

## 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> March 2022 at 10.00am.

**Present:** Cathaoirleach PJ O’Hanlon

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

**In Attendance:** Damien Thornton, A/District Coordinator, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, Michelle Boyle, Staff Officer, Julieann O’Reilly, Clerical Officer

Cathaoirleach O’Hanlon spoke about the delayed official opening of the Group Home in Carrickmacross due to Minister Rabbitte having Covid-19. He stated that it is unfortunate, however once Minister Rabbitte recovers she will come to Carrickmacross asap.

Cllr. Carthy sent best wishes to Minister Rabbitte, stating that it’s a pity it is not happening, particularly for the families involved. Cllr. Carthy advised that he had sought assurances that the official opening delay will not delay residents moving in which was confirmed.

Cathaoirleach O’Hanlon spoke about the recent Monaghan GAA game where the team retained Division 1 status in the National League and expressed congratulations to all involved.

Cllr. Carthy stated that he would like to see a civic reception for various local groups / organisations as discussed previously.

Cllrs. Campbell, Keelan and McCooey all wished to be associated with the above comments.

Cllr. Kerr Conlon wished it noted that she had arrive a few minutes late.

Cathaoirleach O’Hanlon congratulated all involved in organising the local St. Patrick’s Day Parades in Inniskeen, Carrickmacross and Oram. He also thanked all involved with the annual flag raising ceremony. On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan it was unanimously agreed to issue a letter of thanks to the organisers of the parades. Cllr. Keelan wished to acknowledge all those who took part. Cllr. McCooey spoke about the hard work of the Oram Parade Committee and mentioned the local artists who participated.

## **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. McCooey, the minutes of the Parking Control Scheme for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney meeting held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. McCooey, the minutes of the February Monthly Meeting held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. McCooey, the minutes of the GMA Budget Meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 were adopted.

## **2.0 Matters Arising**

Cllr. Carthy spoke about the Traffic Warden visiting the towns last week, stating that they seemed to have an active morning. Cllr. Carthy commented that the message needs to go out that people need to be aware of the parking regulations.

Cllr. Carthy commended the MD staff for the recent street marking works in Carrickmacross.

Cllr. Keelan also acknowledged the good works regarding the line markings. He commented that some minor issues cropped up, but they were dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Cllr. O'Hanlon noted that the parking rules and regulations need to be followed, commenting that there is 2 hours free parking.

Cllr. Keelan acknowledged the works done at Magee's corner, Inniskeen. He stated that are more works needed and requested an update on these (tree cutting and lighting).

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that we are out of tree cutting season currently, noting that the dangerous trees had been cut. Lighting for this vicinity is not on the current proposal list.

Cllr. McCooey requested that the MD identify any possible funding opportunities for the Oram road, R182.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that the MD will apply to any appropriate schemes available.

## **3.0 Correspondence**

- i. Letter from Gavin Quigley seeking permission to hold a fundraising event in Drummond Etra Top Square.

Cllr. Carthy thanked Mr. Quigley for taking the initiative and acknowledged the fundraising committee's works. Cllr. Carthy stated that not only should permission be granted but support should be provided. Cllr. Keelan stated that there is a responsibility to assist in any way. Cllr. McCooey stated that the word should be put out to support this cause. Cllr.

O'Hanlon commented that the Civic Offices should be "an open house" if it is ever needed and complimented the fundraising group for the support given to the family. Cllr. Campbell wished to be associated with the remarks.

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan it was unanimously agreed to grant permission.

ii. Letter from Office of the Tánaiste.

Cllr. O'Hanlon wished to note that recent correspondence, which was in The Northern Standard, was nothing to do with this MD. He believed that Deputy Niamh Smyth submitted it. He wished to make it clear that the original letter sent by the MD was to the company. The company are aware that this MD will do anything to help in any way.

iii. Letter from Tuath Housing

Cllr. Carthy suggested that there is a need to meet urgently to see how the project will be progressed. The proposed date was set at Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm in the Civic Offices, Carrickmacross.

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

##### Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Clarified that the C:Tek II is progressing as planned.

##### Cllr. Carthy:

Commented that with the introduction of HGV restrictions, there is a huge volume of HGV's that use the Ross Road to enter Carrickmacross. The current layout means that lorries turn a tight left which results in the trailers dragging on the road, damaging the footpath. Are there measures which can be implemented to avoid this?

Reply – A swept path analysis will be carried out on the proposed Active Travel scheme and the scheme will be audited. The selected surfacing materials will take account of abrasive turning movements at the junction.

New LED lights on the Bog Road, Castleblayney have not been switched on.

Reply – they are due to be switched on in the coming weeks.

Drumcondra Road - Stated that an insurance rebate from IPB was used previously for footpath works. Can Active Travel funding apply? It is a heavily used stretch of road.

Reply – These works can be considered under the Public Footpath Programme for 2022. It is on today's Agenda to set a date for a meeting to consider the Public Lighting and Footpaths Programmes for 2022.

##### Cllr. McCooey:

What is left to be done on the Monaghan Road, Castleblayney? Safety concerns have been raised.

Reply – It is intended to install a right-turn lane at the junction with the Ballybay Road.

##### Cllr. Keelan:

Welcomed the efforts on progressing CCTV in Carrickmacross. Asked if the submissions received were positive overall?

Reply – 5 submissions were received and were generally supportive.

Acknowledged that Public Realm Plan Inniskeen public information event scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> April 2pm to 8pm in Inniskeen.

Welcomed funding for the Monaghan Way. Stated that a number of landowners contacted him with health and safety concerns. Have they been met, and the concerns discussed?  
Reply – Personally aware of one landowner and they have been contacted.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Questioned whether the public can attend the upcoming meeting about the N2 Ardee to South Castleblayney By-Pass?

Reply – Will clarify if meetings with landowners are going to be on an individual basis and in situ or online.

Stated that he wants to be sure that all landowners are au fait with the situation.

## **5.0 Questions**

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

1. In welcoming the funding for Inniskeen village under the town & village enhancement scheme, what works will be undertaken, when is it hoped to commence these works, will the council ensure good consultation with community organisations prior to works commencing?

Response:

The scheme shall provide for public realm, heritage and amenity enhancements in the Village Heart and St. Mary’s Space areas of Inniskeen Village. The proposed works include:

- The development of a looped heritage trail linking the Round Tower and graveyard on the site of St. Daig’s Monastery to the village centre
- Cleaning and repointing of existing natural stone boundary walls
- Landscaping, including the introduction of planters, new street furniture and the localised realignment of footways
- The provision of a centrepiece village sculpture
- The upgrade of the existing car park, including re-surfacing and drainage works
- The construction of low planter walls with integrated seating
- The installation of bespoke interpretive signage and way markers
- The construction of a pedestrian crossing to enhance connectivity to the Patrick Kavanagh Centre
- The provision of a village Gateway Feature

The MD Executive has initiated the procurement of design consultancy services to progress the scheme to construction tender stage. Subject to securing any necessary statutory consents, it is hoped to commence construction in Q3 2022. The MD Executive shall endeavour to proactively engage with stakeholders during the detailed design phase.

2. Progress if any has been made on the rollout of the bicycle rental scheme for Inniskeen village and its environs., as we approach the tourism season it is vital that this scheme is operating as soon as possible?

Response:

Tentative discussions with a prospective Operator for the bike rental scheme remain on-going.

3. What plans have the Council to resurface the Dundalk road in particular the area from the roundabout and out pass St Joseph's cemetery, what plans have the council to put in place traffic calming measures at this location including a pedestrian crossing adjacent to St Joseph's given the heavy volume & speed of vehicles including pedestrian activity at this very busy location ?

Response:

At present a contractor has not be appointed for the Carrickmacross Wastewater outfall scheme which proposes to run though the Dundalk Rd roundabout. When a contractor is appointed, and a programme is submitted this Municipal District can then plan for the resurfacing of the Roundabout. An application for a Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme for the provision of new pedestrian crossing on the R179 at St Joseph's Cemetery, Dundalk Rd, Carrickmacross was unsuccessful in 2022 however this scheme will be reapplied for in 2023.

4. What plans have the council to put in place extra traffic calming measures at the very dangerous Essexford junction on the Dundalk regional road (R178)

Response:

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

5. Will all the roadways included in this year's resurfacing programme (2022) be upgraded & resurfaced given the ever- increasing cost of fuel and other construction costs etc?

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.

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

6. Has there been any provisions made by the Engineering Section to have additional road markings at the Cloughvalley Schools, Carrickmacross, to help prevent illegal/poor parking practices at school times?

Response:

Engineering staff have examined this site and there is sufficient road markings and no parking signage in the vicinity of the Cloughvalley Schools, Carrickmacross. An additional pedestrian safety barrier was erected in this area in 2021.

7. When is it expected works will commence on the footpath to the Lurgan's Hill, and the pedestrian crossing on the old Ardee road (at Nuremore), Carrickmacross?

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.

Works on the pedestrian crossing on the Old Ardee Road at the Nuremore to be complete at the end of Q2

8. When is it expected works will be concluded on the new Castleblayney Enterprise centre and has any work been done yet to encourage tenancy in 'An Iomaire/The Ridge'?

Response:

It is envisaged that the project shall be completed by the end of Q3 2022. Tentative discussions with a prospective anchor tenant remain on-going.

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

9. What is the update on the Market House in Castleblayney?

Response:

The Design Consultants are continuing to progress design works for the Castleblayney Market House and public realm facilities for Market Square. Having regard to the building's protected status, the Design Team have prepared a Conservation Strategy for the Market House, they have also held a number of consultation meetings with

relevant departments of Monaghan County Council. Works completed to date include a topographical survey, building condition report and site investigation works within the building footprint. Traffic and parking surveys for the area's adjacent to the Market House are scheduled to commence before the end of March. The Consultants are developing preliminary design proposals which are expected to be finalised in early Q2 2022, following this works will commence on the preparation of detailed design proposals and Part VIII planning documentation. It is anticipated that a planning application for the project will be submitted in Q2/Q3 2022.

**10. What is the update on the works at the Gate House number 2 in Castleblayney?**

Response:

The Contractor is continuing to progress contract works for the Gate Lodge 2 Library and Public Realm facilities. Construction of the new roof structure for the existing Gate Lodge building has commenced and new public realm enhancement works at the entrance to Lough Muckno are progressing well. Civil works in relation to a new storm attenuation system and precast foul water pumping station are currently progressing on site and the erection of a structural steel frame to facilitate the new extension building is expected to commence in the coming weeks. The project is currently scheduled for completion in Q4 2022.

**11. With the recent announcement of €250,000 funding for Inniskeen under the Town and Village Scheme.**

**(a) What is the exact scope of the works to be carried out?**

The scheme shall provide for public realm, heritage and amenity enhancements in the Village Heart and St. Mary's Space areas of Inniskeen Village. The proposed works include:

- The development of a looped heritage trail linking the Round Tower and graveyard on the site of St. Daig's Monastery to the village centre
- Cleaning and repointing of existing natural stone boundary walls
- Landscaping, including the introduction of planters, new street furniture and the localised realignment of footways
- The provision of a centrepiece village sculpture
- The upgrade of the existing car park, including re-surfacing and drainage works
- The construction of low planter walls with integrated seating
- The installation of bespoke interpretive signage and way markers
- The construction of a pedestrian crossing to enhance connectivity to the Patrick Kavanagh Centre

- The provision of a village Gateway Feature

(b) What is the timeframe of this works?

The MD Executive has initiated the procurement of design consultancy services to progress the scheme to construction tender stage. Subject to securing any necessary statutory consents, it is hoped to commence construction in Q3 2022.

(c) When is it envisaged that this work will commence?

It is envisaged that construction works shall commence in Q3 2022.

(d) How long will this work take?

Pending the forgoing, it is envisaged that the works shall be substantially complete in Q2 2023.

12. With the upcoming National Spring day Clean due to take place in April where local groups can avail of skips, and litter pickers and bags funding by the Environmental Services.

(a) What is the process for groups to register?

(b) What are the criteria for groups to be able to avail of this successful scheme?

Response:

The National Spring Clean takes place during the month of April and is open to community groups, businesses, schools and individuals who wish to take part in a local litter pick or clean up within the own locality. Registrations are currently open and once you register, An Taisce will send you a free kit. Registration details are on [www.nationalspringclean.org](http://www.nationalspringclean.org).

As part of this Spring Clean, Environmental Services offer litter pickers and bags to groups who are registered with An Taisce. To avail of these, groups can email [litter@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:litter@monaghancoco.ie). Furthermore, Tidy Town and Community Groups may avail of a skip to assist in larger spring cleans by requesting and completing a spring clean request form – also available by emailing [litter@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:litter@monaghancoco.ie), subject to availability. To note, these are not available for garden clean outs or large items like mattresses, beds or household furniture and may only be used for groups which will have in excess of 20 bags of rubbish.

Over 100 groups/individuals/schools within the County took part last year. This is always a hugely successful interactive experience for all involved as it gives the various individual groups, an opportunity to combine forces and carry out a large clean-up of their locality.

13. With the plans being worked up for the feasibility study on the Vision for Lough Muckno and the surrounds. What plans has the Castleblayney Carrickmacross

Municipal District in place short term to look at addressing the dereliction at Hope Castle and the Annex?

Response:

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. There is currently no budget allocation nor plan in place to carry out remedial works on the Annex building(s).

## **6.0 Consideration of MD Schedule of Works**

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon, the MD Schedule of Works was unanimously agreed.

## **7.0 Date for Roads Area/Budget Meeting**

The proposed date of Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm was agreed by all.

## **8.0 DOS**

Director of Service Orders 13/2022, 14/2022, 15/2022 and 16/2022 were duly noted.

## **9.0 VOS/VOC**

Votes of Sympathy were passed to the following:

Gretta Murphy & family on the death of Macartan (Max) Murphy; Ann Scotson & Family on the death of James (Jimmy) Scotson; Bernie McMahan & Family on the death of Noel McMahan; the Cassidy Family on the death of Pat Cassidy and to Martin & Nuala McConnon on the death of Michael McConnon.

Votes of congratulations were passed to the Muckno Lakers basketball team on winning the All-Ireland U14 Championship and to Hazel Hughes who was selected to represent Ireland in Cross Country running and won a medal on Saturday.

## **10.0 AOB**

Cllr. Carthy:

Commented that Limerick had good autism awareness at their St. Patrick's Day Parade and suggested that this looked into for next year's Carrickmacross parade.

Reply – this will be taken on board.

Stated that he has been contacted by Castleblayney people asking if a live streaming camera can be sought for Castleblayney town?

Reply – will revert to the members on this matter.

Cllr. Keelan:

Stated that he has been contacted by a landowner who is willing to engage with MCC regarding parking in Inniskeen village in relation to the Public Realm Plan.

Reply – All feasible options will be explored.

Requested an update about the safety concerns at Close Drummond.

Reply – District Engineer Matthew Lambe spoke with the developer last week. They intend to erect hoarding this week.

Requested an update on the completion of the Public Lighting Programme – Lisdoonan was last on the list?

Reply – this is due to be completed in the coming weeks.

Acknowledged the recent bridge repairs works and enquired if Corcrin Bridge is on the list for repairs?

Reply – it is on the list for this year.

Cllr. McCooey:

Sought clarification if cars can park on the footpath after a certain time at the football field in Castleblayney?

Reply – Regulations state that there is no parking on footpaths. Signage is due to be installed within the coming weeks.

The meeting concluded at 11:27am

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Cathaoirleach

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Date

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Meeting Administrator