

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 25th April 2022 at 10.00am.

Present: Cathaoirleach PJ O’Hanlon

Cllrs. Aoife McCooey, Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan, Aidan Campbell.

In Attendance: Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Damien Thornton, A/District Coordinator, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, Michelle Boyle, Staff Officer.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr. Keelan requested that the minutes of the monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 28th of March 2022, be amended to provide for the correct spelling of “Corcrin”. On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Campbell the minutes of the March 2022 monthly Municipal District Meeting, as amended, were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Campbell, the minutes of the meeting with Tuath, concerning Drummond Close Development, held on Monday the 6th of April 2022, were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Campbell, the minutes of the meeting to consider the Public Lighting Scheme 2022, the Footpath Scheme 2022 and Contributions to Local Groups in 2022, held on Friday the 8th of April 2022, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Carthy noted that the MD Executive were to investigate potential GDPR issues surrounding the proposal to provide a live stream of the Main Street in Castleblayney. Queried as to whether there was any update on this matter.

Reply – The Head of IS and the Data Protection Officer are aware of the live stream proposal and are currently investigating the potential GDPR issues.

Following lengthy discussion, the Elect Members unanimously agreed that letters should issue to both Tuath and the Developer, requesting the parties meet with a view to expediting the completion of the Drummond Close Development and the resolution of the health & safety concerns surrounding the existing fencing that encloses the site.

3.0 Correspondence

Letter from Office of the Tánaiste

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. McCooey a letter is to be sent to the Office of the Tánaiste requesting a meeting in person to see what can do done in relation to DAFM officials undertaking the approval process on behalf of the Chinese counterparts.

Cllr. Carty commented that the positive response from DAFM was very encouraging.

4.0 MD Co-Ordinator’s Report

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Sought clarification that the C:Tek II development is progressing as planned.

Reply – Yes, currently at tender assessment stage.

Advised that there remains a speeding issue on the Shercock road, where is a dangerous speeding situation can more signs or ramps be installed?

Reply- The executive will liaise with An Garda Síochána in relation to this matter.

Cllr. Campbell:

Commented that he was frustrated at the length of time it was taking for the implementation of Community CCTV systems in Castleblayney and Carrickmacross.

Reply - Issues in relation to GDPR have delayed the progress of these initiatives.

Will the assessment report on Black Island be completed in time to avail of any funding available under ORIS 2022?

Reply – The intention from the outset was that the study would provide the basis for a funding application in 2022. Barring some unforeseen issue, this remains the case.

Welcomed the 8.5km overlay between the Cremartin and Tullyvin roundabouts. Sought clarification that the public will be provided with advance notice of these works.

Reply – The Contract for these works is to be administered centrally by the Roads Section. The MD Executive will convey Cllr. Campbell’s concerns to the Roads Section.

Cllr. Carthy:

Commented that he welcomed the news on the pedestrian crossing on the old Ardee road before the end of June. Stated that there was concern from residents regarding speeding in the area closer to the town and queried was there any update on traffic calming.

Reply – No funding available at present. The Executive will continue to explore all potential sources of funding.

Any update on lights at the Doohamlet Road junction in Castleblayney?

Reply – The executive is in the process of carrying out an assessment

Cllr. McCooey:

Are there any plans to install road lining on main street opposite Market Square? There is a safety issue with vehicles parking.

Reply – Initial discussions with a resident were not wholly favourable. The MD shall procure a Road Safety Assessment to ascertain the extent of the safety issue and provide an update in due course.

Cllr. Keelan:

Acknowledged the work of the MD in developing the Public Realm Plan for Inniskeen and the public information event held in Inniskeen on 7th June. It was great to see such a large turnout at the event. On speaking with people at the event, Cllr. Keelan gathered that the priority for several people was walking routes and asked could “safe” walking routes be made a priority.

Reply - It is the intention to use the Plan as the basis for future funding applications.

Cllr Keelan stated that he hoped that some works could be done this year.

5.0 Questions

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

1. When is it expected designs for the Ross Road traffic calming, Carrickmacross, will be finalised and presented to the council?

Response:

Designs options are nearing completion for the Ross Rd, Shercock Rd junction and Castleblayney Rd in Carrickmacross as a scheme which will address traffic calming, improved walking and cycling facilities and improvements to the Shercock Rd junction. On receipt of these proposed layouts a presentation will be made to the elected members of this MD.

2. What is the up-to-date situation with the Malodour issue on Monaghan Road, Castleblayney (Irish Water Ref: 45319)?

Response:

Water services have confirmed that they have received an update advising that there are no odour issues at present in this area. A private company that discharge into the network are not at present discharging into our PS and are continuing to tanker away until remedial works are complete on their own treatment system.

3. When is it expected that works will be completed on the Dog Park, Carrickmacross, and when will it be open to the public?

Response:

It is envisaged that all construction and landscaping works shall be completed within the coming week. The project is being delivered in partnership with Carrickmacross Tidy Towns. The consensus between both parties is that the opening of the park be deferred until the new grassed areas and planting have become firmly established.

4. What is the expected opening date for Gate House II Library, Castleblayney, and are there any plans this year to paint/tidy up the outside of the Hope Castle building?

Response:

The ongoing refurbishment works to Gate lodge No.2 are scheduled for completion in Q4 2022. It is intended that the facility shall be officially opened in early 2023.

The Municipal District Executive, in collaboration with Muckno Community Partnership, intend to undertake some aesthetic maintenance works on the Castle, and its immediate surrounds, in mid-late Q2 2022.

5. When is it expected that additional dog foul bins will be installed on Carrickmacross Main Street, and are there plans to install further bins throughout the Municipal District? If so, in what locations can we expect to see more of these bins?

Response:

Additional dog fouling bins will be erected on Main St. Carrickmacross in May 2022. At present, there are no further plans to erect dog fouling bins in the district.

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

6. What is the up to date position in relation to the roll out of the bicycle rental scheme for the Inniskeen area?

Response:

Discussions with a prospective Operator are at an advanced stage. It is hoped that the scheme will become operational in June 2022.

7. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of extra traffic calming measures for Inniskeen village including the provision of an additional speed ramp adjacent to St Daigh's Tce given the on-going safety issue of speeding traffic in the village area?

Response:

Funding for the provision of additional line marking and signage to reduce speeding violations approaching and leaving the Village has been received under the Low-Cost Safety improvement Works for 2022. It is envisaged that these works shall be completed in Q2 of 2022.

8. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of a park and ride facility to service the people of Carrickmacross and the wider south Monaghan area?

Response:

The design of the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme is currently in progress. The location of any potential Park & Ride facility will be predicated by the junction strategy for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme. Once an initial design for the route has been further developed, Concept and Feasibility studies may be carried out to investigate the feasibility of a Park & Ride facility, all subject to availability of funding.

9. Given the lack of parking facilities in the Inniskeen village centre what plans have the council to address this problem in the time ahead , have the council met with or spoken to land owners in the village area that have expressed an interest in facilitating the provision of extra parking in the village ?

Response:

The MD Executive intend to undertake a parking study to determine the nature and extent of parking demand. The outcome of the study shall inform any future negotiations with landowners interested in facilitating parking provision in the Village.

10. In welcoming the funding for the provision of extra traffic calming on the Donaghmoyn road including the provision of a pedestrian crossing adjacent to the Lisanisk junction and also the proposed improvements and extra safety measures at Longfield cross , when will a design be available for these proposed works , when is it hoped to commence works at these locations 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 and 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, the excavation 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.

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

11. What stage is the Local Area Plan for Carrickmacross at?

Response:

It is intended that the Local Area Action Plans for Carrickmacross Town shall be completed in late Q2.

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

12. What is the update on the outdoor educational space to be created at the point in the Black Island to enhance children's appreciation of nature where Monaghan County Council recently received funding of €20,000 from the Outdoor Recreation fund?

Response:

Pending Coillte approval of the detailed design of the outdoor educational space, it is envisaged that works shall be completed by the end of Q2 2022.

13. In welcoming the work which has started on the LS8831 in Descart, Magheraclone on the collapsed bridge. What is the update on these works?

Response:

The masonry rebuilding works are complete. The remaining works, including strengthening of the arch intrados and extrados, installation of concrete rubbing strips and surfacing over the bridge arch, will be completed by the middle of May.

14. With regard to the traffic speeding on the Shercock road out of Castleblayney which is very dangerous particular to all those who live and are having difficulty entering and exiting on to this road. What plans can be put in place to alleviate this dangerous stretch of road?

Response:

The MD executive are currently progressing design options, with a view to obtaining a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit in early May of 2022.

15. What are the planned upgrades to ensure safety on the Monaghan Road out of Castleblayney particular at the Ballybay Junction and when will this work be complete?

Response:

The planned upgrade works will consist of:

- Installation of a new Cycle Path adjacent to the outbound lane of the R183-15 terminating at the Ballybay Rd interchange.
- Traffic Calming Measures

- Installation of new road markings.
- Installation of uncontrolled pedestrian crossings.
- Installation of cycleway and motorist segregation measures adjacent to the inbound and outbound lanes.
- Erection of new signage and landscaping throughout the scheme.
- Relocation of all affected 3rd party utilities where required along the length of the scheme.
- All associated site works.

It is envisaged that these works shall be completed in by the end of Q2 of 2022.

16. When will the work commence in the Castleblayney/ Carrickmacross MD to upgrade a number of footpaths in the area which are defective?

Response:

A contractor has been appointed and it is intended that works shall commence within the coming weeks.

6.0 DOS

Director of Service Orders 17/2022 and 18/2022 were noted

7.0 VOS/VOC

None

8.0 AOB

Cllr. Campbell:

Commented that the buoys at the White Island had been tampered with. Can anything be done to prevent further instances of this behaviour? I call on people to have a wee bit more respect.

Can a meeting be arranged with SIRO and Broadband officer to get an update on the Broadband issue?

Reply - Yes

Cllr. Carthy:

Can a letter be issued to AIB and BOI highlighting the fact that their ATMs in Carrickmacross have been 'Out of Service' on a number of occasions over the last few months, especially at weekends/Bank Holidays, and this has caused frustrations for many people who prefer to use cash.

Reply – a letter shall issue to both Banks seeking a resolution to this issue.

Requested that the Municipal District issue a letter to Meath County Council requesting that they consider carrying out repair works to the Ballyhoe Lake access road – this amenity is used by a high volume of people from both Counties.

Cllr. Keelan:

Asked if some works could be carried out to tidy up the area around “Bully’s Acre”?
Reply – the MD Executive will investigate this matter.

Cllr. O’ Hanlon:

Acknowledged the positive visits of both Minister Heather Humphreys and Minister Rabbitte. He also acknowledged the work off the executive in relation to attaining funding to complete these projects

The meeting concluded at 11:10 am

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator