

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 July 2022 at 10.50am.

Present: Cathaoirleach Aidan Campbell

Cllrs. Aoife McCooey, Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan, PJ O’Hanlon

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

The Members wished to congratulate Liam Hickey on his recent retirement and thanked him for his years of dedicated service. Cllr. Keelan requested that a congratulatory letter issue to Mr. Hickey.

The Members also congratulated and extended best wishes to Julieann O’Reilly, Assistant Staff Officer, on her promotion and impending move to the Housing Section.

Cllr. Campbell commended the success of the recent Muckno Mania Festival. He proposed that a congratulatory letter Issue to the festival committee. Cllr. Campbell thank all involved with the festival.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. McCooey, the minutes of the June 2022 Municipal District A.G.M. Meeting, held on Monday the 27th of June 2022, were adopted.

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2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan commended the repair works to the boundary fencing at Drummond Close and enquired as to the completion date?

Reply – A/Municipal District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that remedial works are due to be completed next week.

Cllr. Keelan noted the correspondence received from Deputy Niamh Smyth regarding GP services in Carrickmacross. Cllr. Keelan stated that members need to keep this issue on the agenda.

Cllr. Keelan requested an update on the bridge at the River Fane.

Reply – District Engineer, Matthew Lambe, advised that it is on the maintenance list.

Cllr. O’Hanlon concurred with the comments concerning Drummond Close.

Cllr. O’Hanlon queried if works had started at Breffni House?

Cllr. Keelan advised that they have and that he will follow up with the Contractor after the summer break.

Cllr. O’Hanlon queried as to whether a letter was sent to the banks and if a response had been received? He stressed the importance of meeting with them to discuss future plans.

Reply - Michelle Boyle, Staff Officer, advised that she will check this and revert to Cllr.

O’Hanlon.

Cllr. Carthy mentioned the motion regarding AIB which had been sent in. He agreed with

Cllr. O’Hanlon on the importance of establishing the scope of future bank services. Cllr.

Carthy opined that people are being “pushed away” from cash services.

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

“That this MD calls on all local Oireachtas Members to meet, in person, with Councillors from the Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District to discuss issues of concern locally including, but not limited to,

- *GP Services*
- *Banking and future of cash services*
- *Housing Provision, Roads, Interconnector etc.*

We suggest a date be provided to Oireachtas Members in order for them to block off time on their calendars”.

Cllr. Keelan referred to the public outcry about the potential loss of cash services. Cllr.

Keelan continued to say that he believes the current situation is a stay of execution. Cllr.

Keelan wished to remind AIB that cash is legal tender – some older people and those on low incomes prefer using cash. He stated that he believes that AIB were “simply chancing their arm”.

Cllr. McCooey commented that her phone had been “hopping” with calls concerning this issue and agreed with Cllr. Keelan’s comment that AIB were “chancing their arm”.

Cllr. Campbell opined that the issue will re-emerge and commented that banks don’t have a social conscious. Cllr. Campbell stated that cash needs to be available.

Cllr. Carthy stated that other public services also need to be looked at, using the example of Bus Eireann, where tickets must be bought online. Cllr. Carthy asserted that there needs to be provision for those who wish to use cash.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that the planned meeting between the Public finance Committee and AIB needs to be brought forward. He commented that he found it sickening to watch the advertisements for a bank, during the All Ireland Final on Sunday, claiming to do so much for local / rural communities.

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

"A letter be sent to John McGuinness, Chairman of the Public Finance Committee, to bring forward the invitation to the banks and have them meet the committee as soon as possible, to make sure that they give a commitment that all services from the banks provided currently are kept in place not alone for now but into the future as well".

Cllr. Carthy proposed that a letter issue to Tuath Housing, requesting an update on the Drummond Close development. This was seconded by Cllr. Keelan.

A robust discussion ensued.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that the issue lies with the Developer and asserted that it is the Developer who should be written to.

Cllr. Carthy remarked that the Executive previously advised that they are not comfortable contacting the Developer and clarified that Tuath Housing will be contacted for an update only.

Cllr. Campbell voiced concern that it may be perceived that the issue is the fault of Tuath Housing and further commented that he has concerns about what the Developer is telling Tuath Housing, as the last letter had "damn lies" in it.

The Members collectively agreed that the issue lies with the Developer and that Tuath Housing are not at fault.

Cllr. Keelan stated that Tuath Housing have previously advised that they are happy to update the Members and it is only information that is being sought.

Cllr. O'Hanlon emphasised that this will be the last time he supports a proposal to write to Tuath Housing on this matter.

The Members unanimously agreed that a letter issue to Tuath Housing seeking an update on the situation.

3.0 Presentation - Lough Muckno Water Quality Initiatives – Feasibility Report Roisin Moore and Pat Merrick

Ms. Moore conveyed apologies on behalf of Ben Malone who was unable to attend.

Cllr. Campbell:

Cllr. Campbell stated that he welcomes anything that can improve the water quality at Lough Muckno.

Questioned if Lough Muckno is similar to other lakes in the country?

Reply – the water is not unique and is similar to others.

Stated that it will be an educational process as to what the general public can do.

Commented that he believes that farmers will do whatever is necessary.

Thanked the delegation for the work carried out in developing the report.

Cllr. McCooey:

Cllr. McCooey commended the report, commenting that it presents the issues and solutions.

Stated that she has no doubt that the community will get on board and she looks forward to seeing progress on it.

Cllr. Keelan:

Acknowledged the work carried out in developing the report.

Commented that it is fair to say that the farming community are being put upon at the moment, stating that in his experience, farmers will deal with any issues that arise.

Stated that it will take a long time to get water quality to a good standard.

Cllr. Keelan opined that the Local Authority have not covered themselves in glory regarding water quality issues and that we all have responsibility to do our piece.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Stated that it would be wrong if the Members did not 100% support this report.

Voiced annoyance about the creation of Irish Water and how infrastructure was “given away”.

Commented that the report is particularly valuable as it has come from those on the ground.

Suggested that the report should be sent to local TD’s and Senators.

Thanked the Presenters for their time and efforts.

Cllr. Carthy:

Concurred with the comments of all the other Members.

Wished the Presenters the best of luck with getting the message out there.

Mr. Pat Merrick stated that they, as community leaders, will do their best to get the message out there. Mr. Merrick thanked the Members for their time.

Ms. Moore thanked the Members and Monaghan County Council for their support.

4.0 Correspondence

- i. Response from Niamh Smyth TD re: GP Shortages in Carrickmacross

The response was noted.

5.0 MD Co-Ordinator’s Report

Cllr. Keelan:

Requested an update on the Inniskeen bike rental Scheme.

Reply – the intention is to go to the wider market using the eTenders platform.

Acknowledged the progression of Carrickmacross and Castleblayney CCTV projects.

Regarding the maintenance of roads – the number of complaints is huge which is very concerning. The issue of roads funding needs to be raised.

Reply – the summary on the complaints list is not categorised. The complaints are not all related to road surfacing issues.

Asked if there are any road projects in this Municipal District using reclaimed asphalt?

Reply – There are none planned for this year.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Agreed with Cllr. Keelan’s comments concerning road maintenance. Asked how much it will cost to repair these roads. Are there safety issues? Has there ever been a year where all the funding has not been spent? Requested a presentation for the next meeting about safety issues on the roads – how much will it cost to fix these.

Regarding C:Tek II, sought clarification that a Letter of Acceptance will issue within the coming weeks. Requested that the Members are kept abreast of developments.

Can the MD ensure there are no further delays in relation to Shirley House Lane car park? Spoke about speeding issues located at the new Emmets GAA facility on the Donaghmoynne road. Can this be investigated?

Cllr. Carthy:

Stated that there needs to be provisions in place for off - street parking.

Repeated a call for the provision of increased Traffic Warden services in Carrickmacross.

Advised that there is a need for a pedestrian crossing on the Oriel Road. The Group Home and new medical centre have increased footfall at this location.

Reply – this matter will be investigated.

Advised that there is excessive speeding at the Farney Street entrance to St. Joseph’s National School. Can a traffic count be carried out during the school holidays.

Reply – this matter will be investigated.

Cllr. McCooey:

Requested clarification regarding safety funding for the R182. Asked what can be done in the interim?

Reply – this location will be included on the list.

Cllr. Campbell:

Requested an update on the bridge rehabilitation works on the R182 (The Nest box) and at Lurganearly.

Reply – works are planned to commence in mid-August.

6.0 Questions

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

1. When is it expected the new security railings will be added to the Convent Lands Playground, Carrickmacross, which will enable the council to re-open this much needed amenity?

Response:

Temporary Security fencing was placed around this playpark due to ongoing vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the play park causing extensive damage to the play equipment and soft matting areas leaving the park unfit for use. This MD has examined all possibilities including the provision of security fencing and are at

present examining the possibility of the provision of a natural creative play area to provide a cost-effective appropriate solution

2. When will the extension to the balustrade at the foot of St. Macartans Villas (at the Cross road/Farney St junction) be fitted as this has been on our list for a number of years now?

Response:

The extension to the balustrade has been completed.

3. Will the council carry out a safety audit on the Ard na Lorgan Playpark (Castleblayney) as there are issues with the ground tiles; also, the bin adjacent to this playpark needs to be monitored as it is regularly used for domestic rubbish?

Response:

The MD Executive shall arrange for the undertaking of a safety assessment on the Ard na Lorgan play park facility as soon as is reasonably practicable. The matter of alleged illegal dumping shall be referred to Monaghan County Council's Environment Services for further investigation.

4. When are repair works expected to take place on the footpaths throughout Drumillard housing estate, as previously highlighted by the executive, and can this MD ensure that the pathway running through the green area (adjacent to the playpark) is included in the repair works as it is cracked, uneven and dangerous to walk on – can this MD confirm if lighting will be added to the Drumillard Playpark and the pathway that runs alongside it and will consideration be given to adding another seating bench close to this playpark to add to its amenity?

Response:

It is intended that the previously identified footway repair works shall be completed in Q3 of 2022. The MD Executive shall examine the footway adjacent to the playpark to ascertain the extent of repairs necessary. The adopted Public Lighting Programme 2022 does not include for the installation of Public Lighting at the locations outlined. The proposal for the provision of Public Lighting at Drumillard playpark and along the pathway adjacent to the playpark shall be included for consideration under future Public Lighting Programmes. The MD Executive shall review the amenity seating requirements in the vicinity of the playpark

5. Conscious that this council is in the process of installing additional dog fouling bins in Carrickmacross, specifically on the main street, can I ask that consideration be

given to adding a couple of these bins along Mullinary and an additional bin at the other end of Cloughvalley park in next year's programme?

Response:

The MD Executive shall examine the feasibility of installing additional dog fouling bins at the locations outlined

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

6. When is it hoped to progress the CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross town and its environs given that all the relevant approvals are now in place as I understand , and similarly when is it hoped progress the CCTV scheme for Castleblayney town ?

Response:

Pending completion of detailed design and the preparation of a Data Protection Impact Assessment for the proposed Carrickmacross Community Based CCTV Scheme, it is intended that an application for authorisation to operate the scheme be submitted to An Garda Síochána in late Q3/early Q4 2022.

An application for authorisation to operate the Castleblayney Community Based CCTV Scheme is currently resting with An Garda Síochána. An update on the progress of the application is expected within the coming weeks.

7. What progress if any has been made in relation to a proposed parking study for the Inniskeen village area given the lack of parking facilities in the village centre?

Response:

It is intended that a tender for the procurement of Consultancy Services to develop a car parking strategy for Inniskeen Village shall issue to the market within the coming weeks

8. What plans have the council to progress the bicycle rental scheme for Inniskeen and the wider south Monaghan area given that no private company or individual have taken on the scheme to date?

Response:

The MD Executive intend to issue a tender to the wider market, via the *eTenders* platform, within the coming weeks.

9. In welcoming the funding for some road safety measures when is it hoped to have a design completed and commence works on the proposed pedestrian crossing at the Lisanisk junction on the Donaghmoyne Road and also at the very dangerous Longfield cross junction ?

Response:

Pending detailed design, it is envisaged that works will commence at both locations in Q3 of 2022.

10. What is the up to date position in relation to the public realm plan for Inniskeen village including the provision of safe walking routes throughout the village area and across the River Fane and beyond Magee's corner?

Response:

Design consultants have been appointed and are presently preparing a Concept Development & Option Selection study. On completion of this study, three options shall be put forward for public consultation. Detailed design shall commence following this public consultation process, and the identification of the preferred design solution.

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

11. With the work commenced on the new Onomy Walk Development which will link up with the other walks. When is it envisaged for this work to be complete and the walk opened?

Response:

The Contractor's current work's programme provides for a completion date of Friday the 29th of July 2022.

12. What's the update on the Ridge enterprise hub in Castleblayney?

Response:

The site was closed for annual holidays from 8th July to Monday 25th July. There has been a significant delay in lead time for window & door installation, which has in turn, impacted upon the programme completion date. It is estimated that the 'Hand Over' date will be delayed by circa. 8 weeks due to the delay in delivery of glass for the window & door installation.

13. With ongoing works taking place. When is it hoped to proceed to the next stage for planning for the Market House in Castleblayney? What is the expected timelines in the process?

Response:

The Design Consultants are currently finalising the Part VIII planning documentation for the regeneration project and it is expected that the planning application will be submitted in August 2022. The Part VIII planning process includes a 6-week public consultation period, the application must be on public display for 4 weeks and following the end of the public display period, submissions and observations may be received within a further 2-week period. The entire statutory Part VIII planning process is anticipated to take approximately 10-12

weeks between the date of submission and its formal presentation to the Elected Members at a monthly Council Meeting.

14. What is the update on the works to improve and upgrade the Monaghan Way?

Response:

Approximately 35% of the field work in relation to the Monaghan Way route is now complete. Consultation is currently ongoing between relevant landowners and locals along the route with the appointed trail consultants and the Cavan-Monaghan Rural Recreation Officer.

15. What is the update on the proposed resurfacing of the Castleblayney by-pass between the Cremartin and Tullyvin roundabout?

Response:

It is envisaged that works shall commence on the 8th August 2022. The works are scheduled to take place over a ten-week period, with all works to be carried out at night-time between the hours of 9pm to 5am. A special speed limit of 60km/h shall be in operation for the duration of the works.

7.0 AOB

Cllr. Keelan:

There is a dangerous junction located at Manning Castle Golf Club and the Tennis club. Can this be investigated?

Reply – it is the Executives’ understanding that this is a private road, however this matter will be investigated.

There are a number of public lights needed at Magee’s corner, Inniskeen.

Reply – Any new lighting can be placed on the Public Lighting Programme for consideration by the Members. Existing lighting issues shall be investigated.

The River Fane is blocked with debris.

Reply – this area is actively monitored.

Cllr. Carthy:

Castleblayney Rovers Soccer club currently have temporary toilets in place. The allotments are also located nearby. The Club had recently applied for funding for toilets however it was unsuccessful. Can the MD investigate possible streams of funding?

Reply – yes.

Please ensure that the provision of a bandstand at the Civic Offices in Carrickmacross is kept on the agenda. Carrickmacross could use a public performance space.

Is there an update on security railing for the Convent Lands Playpark? Is it possible to have similar railings to the ones in Cloughvalley?

Put a call out to the public to stop feeding stray cats.

Cllr. Campbell:

Requested an update on the re-lining of the Monaghan Road, Castleblayney.
Commended the “Rebels to Reels” book launch, commenting that it is was a fantastic event.
Cllr. Campbell highlighted the positive effect the book will have for tourism in Carrickmacross. Requested that a letter issue to Joe McCabe to congratulate him on his success.

Cathaoirleach Campbell wished everyone a happy summer break and the meeting concluded at 12:35pm

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator