

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 virtually on Monday 24th January 2022 at 10.00am.

Present: Cathaoirleach PJ O’Hanlon

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

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. Keelan proposed a vote of sympathy to Cllr. O’Hanlon and his family on the recent passing of his mother, Rosaleen O’Hanlon (RIP). He spoke at length about her achievements throughout her life.

Cllr. Carthy also expressed his sympathy to Cllr. O’Hanlon and his family. As Cathaoirleach of Cavan – Monaghan ETB, Cllr. Carthy wished to recognise and pay tribute to all the works Rosaleen O’Hanlon (RIP) had done for them.

Cllr. Campbell voiced his sympathies to Cllr. O’Hanlon and his family and recognised that it is a difficult time for Cllr. O’Hanlon.

Cllr. Kerr Conlon also expressed condolences to Cllr. O’Hanlon.

Director of Service Paul Clifford expressed deepest condolences to the O’Hanlon family. He spoke about the many achievements of Rosaleen O’Hanlon (RIP).

Cllr. O’ Hanlon thanked all present for their comments and expressed gratitude to all the members for all they have done over the past few days. Cllr. O’Hanlon also thanked the various organisations who organised Guards of Honour – Fianna Fail, Carrickmacross Emmets, Monaghan County Council and Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce.

On behalf of his entire family, Cllr. O’Hanlon thanked all those who called to the house. He commented that the O’Hanlon’s are a lucky family – the people of Carrickmacross have always been very good to them.

Cllr. O’Hanlon wished to note that there have been a lot of recent bereavements locally.

Deepest sympathies were expressed to the Campbell Family on the death of Andrew Campbell and to Dr. David Dolan on the death of his brother Niall Doran who died tragically in an accident.

Cllr. O'Hanlon also spoke about past colleague John Lennon and expressed sympathy to his family. Cllr. O'Hanlon noted that John Lennon (RIP) had always been a gentleman and a very obliging sort of person. Condolences were also expressed to the family of Patsy McArdle following his death. It was commented that Patsy McArdle would have covered Council Meetings and was known for being a very fair reporter.

Cllr. Campbell wished to be associated with all the votes of sympathy.

Cllr. Campbell spoke about John Lennon (RIP), stating he had been a true gentleman and that he would have considered him as a friend. Cllr. Campbell proposed including John Lennon (RIP) in an official remembrance event.

Cllr. Campbell also commented about Patsy McArdle's career as a reporter and his strong connections with Castleblayney.

Cllr. Keelan also wished to be associated with the Votes of Sympathy and echoed previous comments about John Lennon (RIP) and Patsy McArdle (RIP).

Cllr. Carthy wished to be associated with all the Votes of Sympathy passed. He noted that he had previously spoken at the full County Council meeting about John Lennon (RIP) and Patsy McArdle (RIP).

Director of Service, Paul Clifford expressed sympathy to the family of John Lennon (RIP) on behalf of Monaghan County Council. He remembered John as a friend and colleague, a very easy-going man who also had a deep commitment to his work. The staff in Carrickmacross will miss him greatly.

Deepest condolences were also offered to the family of Patsy McArdle (RIP).

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr. Keelan requested a correction on Page 13 – he noted the correct spelling of the name Rosaleen Kearney.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Campbell, the amended minutes of the December Monthly Meeting held on Monday 20th December 2021 were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Carthy stated that he was disappointed to see no correspondence in this month's agenda, particularly in relation to the letter that was sent to Minister Heather Humphrey's Office re: Community Welfare services.

Cllr. Carthy proposed that another letter is sent to request a meeting about the future delivery of the service. Cllr. Keelan seconded this and it was unanimously agreed to send a second letter.

Cllr. Campbell asked if there has been a response from SIRO following on from John McArdle's presentation at the last meeting?

Staff Officer Amanda Murray advised that a letter was issued, and we are awaiting a response.

Cllr. Campbell asked for a report to be carried out regarding public spaces at Black Island. A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton replied that quotations were sought to carry out an analysis and opportunities study. It is hoped that initial costings will come back in the coming weeks.

Cllr. Keelan asked if there will be an information day/evening arranged for the Inniskeen Public Realm Plan for those who were unable to participate online?

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton advised that it is hoped that the plan will be published by 31st January 2022. It is fully intended to hold such a day/evening.

3.0 Correspondence

None

4.0 Presentation – Draft Speed Limit Review

The report was presented by Gareth McMahon, A/Senior Engineer, Roads Section.

Cllr. Campbell:

Thanked Gareth McMahon for the report.

Noted that he sits on the committee and has already been through this report with Gareth McMahon and the team.

Commented that there is an issue around enforcement and education.

Spoke about Church Street, Castleblayney. Even though there are two ramps, cars continue to speed in this area. Suggested a possible campaign around educating about speeding in built up areas?

Stated that there is a problem with sign pollution in some estates.

Stated that cars travel very fast on the Shercock Road, Castleblayney. There is a new estate and a new Irish School in this area, Can Low Cost Safety measures be used here?

Reply - A/Senior Engineer Gareth McMahon stated that there is a large Active Travel Budget and it makes sense to amalgamate this with safety measures. Narrowing a road naturally slows the speed of drivers. Extending speed limits further out can also be investigated.

Cllr. Carthy:

Thanked Gareth McMahon for presenting the report.

Stated that the Chapel Lane speed limit was reduced to 30km/hr and asked for an update on same?

Reply - A/Senior Engineer Gareth McMahon advised that this has been adopted and will be incorporated into the Bye Laws.

Pointed out Page 26 of the report where "Shercock Road" is stated. Should it read "Dundalk Road"?

Welcomed the 30km/hr speed limit on Rockdaniel Road and stressed the need for a pedestrian crossing at this location.

Asked if a check can be carried out on the Ballybay Road out of Carrickmacross? From Inver College, past Carrickmacross Emmets to the roundabout, as there are speeding issues at this location.

Cllr. Keelan:

Thanked A/Senior Engineer Gareth McMahan for the report.

Spoke about the issue of enforcement – there is no point changing speed limits if they are not being enforced.

Cllr. McCooey:

Thanked A/Senior Engineer Gareth McMahan for the report.

Agreed that enforcement needs to be monitored.

Stated she supports the changes.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Wished to clarify that maintaining 50km/hr speed limit on the Shercock Road, Carrickmacross is in place?

Reply - A/Senior Engineer Gareth McMahan stated that extending the speed limit further out can be investigated.

On the proposal of Cllr. Campbell and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the recommendations of the report.

5.0 MD Coordinator Report

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Commented that it is great news about the funding for the Workhouse and acknowledged Minister Heather Humphrey’s role in this.

Stated it is positive to hear that Design & Build Contractors are been appointed for the CTek II building and that it is hoped to begin works in Q3. Advised that from speaking to people, he has no doubt that it will be filled quickly, also noting the creation of approximately 50 jobs.

Noted that he will seek a third building once CTek II is completed!

Cllr. Campbell:

Complimented the MD on the amount of on-going works, particularly in Castleblayney – naming the Gate Lodge and The Ridge. Cllr. Campbell also noted the creation of approximately 60 jobs. Cllr. Campbell wished to acknowledge the role of Minister Heather Humphreys.

Welcomed the Workhouse funding.

Stated he was disappointed to hear that the Inniskeen Bike Rental Scheme has not progressed.

Wished to acknowledge the role the late Jim Mc Mahon from Tullynahinera played on the Monaghan Way stating that Jim and his son were instrumental in building the styles.

Cllr. Carthy:

Wished to remind the Executive that public buy-in for the proposed biodiversity measures at Gallows Hill was on the basis that the grassed areas are maintained.

Spoke about issues occurring at local schools – cars are now parking in the entryways of them. Can possible road markings (yellow box) be investigated?

Stated he had seen pictures of one of the libraries within the State that provided a remote working desk with a “play pen” attached to allow for childcare. Commented that he believes it is a great idea and will pass the information onto the Executive.

Commended the MD on the roll out of the various on-going projects.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commended the MD staff on all the works being carried out.

Welcomed progress on the CCTV Schemes for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney. Asked if all goes to plan – when it is hoped that the CCTV systems will be up and running?

Reply – it is difficult to predict a timeline. There is an upcoming meeting with AGS and will try to get an indicative timeline at this.

Wondered if there is any progress on I-Boards for Carrickmacross?

Reply – It is hoped to include same in a Public Realm Project as there is no stand-alone funding.

Stated that he is very concerned about the Inniskeen Bike Rental Scheme and requested an update. It has been on the Agenda for the past 12 months. Wondered why the tenderer pulled out?

Reply – Issues involving insurance costs. It is worth noting the tenderer was afforded every appropriate assistance from this MD and the Tourism Office.

Stated that Public Liability Insurance seems to be the issue and voiced concern as to if we will be able to get anyone? If not, can MCC run it?

Commended District Engineer Matthew Lambe for his works on CIS.

Asked for an update on the Active Travel 2021 Scheme – Lough NaGlack – Dundalk Rd – Nuremore footpath.

Reply – works are scheduled to begin this week.

Wondered when works will commence on Tullyvaragh Junction and Ballynacarry Bridge?

Reply – Tullyvaragh is currently at Part 8. Tender submissions for the appointment of design consultants for Ballynacarry Bridge are currently being assessed. The MD will seek confirmation from the Road Section on the intended project timelines.

Cllr. O’Hanlon asked Director of Service, Paul Clifford when it is expected that staff will return to the office in the Glen, Monaghan?

Reply – There have always been staff present in the Glen – 1/3 staff have been present. The issue is with one-to-one meetings. MCC await guidance from the Government.

Cllr. O’Hanlon requested that the information is forwarded to the members when a decision is made.

6.0 Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for January 2022 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. With regard to work at Gate House and plans to renovate this derelict building to a new state-of-the-art library at Muckno in Castleblayney:-

- a) What is the status of the ongoing works?

Response:-

The Contractor is continuing to progress contract works for the Gate Lodge 2 library development. The installation of the steel frame to the existing Gate Lodge building is completed and construction works are progressing for the relevant floor levels. The rebuilding of the stone boundary wall and installation of foundations for the new extension are substantially complete. Works in relation to storm and foul drainage systems in conjunction with utility services are scheduled to commence in the coming weeks.

- b) When is hoped that this project will be complete?

Response:-

The project works are scheduled for completion in Q4 2022.

2. What is the update on the Bike rental scheme for Inniskeen Village?

Response:

Unfortunately, the preferred tenderer has withdrawn their interest in the scheme. The MD Executive intend to return to the market in the coming weeks.

3. With the conclusion of the Public Realm Spatial Plan for Inniskeen Village recently presented by Paul Hogarth Company:

- a) What plans has the MD in place to apply for funding to realise the implementation of the main issues raised during the public consultation by the community in Inniskeen?

A funding application is currently pending under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021 for the delivery of public realm enhancements in the Village Heart and St Mary's Space areas of the village. The MD Executive shall continue to explore all potential sources of funding to progress the various public realm interventions identified in the Spatial Plan.

- b) What is the update on the works to enhance safety around the bridge in the village where work is ongoing?

The MD Executive are currently preparing tender documents for the procurement of design services. It is intended that a design consultant shall be engaged by the latter end of Q1.

4. With the recent roll out of WiFi4EU in by Monaghan County Councils broadband officer John McArdle being so timely with so many now working remotely:

- a) How many sites in our MD are now up and running with this facility?

- b) Are there any other sites waiting to be connected?

- c) What broad band coverage has these sites now?
- d) Eleven sites are currently offering public Wifi through the Wifi4EU programme. These include community buildings, playparks and local authority offices. All sites have been completed.

A minimum of 30 Mb/sec broadband has been set for each site by Wifi4EU. High speed broadband has been installed in each of these locations and in each building we have installed the highest level of broadband available- in many cases, much higher than the minimum identified earlier. Monaghan County Council will fund this project for the next three years.

This project has now been submitted to Wifi4EU and the Dept. Rural & Community Development(co-founder) for testing, authorisation and authentication. As a result, the list of locations where broadband is available is now closed.

Castleblayney Public Wifi- Gate Lodge Meeting rooms	A75 KP73	CMX-CB
Íontas Theatre & Gallery, Castleblayney	A75 HK09	CMX-CB
Oram Development Group	A75 TV07	CMX-CB
Carrickasedge Community Centre	A81 EE92	Cmx-CB
Carrickmacross Workhouse	A81 E372	Cmx-CB
Cloughvalley Playpark Public Wifi-	A81 HY83	Cmx-CB
Lisdoonan Recreational & Dev Association	A81 YV70	Cmx-CB
Lough Egish Community Dev Association	A75 CY82	Cmx-CB
Patrick Kavanagh Centre	A91 KT20	Cmx-CB
St Michael's Regional Community Development Ltd, Donaghmoyne	A81 A312	Cmx-CB
Inniskeen Community Centre	A91 Y188	Cmx-CB

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for January 2022 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

5. When is it expected that works will begin on the construction of the CTEK II building in Carrickmacross?

Response:

It is envisaged that construction shall commence in Q3 2022, with a view to project completion by the end of 2023.

6. What projects are currently being assessed for Low Cost Safety works in the Municipal District and can the executive give a breakdown on each design (location, planned works etc); can the executive also confirm what projects have already been submitted to the department for consideration?

Response:-

The following is a list of schemes that have been assessed for Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District: -

Road Number	Description of Location of Safety Improvement Works	Description of Proposed Scheme
R182	Oram Village	Line marking and signage
LP4621	Kednaminsa, Inniskeen	Line marking and signage
R179	Shercock Rd, Greaghdrumit, Carrickmacross	Lay high friction anti-skid surface
R179/LP4520 /LP4620	Longfield Otra, Carrickmacross	Remove Hedgerow, Excavate and grade embankments, Construct fence behind the visibility splays
LT49202/LT49201 /LP4920	Reilly's Cross, Carrickmacross	Remove Hedgerow, Excavate and grade embankments, Construct fence behind the visibility splays
R179	Donaghmoyne Rd/Ascaill Dubh, Carrickmacross	Provision of new pedestrian crossing
LP4933-0	Riverside rd. Carrickmacross	Extension to existing footway
R178	St Joseph's Cemetery, Dundalk Rd, Carrickmacross	Provision of new pedestrian crossing
R927-4	Oriel Rd Carrickmacross	Provision of new pedestrian crossing
LP4801-0	Rock Chapel	Provision of Driver Feed Back Signage

The Following has been submitted to the Department for consideration in 2022 and reminder have been placed on a supplementary list for consideration when further funding becomes available: -

Road Number	Description of Location of Safety Improvement Works	Description of Proposed Scheme
R182	Oram Village	Line marking and signage
LP4621	Inniskeen	Line marking and signage
R179	Shercock Rd, Greaghdrumit, Carrickmacross	Lay high friction anti-skid surface
R179/LP4520 /LP4620	Longfield Otra, Carrickmacross	Remove Hedgerow, Excavate and grade embankments, Construct fence behind the visibility splays
LT49202/LT49201 /LP4920	Reilly's Cross, Carrickmacross	Remove Hedgerow, Excavate and grade embankments, Construct fence behind the visibility splays
R179	Donaghmoyne Rd/Ascaill Dubh, Carrickmacross	Provide new pedestrian crossing
R927-4	Oriel Rd Carrickmacross	Provide new pedestrian crossing

7. What plans are in place to try and progress the Rahan's Lake slipway following our unsuccessful application for funding under the ORIS (Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme)?

Response:

The MD Executive shall explore all potential sources of funding in a bid to progress this project.

8. What is the up-to-date situation with the Malodour on the Monaghan Road, Castleblayney?

Response:-

The following has been received from Irish Water:-

"Thank you for your email requesting an update from Irish Water on the Malodors on Monaghan Road Castleblayney.

The matter has been raised with Irish Water under reference number is :45319.

A response from Irish Water will be circulated in due course.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for January 2022 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:-

The Carrickmacross CCTV proposal is presently at Public Consultation Stage. Plans and particulars of the proposed scheme are available for inspection during normal office hours (9.30am- 4.30pm) at Carrickmacross Civic Offices, Riverside Rd, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed scheme may be made in writing to Mr. Damien Thornton, Carrickmacross Civic Offices, Riverside Rd, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan not later than 4pm on 24th February 2022.

10. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of safe walking routes and footpath links throughout the Inniskeen village area linking up the Patrick Kavanagh centre and on out to Magee's corner and beyond?

Response

The MD Executive are currently preparing tender documents for the procurement of consultancy services for the detailed design of interventions promoting safer walking and cycling at the River Fane bridge crossing. It is intended that a design consultant shall be engaged by the latter end of Q1. An application for funding is also 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. The MD Executive shall continue to explore all potential sources of funding to progress the various public realm interventions identified in the Spatial Plan, including pedestrian facilities that extend beyond Magee's corner.

11. What is the up to date position in relation to the, much anticipated, roll out of the bicycle rental scheme for Inniskeen village?

Response:

Unfortunately, the preferred tenderer has withdrawn their interest in the scheme. The MD Executive intend to return to the market in the coming weeks.

12. Will the Council examine funding opportunities that may be available to further enhance safety measures and extra traffic calming at the very dangerous Essexfort junction on the Dundalk regional road R178?

Response:-

The provision of Traffic Calming measures at Essexfort junction on the R178 Dundalk Rd was completed in 2021 under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme. This Municipal District shall continue to monitor this junction, and should further measures be necessary, an application will be made for additional funding.

13. When will work commence on the local road reconstruction and resurfacing programme for the coming year 2022,

a) How many roads are due to be improved?

Response:-

- a) *There are seven sections of road pavement on the Restoration Improvement Roads Programme in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD proposed for 2022 totalling 9.710km in length. This programme includes works on Regional, Local Secondary and Local Tertiary Roads.*

b) What will this essential work cost?

Response:-

This proposed programme for 2022 is currently at procurement stage.

7.0 Motion

Following a discussion amongst members, on the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, the following motion was unanimously agreed:

'That this Municipal District calls on the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, the HSE and the Department of Health to do all in its power to increase the number of GP's in Carrickmacross owing to:

- The significant increase in population in the area over the last 20 years with no increase in GP's;*
- The high volume of people living in the area that cannot access a GP;*
- The expected, further, increase in population into the future and*
- The increased access to free GP care for children.'*

8.0 DOS Orders

9.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were passed with the following: -

To Cllr. O'Hanlon and family on the passing on Rosaleen O'Hanlon; The Lennon family on the passing of John Lennon; The Campbell family on the passing of Andrew Campbell; Dr. David Dolan and family on the passing of his brother and The McArdle family on the passing of Patsy McArdle.

A vote of congratulation was passed to Carrickmacross Emmets Ladies on their achievement of reaching the All- Ireland Semi Final.

Cllr. O'Hanlon requested that the topic of holding a presentation evening for local groups various achievements is discussed.

10.0 AOB

Cllr. Keelan:

Spoke about the issue of Breffni House being in poor condition. Informed the members that the new owners have made contact and intend to refurbish the property with a view to it being a functioning B&B. Some repair works have been carried out to date. Asked if District Engineer Matthew Lambe can investigate McGee's Corner, Inniskeen. There are large trees blocking this area and an issue with public lighting. Can works be carried out in the coming weeks as it is still cutting season?

Cllr. Campbell:

At Drumillard Castleblayney there is rubbish being dumped beside a bin beside the play area. Can MCC investigate?

The Footpath at the back of the Boys' School in Castleblayney has sank and is cracked, causing a trip hazard.

Also, on the Shercock Road, from Broomfield Construction to Bree, works were carried out by a broadband company. The footpath is now a trip hazard. (A visually impaired person uses it regularly).

Stated that something drastic needs to be done about dog fouling on the streets. People need to pick up after their dogs – anyone who can't do this should not have a dog. Acknowledged that it is difficult to police this issue. Offenders need to be called out on it. It is an issue that needs to be kept on the agenda.

Cllr. Carthy:

Concurred with Cllr. Campbell's comments about dog fouling, commenting that it is ridiculous that people allow their dogs to do this and not clean up after them.

Noted that the MD have increased the volume of dog fouling bins.

At last months meeting it was agreed to write to AGS re: illegal parking. Can this be followed up on?

Spoke about the lighting of public footpaths. Would hope that funding includes the provision of ducting. This is needed to make areas safe. Noted that the Drumconrath Road footpath has no lighting. Going forward, ducting should be included on all new footpaths.

Cllr. McCooey:

Stated that there is an issue at Onomy, Castleblayney. People are parking causing a bottleneck. Can this be investigated?

Asked for an update on any possible funding opportunities for the L4400.

Cllr. O'Hanlon clarified that A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton or District Engineer Matthew Lambe will revert to the members with responses if needed.

The meeting concluded at 12:00am

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator