

Response:

It is anticipated that Preliminary Designs for the project will be completed in Q4 2021 and Detailed Designs will be completed in Q3 of 2022. Part VIII Planning for the project will be submitted in Q2/Q3 of 2022.

d. What will the next stage of the process entail?

Response:

Subject to completion of detailed designs and securing Part VIII Planning Approval and all associated statutory consents for the project, it is intended to submit a RRDF Category 1 funding application to the Department (DRCD) in Q4 of 2022 to progress the project to the construction phase.

7. In relation to the public realm consultation for Inniskeen which was carried out recently by Paul Hogarth Company:

a. When will the full report be finished and made public?

Response:

Consultants, The Paul Hogarth Company Limited, are currently preparing a Public Consultation Report, to rationalise the main issues/concerns raised during the public consultation process. It is envisaged that the Public Consultation Report, together with the final draft Inniskeen Village Public Realm Spatial Plan, shall be completed by mid-October 2021. It is intended that a presentation on the Report and final draft Plan be included on the Agenda for October's Municipal District Meeting.

b. What will follow from this report?

Response:

It is hoped that the final draft Plan shall provide the basis for future successful funding applications to realise the implementation of the framework of public realm enhancement measures outlined in the Plan.

8. When is it hoped for the work to start on the Footpaths that were agreed for Castleblayney and Carrickmacross MD and also funding which was secured under the Climate Action and Resilience works where the Castleblayney/ Carrickmacross Received significant funding.

Response:

The *Active Travel* team commenced the progression of this MD's *Active Travel* footpath packages in mid-September. The Team are currently preparing tender documents for the procurement of Consultants/Contractors, as appropriate to the nature of individual schemes.

9. What is the update on Ballynacarry Bridge Replacement on the N53?

Response:

A Memorandum of Understanding between MCC and DFI Northern Ireland has been drawn up and agreed and sent to DFI for signing. When returned we can proceed to tender for the design team.

10. With the announcement of funding for scoping work for the footpath out the Keady Road (R181) and then out the Oram Road (R182) far as the Central School. What is the update on this project?

Response:

The Active Travel team is procuring design consultants to advance this scheme. It is hoped that the design team will be in place in Q4 of 2021.

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

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

Response:

The proposed design for the Carrickmacross CCTV was at public consultation stage until Friday the 30th July at 16.00hrs. Following receipt of submissions following this process amendments have been made to the design. Further public consultation will now take place in the coming weeks on the new design proposals.

12. What is the up to date position in relation to the proposed bicycle rental scheme for Inniskeen village?

Response:

The MD Executive has completed the procurement of a selection of bicycles and equipment for the initiation of the scheme. Tender documents have issued to those parties who previously submitted an Expression of Interest in the operation of the scheme. The closing date for tender responses is Friday the 22nd of October 2021.

13. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of traffic calming measures on the Donaghmoyne road, including a pedestrian crossing at the Lisanisk 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”.

14. What is the up to date position in relation to the roll out of the public lighting programme for this municipal district?

Response:

The adopted 2021 public lighting programme has commenced and will be completed in the coming weeks.

15. In relation to the local county road network, how many roadways in this district are in need of resurfacing, what would be the estimated cost of these works?

Response:

At present there is approximately 17% of local roads network with a PSCI rating of 4 or less. The average length of road surface overlaid and surface dressed on annual basis is 9.8km under the Restoration Improvement Roads Programme in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD. Based on recent expenditure trends it will require €18.62m in funding to complete this works.

7.0 Motions

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

“In commending the Municipal District council for the works carried out over the last year or so in repairing and upgrading footpaths throughout Carrickmacross, the members call for a further review of outstanding footpaths with a view to repairing/upgrading all walkways throughout the town centre. We ask that the council seek out areas of safety concern and carry out works to remedy them.”

Cllr. Carthy stated that the footpaths need to be made safe. Access to local businesses needs to be safe. Cllr. Carthy requested regular reviews of footpaths by engineering staff, suggesting that this could be carried out alongside disability access reviews. Cllr. O’Hanlon wished to state that a lot of repairs have been carried out.

The following motion proposed by Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Carthy was unanimously agreed:

“That this Council will carry out a feasibility study of traffic management and parking issues in Inniskeen village in consultation with school management and all other local stakeholders and community organisations with a view to improving and providing extra parking in the village area.”

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, the following motion was unanimously agreed:

“That Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD write to Mr. Frank Pentony, Director of Services for Roads, Louth Co. Council to request clarification on the duration of the roadworks taking place outside Ardee linking the N2 to the North-South Motorway. The stop-go system currently in place is resulting in delays of up to 40 minutes, at peak times, for road users.

This MD requests clarity on the length of time these roadworks will take, and what alternatives can be implemented to reduce the delays experienced at peak times.”

Cllr. O’Hanlon also suggested that this motion should also be sent to local representatives, the Minister for Transport and the Municipal District of Ardee. Cllr. Carthy also suggested sending it to TII. All members agreed.

8.0 VOS/VOC

A *Vote of Congratulations* was extended to Carrickmacross Emmets Rounders on reaching the 2021 All Ireland Final.

9.0 AOB

Cllr. Keelan:

Can the web camera on St. Finbarr's Church be fixed?

Reply – Carrickmacross chamber of commerce are responsible for this.

The Old Ardee Road has heavy traffic – there is a need for traffic calming measures. Namely, from Close Drummond to Highfield.

Reply – A speed survey will be carried out.

Voiced concerns about the number of rough sleepers in and around the town. Can the Executive liaise with the Gardai / Social Welfare/ Housing?

Reply – this issue will be discussed at the next County Council Meeting.

Cllr. Carthy:

Requested an update on the gate at St. Macartans Tce /Pearse Ave. Voiced concern that one of the lighting replacements at St Macartans Tce seems to be too low (in brightness and height).

Spoke about speeding issues on the Old Ardee Road. Specifically mentioned between Drumconrath Road and The Nuremore. Asked if a traffic count can be done? Will there be an application for Low Cost Safety Measures next year?

Cllr. Campbell:

At Radharc An Bri the hedges have been thinned out. As a result, car lights are dazzling when turning in. Can this be investigated?

Reply – this matter will be referred to Tuath Housing.

Requested a report for the next meeting regarding Wi-Fi issues at the new estate in Bree.

Cllr. McCooey:

Is there any development in seeking funding for walkways in Mullyash?

Reply – an application is in. All opportunities will be explored.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Potholes are appearing on the Ballybay Road, Carrickmacross.

The meeting concluded at 13:15pm.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator