

**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 Office, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 10.15am.

**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, Michelle Boyle, Staff Officer, Julieann O’Reilly, Clerical Officer

On the proposal of Cathaoirleach O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, it was unanimously agreed to send a letter to Bernie McNally congratulating her on her new appointment as General Secretary of the Department of Education. He also wished to issue an open invitation to Ms. McNally to visit the Municipal District office. It was suggested that a small event could be organised to recognise her achievement.

Cathaoirleach O’Hanlon spoke about the heart-breaking situation in Ukraine, stating that he would have hoped that lessons would have been learned from events in the past 70 – 80 years. Cathaoirleach O’Hanlon proposed that the Civic Offices in Carrickmacross are lit up in the Ukrainian flag colours in a small show of solidarity. This was seconded by Cllr. Campbell and unanimously agreed amongst all the members. It was suggested that an open invitation is issued to anybody who wishes to attend.

**1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Campbell, the minutes of the January Monthly Meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were adopted.

**2.0 Matters Arising**

Cllr. Campbell spoke about safety concerns regarding speeding traffic on the Shercock Road, Castleblayney and requested an update.

Cllr. Carthy asked for an update on the letter sent to Minister Humphreys requesting a meeting?

Reply – a response had been received and included as a late addition on the agenda.

Cllr. Keelan asked when the public information event will be held for the Inniskeen Public Realm Plan?

Cllr. Campbell welcomed the €250k funding allocated towards public realm enhancements in Inniskeen Village and expressed thanks to Min. Humphreys for the money.

Cllr. O'Hanlon wished to be associated with these comments.

Cllr. Keelan commended the works done on the Dundalk – Nuremore footpath.

Cllr. O'Hanlon commented that the late Francie Cassidy would be delighted to see this. He went on to say the he has no doubt that Paul Clifford and his team will work hard to get it lit up.

Cllr. Keelan acknowledged Cllr. O'Hanlon's comments. Cllr. Keelan queried if there is a possibility of installing a pedestrian crossing at the graveyard on the Dundalk road.

Cllr. Keelan acknowledged the work of the District Engineer, Matthew Lambe, on Magee's corner, Inniskeen. He noted that there are other trees which require attention. He also asked if there is an update on public lighting?

### **3.0 Correspondence**

#### **i. Letter from SIRO**

Cllr. Campbell commented that it is very welcome to hear that SIRO will be coming to Monaghan.

#### **ii. Letter from Hudson's Funfair – permission to use car park**

This was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan.

Cllr. O'Hanlon requested that it is ensured that nearby businesses are informed. Cllr. Carthy commented that it is great to see the St. Patrick's Day Parade back.

#### **iii. Letter from Carrickmacross Festival – permission to use areas from 3<sup>rd</sup> June - 6<sup>th</sup> June**

This was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon.

Cllr. O'Hanlon and Cllr. Keelan acknowledged all the good works done by the festival committee. Cllr. Carthy noted that the festival committee also tie in with other

festivals/events in the town throughout the year – they do a tremendous amount of work.

Cllr. O'Hanlon proposed that the MD issue a letter to the Festival Committee acknowledging their hard work.

#### **iv. Letter from A.G.S. – requesting use of Civic Offices Early September 2022**

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that this had been mentioned at the JPC meeting and was warmly welcomed.

#### **v. Response from Minister Heather Humphreys re: CWO's.**

Cllr. Campbell commented that it was a very positive letter received from Minister Humphrey's and he wished to thank her for same. Cllr. Campbell spoke about the

importance of the Community Welfare Officer's role. Cllr. Carthy welcomed the response and stated that CWO's are vital for the vulnerable in our society.

#### **4.0 MD Coordinator Report**

##### Cllr. Campbell:

Stated that the CCTV Scheme is a very slow and cumbersome process but acknowledged that this is not the fault of A/ District Co-Ordinator Damien Thornton.

Spoke about the flooding issue at Annadrumman, commenting that he is aware of the costs.

Requested an update about same.

Reply – Tender documents (Design only) are being prepared and this MD are liaising with the OPW. It is hoped to issue a tender to market in the near future. The limited number of residents in this area means that scheme does not figure well under cost-benefit analysis (OPW) and as such, does not meet the criteria for significant funding.

Cllr. Campbell opined that the junction at Huenna is quite dangerous. Are there any updates on changing this?

##### Cllr. Keelan:

Stated that he shares Cllr. Campbell's frustration at the slowness of the CCTV Schemes. A date of 2024 was flagged at the latest JPC meeting as to when Carrickmacross will have CCTV. Asked if there were many submissions received following the recent public consultation?

Reply – This only closed on Thursday and will be reviewed this week.

Requested that the matter of i-boards for Carrickmacross is kept on the agenda.

Welcomed the €250k funding received for Inniskeen Public Realm Plan, however voiced concern that the money is for village enhancements, not walking areas.

Reply – we will endeavour to incorporate facilities for cyclists and pedestrians where appropriate.

Enquired if we are still looking at acquiring back lands (at back of BOI)?

Reply – ownership needs to be established.

Asked that this matter is seriously looked into.

Noted that the planning application re: Tullyvaragh Junction was withdrawn and asked if there is any information regarding this?

Reply – Will seek a more comprehensive update for the next meeting.

##### Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Noted that Cllr. Keelan has spoken about the issue of Tullyvaragh Junction for a long time – it is a very dangerous location.

Spoke about the red markings on the Shercock Rd, Carrickmacross saying this was a positive step but the speeding problem persists. Can this be reviewed?

Reply – this can be re-visited.

Stated that the Workhouse is at Design Team Procurement stage. Can we have a date for the next meeting?

Wish to acknowledge that the most successful applications for the Active Travel Scheme came through this MD.

Cllr. Carthy:

Commended the MD on the action taken on the Artist Studio in the Market House. Stated that he is very excited to see this progress.

Spoke about the collaborative works at Ross Road and Castleblayney Road. Will the design be presented to the members soon? Requested that the members see the design before the Part 8 Planning Application is submitted.

Reply – the draft design has been forwarded to the Roads Section (Active Travel Team) for consideration.

Cllr. McCooey:

Expressed disappointment that no funding was received for the R182, Oram Road, and commented that this road is very dangerous.

Reply - This MD are also disappointed. We will continue to apply for funding as opportunities arise.

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

*“Following the announcement of roads funding last week and the fact the Oram Road R182 has not been successful under the specific improvement works, I propose we write to the Minister for Transport Eamonn Ryan, to highlight the imminent danger and risk this road poses to road users and the need for funding ASAP under specific improvement works.”*

## **5.0 Questions**

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

1. Has there been any provisions made by the Engineering Section to have all the Disabled Parking Bays in Castleblayney town painted Blue as per my previous request and, if so, when is it envisaged works will be carried out?

Response:

Disabled spaces have been examined in the district and will be relined were necessary in Q2 of 2022.

2. Are there further plans to increase the number of Dog Foul bins on the Main Street in Carrickmacross?

Response:

The MD Executive are currently assessing appropriate locations for the installation of additional Dog Foul bins on the Main Street in Carrickmacross.

3. When is it expected that the Parking strategies for both Carrickmacross and Castleblayney, presented to members at the end of 2021 and published for public consultation, will be completed and when will new by-laws and street markings be implemented?

Response:

It is intended that the proposed Parking Control Schemes for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney towns shall be presented to the Municipal District Elected Members for resolution at a special meeting in advance of today's Municipal District meeting. Subject to the Elected Members' adoption of the draft Parking Control Schemes, it is envisaged that delineation works, together with the installation of signage, shall commence towards the latter end of March, with a view to the works being completed by late April/early May 2022.

4. What measures are being looked at to prevent vehicles from damaging property in St. Joseph's Terrace, Carrickmacross; there have been a number of instances of one house having its gutter and slates broken by tall vehicles?

Response:

The MD Executive are currently assessing the potential effectiveness of a combination of measures, including restrictive signs and additional road markings.

5. Has there been any progress on my previous request to have lighting added to the N2 junction on the Doohamlet road, Castleblayney?

Response: -

The Council Executive examined the viability of the installation public lighting on the R182 Doohamlet Castleblayney Rd at the ramp accesses with the N2 on foot of a request in March 2021. This project will be added to public lighting list.

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

6. At this time the Irish Flag is not raised for any important civic events in Castleblayney by Monaghan County Council. Can the Municipal District look at putting in place flag poles in the area around the Gate Lodge in Castleblayney where the Irish Flag can be raised on National Holidays like Saint Patricks Day, Easter and other important days in the year also for important events for Castleblayney?

Response:

The MD Executive shall undertake a review of potential locations, including the area around the Gate Lodge, for the installation of flag poles.

7. With the announcement of funding for the footpath at the Lurgans for €120,000 under the Active Travel Initiative

- a) what is the update on these works?
- b) When is it planned to start this work?
- c) What is the timeline for these works?

Response: -

The detailed design of this scheme is complete. There are ongoing negotiations with landowners and on completion of these negotiations this council will proceed to tender. On receipt of tenders and the appointment of an approved contractor works will commence. The works are expected to take 8-10 weeks from appointment of the contractor.

8. With the road closed on LS8831 in Descart, Magheraclone due to the collapse of the bridge causing a long diversion for all local traffic users in the area and with this road being such a busy road

- a) What plans are in place to have this bridge repaired and the road opened as soon as possible?
- b) When is this work due to commence to repair this bridge?
- c) How long will this work take given that the road is closed and causing major disruption for the local community?

Response: -

An application for a Derogation Licence to undertake instream works outside of the permitted season (July to September) has been made to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The Contractor has committed to starting the works by the end of March with a 3 to 4-week construction period after that.

9. With the recent announcement of the Low-Cost Safety Works for the Municipal District, when is it hoped to commence works on these projects?

Response: -

It is envisaged that works will commence in Q3 of 2022 following detailed design of each scheme.

10. With the recent announcement of funding of €250,000 to progress the plans for Ballynacarry Bridge

- a) What is the next stage in the process?
- b) What engagement have Monaghan County Council with Newry and Mourne Council?
- c) What funding have/will the DFI be providing to this important cross border infrastructure project?
- d) What is the planned timeline of events for this project?

Response:

This question has been referred to the Roads Section, Monaghan Co. Council and a response will be circulated in due course.

Questions raised by Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon for February 2022 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

- 11 Following on from the recent announcement, and based on my continued campaigning at East Boarder Region level, that Carrickmacross Civic Offices has been confirmed as one of the two designated locations in County Monaghan to facilitate a new large charging point, will Monaghan Co. Council have the necessary infrastructure in place to ensure that this facility is made available without any delays.

Response:

The FASTER EV Project is supported by the EU Interreg VA programme and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). The project proposes to install rapid chargers in; west Scotland, Northern Ireland and the border counties in the ROI. The project is led by EBR with Louth Co Council acting as the lead LA for the delivery of the FASTER in the ROI. Monaghan County Council along with the other border counties are associated partners in the project. There will be two sites, one each in Carrickmacross and Monaghan Town that will be identified in the County. The sites will be assessed and evaluated for electrical capacity, accessibility and construction requirements. Once the lead partners have determined the preferred locations it is intended to go out for a single tender of all sites in the ROI. It is hoped that the preferred sites will be known later this year.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for February 2022 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

11. What is up to date position in relation to the bicycle rental scheme for the Inniskeen area why is there such a delay in rolling it out?

Response:

Unfortunately, the preferred tenderer withdrew their interest in the operation of the bike rental scheme. The MD Executive are intent on entering into negotiations with a potential operator within the coming week.

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

Response:

A six-week public consultation exercise closed on Thursday last, the 24th of February 2022. The MD Executive shall shortly commence a review of the proposed design, in light of submissions received, and the preparation of a Summary Public Consultation Report for presentation to Monaghan Joint Policing Committee. Subject to the Committee's approval of the 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.

13. In relation to the recent roads funding allocations, will this MD be in a position to upgrade and resurface any additional roads in the area?

Response: -

The extent of upgrade and resurfacing works to be undertaken in this MD shall depend on the tender rates submitted by prospective Contractors. The MD Executive is currently awaiting the outcome of a tender process for the engagement of a Contractor to deliver the Restoration Improvement Programme.

14. In welcoming the funding for the provision of low-cost safety measures at the Donaghmoyn Road/Lisanisk junction, and at Longfield cross on the R179, when is it hoped to commence works and what will these works involve?

Response: -

It is envisaged that works will commence at both locations in Q3 of 2022 following detailed design of each scheme. The works at the Donaghmoyn Road/Lisanisk junction will involve the construction of a new pedestrian crossing. The works at the junction of the R179/LP4520/LP4620 Longfield Cross will involve the removal of hedgerows, excavate and grading of existing embankments and the construction of fencing behind the visibility splays to improve sideroad visibility splays and improve forward visibility and increase mainline driver awareness.

15. In relation to this Council's public lighting programme, what works are outstanding from 2021?

Response:

There are 2No. sites outstanding from the 2021 Public Lighting Programme. One infill light at Drumillard Housing Estate Castleblayney and 4No. lights at Lisdoonan at the junction of the LS8160 and the LP4102. Outstanding works at each location will be completed in Q1 2022. Approved works at the Convent Avenue Carrickmacross, Shercock Rd Castleblayney and the Kingscourt Rd Carrickmacross are completed.

## 6.0 Motions

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

*"Following on from the discussion at the January MD meeting regarding the speed limit reviews, this Council calls on the Executive to put in a joined-up application*

*(using Active Travel, Low Cost Safety, Safe School access etc) for funding to give safe pedestrian access to Kingscourt Road, Carrickmacross, including junction with Magheross Road. The design should include safe crossings, pedestrian access, traffic calming, road markings at junctions, footpath repair/upgrade etc.”*

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

*“In relation to the Newbaze factory which was officially opened in November, 2019, that this MD issue a letter to the new owners, the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Mr. Leo Varadkar and our local Minister, Minister Heather Humphreys, and enquire as to when we expect it to open.”*

The members all acknowledged the delays caused by Covid-19. Cllr. O’Hanlon suggested to cordially invite the factory owner/management to a meeting to discover if they are proceeding / what is the plan?

#### **7.0 Date for Budget Meeting and Schedule of Works for Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD**

The proposal of Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2022 at 3.30pm was agreed by all.

#### **8.0 DOS**

Director of Service Orders 01/2022; 02/2022; 03/2022; 04/2022; 05/2022; 06/2022; 07/2022; 08/2022; 09/2022; 10/2022; 11/2022 and 12/2022 were duly noted.

#### **9.0 VOS/VOC**

A vote of sympathy was passed to the Murphy Family on the death of Eileen Murphy. Votes of congratulations were passed to Tomasina McGinnity on her achievement of being awarded the DCU Chancellor’s Medal and to the Patrician High School panel of players and management team on their achievement of reaching the All Ireland Rafferty Cup Final.

#### **10.0 AOB**

Cllr. Carthy:

Spoke about the current lack of progress at the Clos na Droimainne Estate. On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, the following motion was unanimously agreed:

*“This MD requests a meeting with Tuath Housing to discuss perceived delays on construction of the Clos na Droimainne Estate, Ardee Road, Carrickmacross. This unfinished estate remains an eyesore, but it also offers opportunity to provide much needed housing to the area and we need to see it progress.”*

Cllr. Campbell:

Stated that the status of the water in Lough Muckno is bad and spoke about the Muckno Road to Recovery Programme. Noted that LAWPRO are holding an online public consultation and encouraged all to tune into this.

Asked if there is a possibility of reducing the speed limit or providing additional signage on Rock Chapel Road.

Encouraged all to attend the Castleblayney Drama Festival which kicks off this weekend.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commented that it is clear to see how dangerous the hoarding is at Close Drummond and is very conscious of safety concerns.

District Engineer, Matthew Lambe advised that he has met with the Contractor, and they are due to start work this week.

Spoke about Magee's corner – tree cutting and public lighting.

District Engineer, Matthew Lambe replied that the public lighting is on the list.

Cllr. Keelan stated that the lighting is poor at Donaghmoynne Pedestrian Crossing and needs to be upgraded, noting that there is a pole.

District Engineer, Matthew Lambe responded that this is at tender stage.

Cllr. Keelan requested that a survey is carried out to see how well lit the pedestrian crossings are within the MD.

Asked that the MD do all that they can to source funding for Essexford Junction.

Cllr. Keelan queried as to whether an invitation was issued to all members for the Castleblayney Community Enterprise Strategic Plan launch? Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that he would like to think that all members would be invited to such events going forward. Director of Service Paul Clifford advised that the invitations were not sent by the MD. Cllr. Carthy wish to note that both he and Cllr. Keelan do a lot of work in the Castleblayney area.

Asked if there is any update on funding for the Market House in Castleblayney? Cllr.

Campbell stated that works are on-going. Director of Service Paul Clifford advised that drawings are being worked on and it is hoped to have a funding application in 2024.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Stated that the Group Home in Carrickmacross is opening on 28<sup>th</sup> March and noted that both the next MD meeting and Workhouse Engagement event are planned for the same day. Cllr. O'Hanlon wished to acknowledge that Matt Carthy, TD had been a driving force for the Group Home when he was a member. He also stated that going forward for such projects, applications need to be made from start to finish, noting that the Group Home delays were caused by the HSE. This house lying idle for so long was wrong.

Cllr. O'Hanlon expressed sadness at the news that the MD will be losing Staff Officer Amanda Murray. He wished her the best of luck with her promotion and thanked her for her years of service. Cllr. O'Hanlon welcomed Staff Officer Michelle Boyle to her new role. All members wished to be associated with these remarks.

Director of Service Paul Clifford also congratulated both on their promotions.

The meeting concluded at 12:00am

---

Cathaoirleach

---

Date

---

Meeting Administrator