

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 Tuesday 26th October 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, Julieann O’Reilly, Clerical Officer

Cllr. O’Hanlon opened the meeting by expressing a vote of sympathy to Brid Cassidy & Family on the death of Francie Cassidy. Cllr. O’Hanlon suggested that MCC should work with Carrickmacross Tidy Towns to come up with a commemoration .

Cllr. Keelan and Cllr. Carthy both expressed their sympathy and spoke about Francie’s history with Carrickmacross Tidy Towns.

Cllrs. Kerr Conlon, Campbell and McCooey all wished to be associated with the remarks.

Director of Services Paul Clifford expressed sympathy on behalf of MCC and wished to acknowledge Francie’s contributions to the community.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr. Keelan requested that two typos under the heading “Correspondence” on page 4 are corrected.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Campbell the amended minutes of the September Monthly Meeting held on Monday 27th September 2021 were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan queried as to whether there had there been any follow-up in relation to Bully’s Acre.

A/District Co-Ordinator Damen Thornton advised that the MD Executive had been in contact with the Tidy Towns and they are to undertake maintenance works that are sympathetic to the overall biodiversity of the area.

Cllr. Keelan spoke about Breffni House, stating that he is conscious that MCC are continuing to maintain this property.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that the MD is to issue an invoice to the owners of the building to cover the costs associated with securing the building following the most recent incident of vandalism and the previous incident earlier in the summer.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton clarified that MCC are not maintaining the property on an ongoing basis but have secured the building on these two occasions in the interest of public safety.

Cllr. Keelan stated that he presumes that Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce and Castleblayney Regeneration Team are happy with the supports they receive from the MD.

Cllr. Keelan voiced his concerns about safety issues at Close Drummond.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that the MD Executive had met with the developer and the matter should be resolved within the coming weeks.

Cllr. Carthy requested an update on the commencement of public consultation for Parking Control bye-laws re: O'Neill St and Farney St.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that in tandem with presenting the proposals at the Roads Area meeting, the MD executive had sought legal advice to ensure the soundness of the overall approach. The MD had just received same on Friday last and it is intended to commence public consultation on Thursday week.

Cllr. Campbell asked for an update on the CCTV.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that he would provide an update on CCTV applications under the Co-Ordinator's report section of the meeting, if that was agreeable to the Members.

Agreed by all.

Cllr. O'Hanlon sought an update, if any, on the new CTek.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that there is no specific update from previous and that it is still intended to have a Design & Build Contractor engaged by early February.

Cllr. O'Hanlon wished to clarify that the project was going "full steam ahead".

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton confirmed that is the current position.

Cllr. Carthy asked for an update on the installation of speed limit signs (30km/h) on Chapel Lane.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised Cllr. Carthy that he will confirm date with him in the coming days.

Cllr. Carthy requested the that the MD follow up on the malodour issue on the Monaghan Road, Castleblayney. He stated that he is aware that this is an Irish Water issue and that correspondence has been sent to Water Services.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton confirmed that the MD Executive will raise the matter once again with MCC Water Services and Irish Water.

Cllr. Keelan stated that people who were not online for the Inniskeen Public Realm Plan would like the opportunity to see the plan on a display board locally.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton stated that there will be an additional cost associated with this.

Cllr. Keelan stated that there are concerns from landowners due to people wandering on land because of The Monaghan Way.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that he intends to engage with landowners in the coming week.

Cllr. Carthy requested an update on the gate at the rear of Pearse Ave. Where the gate was to be fitted was unacceptable to residents.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton stated that he will provide an update on this matter to Cllr. Carthy later this afternoon.

Cllr. O'Hanlon wished to note that he has been advised that the pothole issues on the Ballybay Road will be resolved this week.

3.0 Presentation – Sean Fitzsimons, Clandillon Civil Consulting. Carrickmacross to Dundalk Greenway

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that it was nice to hear that the constraints are less than previous presentations. He commented that the biggest constraint will be Landowners and the Environment.

Cllr. Keelan welcomed that fact that there were no major constraints. He stated that buy in is needed from locals, landowners and property owners. The concept of the Greenway needs to be embraced. Cllr. Keelan named benefits such as tourism and positive mental health effects. Cllr. Keelan requested an estimated timeline. He also reflected that he believes it was a terrible decision not to protect the line of the railway.

Cllr. Carthy stated that we need to look for the provision of walkways / cycleways in the future. Cllr. Carthy asked Sean Fitzsimons to clarify if Inniskeen Village will be the centre point of the Greenway? He went on to note that the constraints were not insurmountable and commented on the huge benefit of connecting the two busy towns.

Cllr. Campbell stated that there is a long journey to go yet but the train has left the station! The Greenways are in embryonic stages. Cllr. Campbell noted that they are a great asset to any County. Cllr. Campbell also wished to note that there have been electric bicycles purchased for Inniskeen. Cllr. Campbell requested a timeline if possible.

Cllr. McCooley stated that she is very keen to have these types of Greenways in the County. She noted that it is very important to have early buy in from the public.

Cllr. O'Hanlon mentioned that he and Cllrs. Campbell and Keelan are on the East Border Region Board. He wondered if Clandillon have made any link with the Navan-Kingscourt-Dundalk Greenway Project? Is there a possible tie in?

Responses from Sean Fitzsimons, Clandillon:

It will take a minimum of one year to carry out environmental and ecological surveys of routes.

Inniskeen is central to the scheme. It is effectively the midway point.

The next phase involves route selection / developing route options. This is when it will be brought to Public Consultation.

Clandillon have not spoken to anyone in relation to the Navan-Kingscourt-Dundalk Greenway.

Cllr O’Hanlon thanked Sean Fitzsimons for the presentation and offered to provide contact details for Pamela Arthurs and Dette Hughes, East Border Region.

4.0 Correspondence

- I. Response from Assistant commissioner, An Garda Síochána - CCTV

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

Cllr. O’Hanlon commented that this was a disappointing response – very unfair to the people using this road. Cllr. O’Hanlon wondered if the Minister is happy with the N2 project, stating that nothing is being done on the busiest part of the road. On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, it was unanimously agreed to send the following letter to the Minister for Transport:

*“Dear Minister,
Are you happy in relation to the new N2 project, that the busiest part of the route from the motorway to the roundabout at Ardee, that no works are taking place? It is estimated that over €100 million is going to be spent on this project, the busiest part of the route is not included.”*

Cllr. O’Hanlon requested that the letter is also forwarded to Local Representatives and TII. Cllr. O’Hanlon noted that there is no sign for Monaghan at junction 14 on the motorway. Why are there signs for Monaghan on the Old N2 and none on the motorway? Cllr. Keelan agreed that there should be a sign for Monaghan.

- III. Carrickmacross Festival Committee – request permission for drive-in event at Drummond Etra car park.

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon, it was unanimously agreed to grant permission for this event. It was noted that local businesses / residents affected will be contacted.

5.0 MD Coordinator Report

The members discussed Community CCTV in Carrickmacross.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that we would not be seeking CCTV if it wasn’t needed. It is about the safety and well-being of the public. Cllr. O’Hanlon noted that it is costing approximately €15,000 per year to maintain Cloughvalley car park due to vandalism.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton clarified that the Carrickmacross CCTV Proposal had not yet received initial approval from the JPC, as per the adopted Community CCTV Policy.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that he believes it was agreed in principal at the JPC. Cllr. Keelan concurred.

Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that it would be better to proceed as is and amend the application at a later date.

Cllr. Keelan stated that it should be moved on as quickly as possible and make any amendments later, as suggested by Director of Services Paul Clifford.

Cllr. Carthy:

Welcomed the extension of the timeframe for works regarding the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme.

Commented that funding had been received earlier in the year for Carrickmacross Main Street. Wondered if there are any funding applications for the approach roads?

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that applications were recently submitted for the R927 Ardee Road, from the Kingscourt Road Junction to the Oriel Road Junction, and the LP4922 Ardee Road at Mullaghmeen under the Former National Roads programme.

Requested an update about the Lisnacloy Road.

Reply – no update at present.

Noted that the Beagh Road remains closed and asked if there is any update?

Reply – no update at present.

Commented [D1]: Check name/spelling with J. Fox

Cllr. Campbell:

Welcomed the list on on-going works.

Welcomed the extra funding provided for the new CTek.

Spoke about the funding that was announced last week for Onomy Walk and Black Island.

Asked when will these work be done?

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that he hoped these works would be completed by mid Q2 next year.

Cllr. McCooey:

Asked if applications can still be made for Streetscape Enhancements?

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that the application closing date has passed. There may be additional funding once the initial round of applications had been processed.

Regarding the changing of Bye Laws – wondered why Main Street, Castleblayney is not on it?

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that Main Street, Castleblayney is included.

Asked what safety measures will be used for the Monaghan Road, Castleblayney?

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that the MD Executive has engaged a consultant for the design of the Ballybay Road Junction and the provision of a cycle lane on the northbound carriageway. Most of these works will involve lining and road markings.

Cllr. Keelan:

Asked if the proposed footpath at Lough Na Glack – Nuremore is part of the Active Travel Scheme? Wondered if a pedestrian crossing could be incorporated into this?

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that the scheme was being progressed under ORIS funding. The Co-Ordinator clarified that funding had been received under two streams - ORIS and Active Travel. If necessary, some of the funding received under Active Travel may be used to enhance the scheme with the remainder redistributed across the other Active Travel projects.

6.0 Questions

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

1. What is the up-to-date situation with the Ross Road safety design and when does the MD think works will be commencing?

Response:

The design for the Ross Rd will be carried out as part of an overall scheme that will include the Castleblayney Rd and the Shercock Rd junction. At present this MD is in the process of appointing a Design Consultant to take this scheme through the Part VIII Planning process. It is envisaged that the scheme will commence in Q2 in 2022.

2. When is it expected that works will be completed on the Biodiversity zones in Carrickmacross (Tullynaskeagh and Gallows Hill) and when will works be progressing on the new Dog Park?

Response:

Works have commenced at Phase 1 of the Linear Park in Tullynaskeagh and will be completed by the end of Q4 2021. The project at Gallows Hill is at tender stage at present with an estimated completion date of Q1 2022.

3. When is it expected that repair works to footpaths, drains and road surfaces in Drumillard will commence and what is the expected timeframe for completion. Also, has consideration been given to adding lighting to this estate, specifically around the playpark and the adjacent footpath?

Response:

Footway repairs have commenced at Drumillard, drainage issues have been completed and it is envisaged that section of pavement at the entrance to the estate will be completed in Q4 2021. The public light will be added to a list for consideration in 2022.

4. Has a road safety design been completed for the Kingscourt road, Carrickmacross, and if so, when will the details be given to members of this Council?

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.

5. Has the Hope Castle, Castleblayney, been considered under the streetscape scheme and will the Council be carrying out painting on the building in the near future?

Response:

The Hope Castle, Castleblayney was not eligible for consideration under the Streetscapes & Shopfronts Initiative 2021. In County Monaghan, the three towns of Monaghan, Carrickmacross and Ballybay were selected as the focus for the scheme. Whilst there are no immediate plans to carry out painting works on the Hope Castle, the Municipal District Executive, in collaboration with Muckno Community Partnership, are exploring the feasibility of undertaking some aesthetic maintenance works on the Castle and its immediate surrounds.

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

6. What is the latest update on the progress of the Ridge Enterprise Hub building in Castleblayney and when is it likely that this project will be completed?

Response:

Works are ongoing in line with the Contractor's most recently submitted Works Programme. It is envisaged that the project shall be completed by the end of Q3 2022.

7. With so much great work taking place around Muckno in Castleblayney including work on the new state of the art library happening at Gate Lodge 2 and so many enhancements around the park; also with visitor numbers increasing all the time, can the Municipal District look at making some improvements around the Hope Castle and the Annex area, such as boarding up the windows, general clean up inside the area which is fenced off, and the possibility of a coat of paint? The current state of the buildings is an eyesore and in need of some remedial work.

Response:

The Municipal District Executive, in collaboration with Muckno Community Partnership, are exploring the feasibility of undertaking some aesthetic maintenance works on the Castle and its immediate surrounds.

8. With the new and enhanced visitor experience at The Old Union Workhouse in Carrickmacross now open to the public and as we see a wider opening up of society; what measures can the Municipal District put in place in conjunction with the great work that is happening by the team at the Workhouse to promote this visitor attraction for Carrickmacross and the surrounding area?

Response:

The Tourism Section is actively promoting the new visitor experience at the Workhouse and it is an important part of the South Monaghan Tourism cluster. To assist with promotion, a new video has been developed on their behalf - see link here - <https://youtu.be/Qsavdp0rPq4>

MCC arranged for Nationwide to film a piece in Carrickmacross recently and this is scheduled to air in November (date to be confirmed). This piece - which focuses on famine-related stories – will feature both the Workhouse and the Lace Gallery. The Workhouse has also been shortlisted under Best Heritage project category (LAMA Awards) and under the Heritage & Built Environment category (Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards).

It is anticipated that the new visitor experience will be officially launched in November (date to be confirmed) and this will generate publicity.

In terms of further supports, the Workhouse committee has indicated that they would welcome additional directional signage. Their own promotional material (website, leaflets etc) also requires updating.

9. With regards to St. Patricks Church, Carrickasledge, Magheraclone (known locally as the Rock Chapel), can the Municipal District look at some traffic calming measures to ensure safety at this very dangerous entrance/exit to the road?

Response:

Proposed traffic calming at “The Rock Chapel” has been added to the Low Cost Safety Scheme for funding consideration in 2022.

10. When it is planned to install the additional lighting on the Shercock Road in Castleblayney leading to Blackhill GAA grounds?

Response:

The additional lighting on the Shercock Road in Castleblayney leading to Blackhill GAA grounds will be completed in Q4 2021.

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

11. What progress if any has been made in relation to the provision of a park and ride facility to service the people of Carrickmacross town and the wider south Monaghan area?

Response:

The potential Park & Ride facility at Carrickmacross has been put on hold until the junction arrangement for the Ardee to Castleblayney Major Scheme at this location has been designed. This is to ensure that the 2 projects are compatible with each other.

12. Given that there are up to seventy (70) roadways in the Carrickmacross/Castleblayney area in urgent need of upgrading and resurfacing, has any additional funding been announced in the recent budget to fund the improvement of these local roads?

Response:

Monaghan County Council has not yet received its budget allocation for 2022. This allocation is ordinarily instructed to the Council in February each year.

13. What is the up to date position in relation to the rollout of the bicycle rental scheme for the Inniskeen Village area and why has there been such a delay in the delivery of this scheme?

Response:

The MD Executive has completed the procurement of a selection of bicycles and equipment, including 8 No. electric bicycles and 8 No. push/manual bicycles, for the initiation of the scheme. Tender documents were issued on the 24th of September 2021 to those parties who previously submitted an Expression of Interest in the operation of the scheme. The closing date for receipt of tenders was Friday last, the 22nd of October 2021. Owing to supply chain issues, the MD Executive experienced significant delay in the procurement of suitable bicycles.

14. As discussed by Council members at the September MD meeting, what is the up to date position and timescale for the delivery of a CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross town and its environs, given that this would be a very important deterrent and detection measure to those who have damaged tidy towns displays, including the substantial damage done to the town play park facilities?

Response:

The preliminary plans for the proposed CCTV scheme shall be referred to the Community CCTV Steering Group for consideration within the coming weeks. Subject to Group's support for the scheme, the plans shall be further referred to the Monaghan Joint Policing Committee (MJPC) for initial approval. The next meeting of the MJPC is scheduled for early December 2021. Pending the MJPC's approval, the MD Executive shall then undertake a six-week public consultation exercise. Subject to the MJPC's approval of the ensuing public consultation report, the scheme shall then progress to finalised design and an application for authorisation to operate the CCTV system shall be submitted to the District Superintendent of An Garda Síochána. If considered appropriate by the District Superintendent, the application shall be submitted to the CCTV National Advisory Committee for authorisation by the Garda Commissioner. The CCTV National Advisory Committee meet on a quarterly basis. Pending a successful outcome, the MD executive shall then commence the installation and operation of the proposed CCTV scheme.

15. What is the up to date position in relation to the proposed greenway from Carrickmacross town to Inniskeen village and onto Dundalk, has the recent budget

announcements in relation to the provision of greenways helped in any way to advance this important tourism project?

Response:

The MD Executive previously commissioned a feasibility and scoping study for the proposed Greenway. Consultants, *Clandillon Civil Consulting*, are scheduled to deliver a presentation on the aforementioned study at today's Municipal District Meeting. Currently, there is no funding available to further develop the project. The MD executive shall continue to explore all potential sources of funding to advance the scheme.

7.0 Motions

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

"That this council in collaboration with Louth County Council carry out a feasibility study of what improvements could reasonably be carried out to the access roadway from Inniskeen Village (LP1140) out to the Dundalk regional road R178 given the importance of this route as a transport and economic link."

8.0 VOS/VOC

A *Vote of Sympathy* was extended to the family of the late Máire Mhac an tSaoi. Cllr. O'Hanlon noted that her father Sean McEntee had been a TD for Monaghan.

A *Vote of Congratulations* was extended to Ronan Kieran and Justin Burns of Carrickmacross Emmets Rounders Team on the achievement of attaining All Stars for 2021 from GAA rounders.

9.0 AOB

Cllr. Carthy:

Highlighted the issue of dog fouling on Carrickmacross Main Street. Asked if MCC can introduce bins with the disposable bag dispenser in this area? Noted that a number of bins that have a dispenser are not being re-filled.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that the MD will liaise with the Environment Section regarding the provision of bins. Advised that staff are re-filling the dispensers, but that people appear to be taking the bags in reams.

Stated that some of the Disabled Car Parking bays in Castleblayney are painted blue and others are not. Asked if all disabled bays can be painted blue?

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that the MD will review the matter and a consistent approach taken.

Stated that the timing of the traffic lights at Church hill seems out. The induction loops don't seem to be working since the resurfacing works were completed.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that the MD are aware of the issue and that John Fox is actively liaising with the maintenance contractor to resolve it.

Cllr. Keelan:

Can the MD Co-Ordinator investigate Longfield Cross, Culloville Road on the R178 regarding improving visibility at the junction? Adding supplementary signs?

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that the scheme is included in the application for funding of Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works in 2022.

During the Market on Thursdays, some of the traders do not show up. Can the spaces be used for parking in this case? Can the MD investigate this?

There is a hump on the bridge on L4810 just off the N2 at the Louth/Monaghan border.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that the MD will investigate the issue.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Stated that he is hopeful that roadworks will not interfere with the Christmas period around the town.

There are two large potholes on the Dundalk Road, past Eddie Kelly's which have been there for a while. Can they be fixed?

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that the MD will follow up on this matter.

Cllr. Campbell:

Dips were repaired on the Toome Road in 2019. They are back and are quite bad. This is a recurring problem. Can "hidden dips" signage be provided?

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that the MD will investigate the issue.

The meeting concluded at 12:55pm.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator