

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 at 10.00am.

**Present:** Cathaoirleach PJ O’Hanlon

Cllrs. Aoife McCooey (remotely), 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 acknowledging all the works carried out for the switching on of the Carrickmacross Christmas Lights by the Chamber of Commerce and MCC.

Cllr. O’Hanlon also mentioned the great job done by the DJ, Wesley Keenan.

Cllr. Keelan commended all involved and stated that there had been a great buzz about the town. He also stated that people around the world were watching on the webcam and noted that the webcam at St. Finbarr’s Church is still not operational.

Cllr. Carthy concurred with the comments and also commended all involved in both towns.

Cllr. Carthy spoke about the Carrickmacross Festival Committees good works. The Drive-In event was warmly received by those attending.

Cllr. Campbell wished to be associated with the remarks and he complimented Castleblayney Regeneration Committee for their efforts. Cllr. Campbell also thanked the MD staff for the works on the Christmas Lights.

Cllr. O’Hanlon acknowledged the achievement of Oran Keenan on winning the All Ireland Junior Handball Championship. He stated it is his hoped to hold a presentation night in the future, that will also recognise the All Ireland winning Rounders Team.

#### **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Campbell the minutes of the October Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were adopted.

## **2.0 Matters Arising**

Cllr. Keelan asked if contact has been made with landowners concerning the Monaghan Way?

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton replied that he has spoken to a landowner and is due to have a meeting in the coming weeks.

Cllr. Keelan asked if it will be possible to hold an information day in the local Community Centre for the Inniskeen Public Realm Plan? Cllr. Keelan stated that he is conscious of rising Covid-19 numbers.

A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton stated that a date has been pencilled in for December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, however this is dependent on Covid-19 numbers.

Cllr. Keelan commended A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton for his work and welcomed the responses.

## **3.0 Correspondence**

- I. Acknowledgement from Brendan Smith, TD regarding the motion sent about the new N2 project.

## **4.0 MD Coordinator Report**

Cllr. Campbell:

Thanked the MD for all the on-going works.

Noted that the CCTV submission for CBY is to be re-submitted and asked for an update.

Reply – There were 5 nr. issues which needed to be resolved between MCC and AGS.

Following the upcoming JPC meeting, the application will be re-submitted.

Complimented that interactive map in Castleblayney.

Requested an update on the bridge at Inniskeen.

Reply – there are 3 outline options under the Draft Public Realm Plan. The final draft Plan will inform the scope of Design. We want a feel for what the public want. The Plan is the Community's Plan.

Cllr. Carthy:

Welcomed the progress at the Dog Walking Park, stating that it is a great amenity to have.

Spoke about the previously raised issue concerning the security of the private residence along the wall of the Shirley House Lane Car Park project. Can this be investigated?

Reply – the security issues will be investigated.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commended the MD staff for on-going works.

Welcomed the progress on Carrickmacross Community CCTV Scheme. Noted the vandalism to Tidy Towns flower displays – CCTV may deter same.

Stated that he is interested to see how the i-board works in Castleblayney as he is keen to see similar in Carrickmacross.

Commented on how well the CTEK I operates. Stated that there is a need to provide facility for food/beverage development for small start-up businesses. Queried as to whether provision could be made for a room or two in the new CTEK II for food/beverage development?

Reply - Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that the CTEK II is developed for a specific economic market. It would be inappropriate to add food/beverage development. Any queries relating to food/beverage development should be referred to Enterprising Monaghan.

Cllr. O'Hanlon acknowledged Cllr. Keelan's point but accepted that the CTEK II has a specific purpose. He stated that he would support a food development facility but will follow Director of Services Paul Clifford's advice. Cllr. Keelan clarified that he was requesting the Executive to examine the possibility of a room or two being set aside for the development of food/beverage products, however he acknowledged Director of Services Paul Clifford's point.

#### Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Acknowledged the results of the recent Tidy Towns Competition and stated that local Tidy Towns Groups make the towns the great areas that they are. Cllr. O'Hanlon asked the Executive to continue to support these groups. Cllr. Campbell wished to be associated with these comments. Cllr. Carthy agreed with what has been said and noted that Carrickmacross retained their Gold Medal for the 8<sup>th</sup> year and also received a special innovation award for the reverse vending machine. Cllr. Keelan concurred with the comments and commended the late Francie Cassidy's past works with Tidy Towns. Cllr. McCooey commended all the towns and villages within the district, particularly Oram. She noted the good works of Louise Rooney and Jim O'Neill.

A discussion ensued amongst the members as to whether the December meeting should be held remotely owing to rising Covid-19 numbers.

Director of Services Paul Clifford stated that it is at the members discretion, however he would advise to go remotely as the Government has stated to work from home where possible.

The consensus was to hold the next MD meeting remotely should the numbers continue to rise, with the Executive making the final call. All agreed on Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as the date for the next MD meeting.

## **5.0 Questions**

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

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

Response:-

It is hoped that an Operator for the Bike Rental Scheme shall be appointed before year end, with a view to the scheme being operational in Q1 2022.

2. What progress if any has been made with the owners of Breffni House building to have it secured, cleaned up and painted as was committed to do some months ago?

Response:-

Arising from the MD Executive's most recent engagement with the property owners, the property owners have advised that they intend to commence extensive renovation works to the building in February 2022.

3. What plans has this Council to put in place extra traffic calming measures at the very dangerous Essexford junction on the Dundalk to Carrickmacross regional route R178 including the resurfacing of this area?

Response:-

Works were completed earlier this year under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme at the Essexford junction. This section of pavement does not form part of the adopted 2022-2024 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.

4. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of safe walking routes / footpath links throughout Inniskeen village area, including the provision of extra traffic calming measures which are badly needed given the ongoing problem of vehicles speeding through the village?

Response:-

As announced on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2021, funding was secured under the NTA's *Active Travel Programme 2021* to facilitate the detailed design of a Pedestrian/Cyclist bridge crossing over the River Fane. The development of the final draft Inniskeen Village Public Realm Spatial Plan shall inform the scope of these works. It is envisaged that a design consultant shall be appointed in early Q1 2022. In tandem, an application is pending under the *Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021* for public realm, heritage and amenity enhancements to the *Village Heart* and *St Mary's Space* areas in the village. These works shall include for the enhancement of pedestrian facilities at these locations. Funding has also been sought under the *Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads 2022* scheme for the provision of extra traffic calming measures on the LP4621.

5. Will this Council examine what extra safety measures can be put in place at Longfield cross on the Carrickmacross to Crossmaglen regional route R179 given the concerns of local residents and the speed and volume of traffic at this location?

Response:-

A Speed and Traffic Count was completed between 31<sup>st</sup> of August and the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2021. There were 33.8% speeding violations recorded. This section of pavement has been added to the LCSS for consideration in 2022.

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

6. Can the MD provide an update on the application sent in to seek funding to remove the bends on the Oram road R182 and give an idea as to when we can expect to hear back from the Department on this.

Response:-

This scheme has been submitted on a list for consideration by the Department of Transport however, to date no funding has been allocated to progress the project.

7. Can the MD provide an update on the sustainable Christmas tree proposed and agreed to earlier this year for Oram? Will this be in place for this Christmas?

Response:-

During the construction of the Big Tom Memorial garden earlier this year, trees were planted, and a power supply installed to provide power for the provision of lighting to one of the trees at Christmas.

8. Can the MD provide an update on what applications have been made for projects around Mullyash, including walking trails and signage.

Response:-

An application is currently pending under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme 2021 for the phased redevelopment of the Monaghan Way. The proposal includes for a feasibility study into the development of a looped walk at Mullyash.

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

9. With the recent announcement of funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure funds for two projects in Castleblayney around Muckno; one to enhance the walkway around the old Golf Course, the second for funding to enhance the area known as the point around the Black Island:

(A) What is the scope of these projects?

Response:

The *Onomy Walk* development shall provide for the construction of 720m long walking trail that links to an existing walkway, creating both a new walking loop within the confines of Lough Muckno Park and an alternative arterial walking loop encompassing the Town Centre.

The *Muckno Environmental Educational Zone* at the Point, Black Island, shall provide for an outdoor educational space to enhance children's appreciation of nature. The development will serve as a multi-functional space that may be utilised as an outdoor play area/outdoor sensory space.

(B) When will these projects be delivered by the MD?

Response:-

It is envisaged that both projects shall be substantially complete by mid- Q2 2022.

10. When will the new digital notice board be installed at Muckno in Castleblayney?

Response:-

The screen is now in place and it is hoped it shall be fully operational by the end of this week.

11. Under the active travel programme for 2021 and with the grant allocations already approved with regard to the dedicated cycling and upgraded pedestrian facilities on the Ross Road in Carrickmacross

(A) What is the update on this project?

(B)When will this project be completed?

Response:-

The MD Executive are progressing the contiguous detailed design of this scheme, together with the Active Travel Scheme for the Castleblayney Road and the 2021 Safety Improvement Scheme for the Castleblayney Road/Ross Road junction. Subject to securing Part 8 Planning consent, it is envisaged that the project will be substantially complete in Q3 of 2022.

12. Under the Active Travel Interment Programme and ongoing public consultation on the works due to take place to enhance and create a pedestrian/cycling route between Coill Darach and Knocktornagh in Castleblayney

(A) What is the exact scope of this project?

Response:-

Project details have been requested from the Roads Section and will be circulated to the members upon receipt of same.

(b) When will this project commence and how long will it take to complete?

Response:-

Project details have been requested from the Roads Section and will be circulated to the members upon receipt of same.

(c) Has the MD any future plans to join Coill Daragh, Knocktornagh, Rosevale and Bree to the main part of the town with a cycle lane?

Response:-

The roads encompassing these housing developments are highlighted in the *Castleblayney: Active Travel Town, Walking and Cycling Strategy* as key routes for enhancement in terms of the provision of walking and cycling facilities that link to the town centre. In March 2021, funding was secured under the NTA's Active Travel Programme 2021 to review the Strategy and develop detailed designs. It is envisaged that these design works shall be substantially complete in Q3 2022.

13. With the funding already granted under the Climate Adaptation and Resilience works due to be carried out to raise the roads in the MD area, when will this work be started in the area of Milltown on the LT36002 and Drumaliss LT76001 which have been prone to flooding in the winter months? What other roads in the MD will have similar road raising works carried out to alleviate the risk of flooding?

Response:-

*The following roads have received funding under Climate Adaptation and Resilience for 2021:-*

- *LT36002 at Milltown*
- *LT76001 at Drumaliss*
- *LS8831 at Descart*
- *LS8860 at Kinallybane*
- *LS8400-0 at Toome*
- *LT49102 AT Tullylougheery- Knocknacran*

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

14. What is the up-to-date situation with the previously requested Pedestrian Crossing to the entrance of the Rockdaniel Road/Cloughvalley, close to the Culloville Road junction;

Has a traffic count been carried out?

Has a design been produced?

Has an application been submitted for Low Cost Safety?

Response:

A speed and traffic count were carried out and no speeding violations were recorded.

A pedestrian survey shall be undertaken to ascertain the necessity for a pedestrian crossing at this location. This survey will be completed in Q4 of 2021.

15. Will this Council consider adding a footpath to the small stretch of road that connects the R179 to the Clonseady Housing estate; note, lighting is already in place in this location, but pedestrian access is not in place?

Response:-

The MD Executive shall examine the location in question and ascertain if the provision of a footway is feasible. Pending the outcome of this assessment, the proposal shall be added to the list of MD footway works, for consideration in 2022.

16. When is it expected that traffic lights on Church Hill, Carrickmacross, will be back to working normally and can the executive outline where the problems in the timing sensors came from?

Response:

It is envisaged that the traffic lights will be back in normal working order later this month following the replacement of defective vehicle detection loops.

**17. When is it now expected that works will conclude on the Gate House II project and when can the people of Castleblayney expect to have their new Library operational?**

Response:-

The construction works on the Gate Lodge 2 Library and Public Realm project are scheduled for completion in Q4 2022 and it is envisaged that the new Library facility will be operational in late 2022/early 2023. It should be noted that the timelines outlined for the project are subject to construction sites remaining operational and no further restrictions on construction activities being implemented under Covid-19 regulations.

**18. What plans are in place for the future use of the old Castleblayney Fire Station building?**

Response:-

Monaghan County Council is pursuing the possibility of procuring the provision of sheltered housing for older people and people with disabilities / medical needs in the location of the old Castleblayney Fire Station building and neighbouring Council yard/depot. The location is ideal for the development of sheltered housing as it is close to the primary care centre, other HSE services and town centre. The feasibility of providing sheltered housing on this potential site is currently being examined by an approved housing body prior to submission of a funding application to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

## **6.0 Motions**

On the proposal of Cllr. McCooey and seconded by Cllr. Campbell, the following motion was unanimously agreed in principle:

*“Councillor McCooey proposes that an electricity source be made available at the bridge and seating area at Lough Muckno. This will be better environmentally than the alternative of using a generator. This type of infrastructure will be of benefit to those who set up business at this point and for potential events taking place here.*

*The development of this area and amenity is very important and we can make small changes at a time that will have a great benefit.”*

Cllr. Campbell noted the environmental issues caused by using a generator.

Cllr. Carthy voiced concerns about who will get to use it? Who will have priority? Is it solely for the vendor?

Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that this needs to be further investigated.

Cllr. O’Hanlon asked for a report back from the Executive at the next meeting.



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

*“Councillor McCooey proposes that this MD provide a further grant of €500 for Oram additional Christmas lights for the village this year, in order to ensure there are enough lights for the Big Tom Memorial Garden as well as around the village.”*

Director of Services Paul Clifford stated that this should be raised at a budget meeting. He acknowledged it is relatively small money, however going forward, procedure needs to be followed.

Cllr. Keelan noted that he would like to see something similar for Inniskeen next year.

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

*“That this MD write to the HSE for an update on the future plans of the local Community Welfare Officers and offices who provide such a valuable service to our community particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic where the door of the Community Welfare Office is always open and the Welfare Officer is always available to meet face to face.”*

Cllr. Campbell stated that an online service is not the answer.

Cllr. Carthy agreed with the motion but stated that it should include the Department of Social Protection.

Cllr. Campbell stated he has no issue with this but wished to clarify that he has no issue with the Department of Social Protection and no issue with funding – it is about the role.

Cllr. Keelan concurred with the other Cllrs. He stated that it is a bug bear of his that the medical card services were removed from the Welfare Department.

## **7.0 DOS Orders**

Directors Orders CMX-CBY MD 47/2021; 48/2021; 49/2021; 50/2021; 51/2021; 52/2021; 53/2021; 54/2021 and 55/2021 were duly noted.

## **8.0 VOS/VOC**

*Votes of Congratulations* were extended to Carrickmacross Ladies LGFA on winning the Ulster Junior Championship Final; Donaghmoyne Ladies GAA on winning their 13<sup>th</sup> Ulster Senior Title and Michael Gallen on his great success with the opera which ran in the Abbey Theatre.

## **9.0 AOB**

Cllr. Carthy:

Requested an update about St. Joseph's Tce?

Reply – this issue is being reviewed.

Stated that the bags are not being re-filled at the dog bins.

Cllr. Keelan:

Asked if the MD are “Winter Ready”?

Reply – we are as fully winter ready as can reasonably be expected.

Acknowledged the number of Local Government Excellence awards won recently.

Encouraged locals to buy Town Vouchers this Christmas.

Asked if there is an update on Corcrin Bridge (between Dundalk and Culloville Road)

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Encouraged the public to shop local this Christmas.

Requested a presentation from John McArdle on the roll-out of broadband. Queried as to whether the infrastructure for broadband in Carrickmacross is fit for purpose? Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that he is all for the National Broadband Plan but asked who is representing the people paying privately. He commented that there is a need to educate ourselves. He also went on to state that he would like to think that a town the size of Carrickmacross should have good service.

On the proposal of Cllr, O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, it was unanimously agreed to send a letter to John McArdle to request a presentation for the December Monthly Meeting via Teams.

Cllr. Keelan stated that having broadband is critical – something needs to happen to make the process faster.

Cllr. Carthy advised that there are houses in Carrickmacross which are wired for fibre broadband, but they cannot get *Eir* to connect them.

Cllr. Campbell concurred with the comments.

The meeting concluded at 11:30am

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Cathaoirleach

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Date

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Meeting Administrator