

## Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan

### Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain



### The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney

#### Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of Municipal District Monthly meeting held in Carrickmacross Civic Office, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 10.50am.

**Present:** Cathaoirleach Aidan Campbell

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

**In Attendance:** Carmel O’Hare, A/Director of Services, Damien Thornton, A/District Coordinator, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, Deirdre Power, Staff Officer, Sarah Moore, Clerical Officer

The Members welcomed Cllr. Conlon to his first meeting and paid recognition to Cllr. Conlon’s mother, Cllr. Mary Kerr Conlon, whom they acknowledged as a great advocate of Carrickmacross. The Members stated that they looked forward to working with Cllr. Conlon and wished Cllr. Conlon every success in his new role.

The Members extended a warm welcome to Carmel O’Hare, A/Director of Services, and wished her every success in the Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney MD. They also congratulated Deirdre Power on her promotion and return to the District Office, wishing her well in her new role.

The Members roundly congratulated Cllr. Carthy and his wife Denise on the arrival of their baby girl Seoidín.

Cllr. Campbell commended the recent Garda Centenary Event, held at the Civic Offices, Carrickmacross, and acknowledged the exemplary effort of the MD Executive in hosting the event. Cllr. Campbell proposed that a letter issue to An Garda Síochána, congratulating them on the success of the event and acknowledging the work they do. Cllr. O’Hanlon seconded the proposal.

Cllr. McCooey concurred with Cllr. Campbell’s comments and also highlighted the very successful return of the Castleblayney Fair Day. Cllr. McCooey thanked the MD staff for their efforts in helping with the event.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that it was great to see the Garda Centenary Event held at the Civic Offices and commented that the existence of the Civic Offices facility guaranteed that, going forward, local democracy will be based in Carrickmacross. Cllr. O'Hanlon congratulated Kieran and Aidan Marron on the recent opening of the new Activ8 premises at the Nexus Business Park in Carrickmacross. Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that this was a great day for Carrickmacross, with the creation of 200 jobs for the area, and proposed that a congratulatory letter issue to Kieran and Aidan, and the staff of Activ8, for having faith in Carrickmacross and creating local employment. Cllr. Keelan seconded the proposal.

Cllr. Carthy stated that he was delighted that Carrickmacross was able to host the Garda Centenary Event and commended the Castleblayney Fair Day Committee on the successful return of the Fair Day. Cllr. Carthy voiced his support for the issuance of a congratulatory letter to the Marron family and the staff of Activ8, for what they have built and what they will bring to the town of Carrickmacross. Cllr. Carthy thanked everyone for their congratulatory wishes on the birth of his daughter.

Cllr. Campbell stated that he would like to commend Activ8, commenting that it was a homegrown company, and it was more of what was needed in the area.

Cllr. Conlon thanked everyone for their kind words. He stated that he attended the opening of the new Activ8 premises and that it was a great occasion. Cllr. Conlon stated that it will only add to the town and encourage people to shop and stay local.

Carmel O'Hare, A/Director of Services, thanked everyone for their kind words of welcome and pledged her support to the Members and staff in the Municipal District.

### **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon, the minutes of the July 2022 Monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2022, were adopted.

### **2.0 Matters Arising**

Cllr. Keelan commended the repair works to the boundary fencing at Drummond Close and thanked the Coordinator and District Engineer for their efforts in having these works completed. He enquired about the missing streetlight at Magee's Corner, Inniskeen. He stated that evenings were now drawing in and that the light was on a very dangerous corner and was an important issue.

Reply – A/District Co-ordinator, Damien Thornton, advised that the required remedial works to the lighting at Magee's Corner is scheduled on the essential repairs and maintenance list and shall be attended to within the coming weeks.

Cllr. Keelan advised of a dangerous junction between Donaghmoynne Village and the road to Mannan Golf Course stating that there was real concern for road safety at this location.

Reply – A/District Co-ordinator, Damien Thornton, advised that the MD Executive shall investigate the matter.

Cllr. Carthy acknowledged the letter sent to Tuath Housing and requested that a follow up letter issue. Cllr. Carthy also highlighted concerns with the footway at the entrance to Drumillard housing estate in Castleblayney, stating that a dished crossing was needed as people used this footway to walk to Lidl and the shops on the outskirts of the town.

Reply – A/District Co-ordinator, Damien Thornton, advised that these footway works were scheduled on the essential repairs and maintenance list, and shall be completed within the coming weeks.

Cllr. O’Hanlon requested an update on the speeding issue at the GAA facility on the Donaghmoyne road.

Reply – District Engineer, Matthew Lambe, advised that a speed survey had been completed and that he hoped to receive a report later this week.

Cllr. Campbell asked if there was an update on the reopening of the road adjacent the Nest Box.

Reply – District Engineer, Matthew Lambe, advised that the bridge had been repaired and the road was now reopened.

Cllr. Campbell requested that a date be confirmed to host a presentation evening to recognise the achievements of the local groups who have won events over the last couple of years. It was agreed by all that the next MD Meeting take place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 4.30pm, to facilitate a presentation event at 6:30pm that same evening. It was further agreed that the Elected Members would email the Executive with details of the various groups that are to receive recognition awards.

### **3.0 Presentation by Active Travel (Bernadette McArdle & Jennifer McCormack)**

#### Cllr. Campbell:

Cllr. Campbell thanked Bernadette and Jennifer for their presentation and stated that it was great to see the different stages these projects were at.

#### Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Cllr. O’Hanlon thanked the Active Travel Team for the presentation but raised concerns about the frustration within the local community regarding the timescales for the delivery of these projects.

#### Cllr. Carthy

Cllr. Carthy requested details of the design for Ross Road and highlighted the importance of public consultation. He stated that there was an issue with Local Representatives not being informed of the detailed plans for local projects and that these needed to be made available. Cllr. Carthy stated that the proposed double cycle lane on the Dundalk Road was going to have a significant impact however, the Members were not in a position to inform the public. He stated that the works undertaken on the Monaghan Road, Castleblayney had a huge impact on the local community however they hadn't been given enough time to consider the plans or changes. Cllr. Carthy stated that the Local Authority need to bring the public along with them in developing these plans.

#### Cllr. Keelan

Cllr. Keelan stated that there was a huge amount of work which had to be delivered on time and within budget and queried if the time runs out will the money still be secured. He stated that good public consultation is needed, that people be made aware of these projects and have an opportunity to provide feedback on them. Cllr. Keelan requested that today's presentation be circulated to the Members and that an update on any work that is being undertaken by the Active Travel Unit in the Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney MD is included in the Co-Ordinator's Report.

Bernadette McArdle advised that the funding was secured and rolled on to the following year.

#### Cllr. Conlon

Cllr. Conlon noted that there was huge frustration among the public regarding timelines for these projects.

Bernadette McArdle advised that the Active Travel Team are happy to provide overviews of schemes but would rather present the Members with a scheme which they feel will pass the NTA's approval.

Cllr. Carthy stated that he is aware that the engineering section is overflowing with work that must be done but queried as to whether the NTA might be better supporting the design of schemes at a local level.

Cllr. Keelan queried as to whether the NTA have ever come down to inspect these sites.

Bernadette McArdle replied that they had not.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that the success of the work done locally is down the people who are working on the ground.

Cllr. Campbell commented that he is happy that communication has opened up and that the Members would like to be kept well informed and looked forward to working with the Active Travel Team.

#### **4.0 Correspondence**

##### **(i) Letters to Oireachtas Members**

###### Cllr. O'Hanlon

Cllr. O'Hanlon asked if letters had been sent to the Oireachtas Members and if a meeting was to take place.

Reply - A/District Co-ordinator, Damien Thornton, advised that responses had been received from 3 invitees confirming that they could attend the MD meeting, with one invitee later withdrawing their availability. Letters shall issue to seek a suitable alternate date.

##### **(ii) Response from Niamh Smyth TD**

###### Cllr. Keelan

Cllr. Keelan acknowledged the response from Niamh Smyth TD and stated that the issues of GP shortages in the Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney MD, road infrastructure and banking need to be discussed with the Ministers.

#### **5.0 MD Co-Ordinator's Report**

###### Cllr. Keelan:

Commended the Co-ordinator on the report. An issue which concerns him is that no tender has been received regarding the Public Realm Plan for Inniskeen. He stated that he hoped the Executive can push through with a plan that can be completed.

Reply - A/Municipal District Co-ordinator, Damien Thornton, advised that the MD Executive has re-advertised the tender.

Cllr. Keelan queried as to whether the MD were still looking at the possibility of purchasing the land at the back of the Bank of Ireland as he considers this needs to be kept on the agenda.

Reply - A/District Co-ordinator, Damien Thornton, advised that it had initially proved troublesome to establish ownership of the land in question however, ownership has now been determined and the MD Executive shall explore the possibility of purchasing the land.

Cllr. Carthy:

In relation to the dog walking park, he noted the change in the report, and it seems that we are now over the last hurdle. When is it envisaged to have this completed and an opening date set?

Reply - A/Municipal District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised that he shall confirm an official opening date with the Tidy Towns Committee.

Cllr. Carthy queried the opening times of the toilets in Market Square, as he had received recent representation from the public that they had been locked during normal operating hours.

Reply - A/Municipal District Co-ordinator, Damien Thornton, advised that the Executive will investigate the matter.

## **6.0 Questions**

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

1. What is the up-to-date situation with surface draining issues on the Magheraboy road area of Carrickmacross following the previous, substantial, investigation into its cause?

**Response:**

Since the completion of extensive remedial works to the drainage system, downstream of the surface drainage inlet at Ascáill Róis Housing Estate, in October 2021, there have been no reported incidents of flooding in this area. The MD Executive are continuing to monitor the situation.

2. Will this MD consider installing additional ramps in the Coill an Ri estate to reduce speeds or, if outside of our remit, could a request be made to the developer? Also, would council consider adding a ramp to the access road in upper Drummond Etra (behind houses 1-10) to reduce speed?

**Response:**

The Coill An Ri estate has not been taken in charge by Monaghan County Council however, on inspection, there are traffic calming measures in place. The MD executive shall endeavour to contact the Developer and advise of the concerns raised.

The MD Executive shall undertake traffic and speed surveys at upper Drummond Etra to enable an assessment of the necessity for the installation of an additional traffic calming measures, having regard to Monaghan County Council's Adopted Traffic Calming Policy.

3. Has there been any update on the funding application for Rahan's Lake development?

**Response:**

The Department of Rural and Community Development are currently assessing funding applications submitted under Measure 2 of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2022. An announcement on successful funding applications is expected in mid Q4 2022.

4. What is the up-to-date situation with repairs to footpaths in Castleblayney and Carrickmacross; has a full review of public footpaths taken place to ensure that they are safe to traverse? Where works are required, has an application been proposed under Active Travel to ensure that walkways are in a good condition?

**Response:**

The 2022 Footway Repair Programme for Castleblayney and Carrickmacross Towns is substantially complete. Alongside routine inspections, any planned accessibility audits shall incorporate an assessment of footway safety. The MD Executive shall explore all potential sources of funding, including Active Travel, to remedy any defects identified.

5. What plans are now in place to help deliver a pedestrian crossing on the Oriel road, Carrickmacross?

**Response:**

Engineering staff are currently undertaking speed and traffic surveys, including pedestrian surveys, to firstly, determine the necessity for a pedestrian crossing on Oriel Road, and secondly, to ascertain the most appropriate location for any required pedestrian crossing. Should the analysis of these surveys determine the requirement for a pedestrian crossing, funding shall be applied for under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme in 2023.

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

6. What is the up to date position in relation to the proposed CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross Town and its environs, what is the up to date position in relation to the CCTV camera system for Castleblayney town?

**Response:**

**Carrickmacross Community Based CCTV Scheme**

Pending completion of detailed design and the preparation of a Data Protection Impact Assessment, it is intended that an application for authorisation to operate the scheme be submitted to An Garda Síochána in mid Q4 2022.

**Castleblayney Community Based CCTV Scheme**

An application for authorisation to operate the CCTV Scheme is currently resting with An Garda Síochána. The Municipal District Executive are awaiting an official update on the progress of this application.

7. What is the up to date position in relation to the proposed bicycle rental scheme for the Inniskeen and wider south Monaghan area?

**Response:**

The Municipal District Executive, in collaboration with the Community and Enterprise Section, has initiated exploratory discussions with a community group, based in Inniskeen Village, with a view to establishing the bicycle rental scheme as a social enterprise. It is hoped that the scheme shall be operational in early 2023.

8. What is the up to date position in relation to the public realm plan for the Inniskeen Village area, when can we expect to see work commence?

**Response:**

In July of this year, Monaghan County Council sought to engage an Urban Designer/Public Realm Architect -led Multidisciplinary Design Team to develop detailed designs for the Village Heart and St Mary's Space areas of the village and progress the scheme to construction tender stage. No tenders were received. Tender documents have since re-issued to the market with a tender return date of the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. Pending the appointment of a Design Team, and subject to securing any necessary statutory consents, it is hoped to commence construction in Q1 2023.

9. What plans have the council to further improve road safety at the very dangerous Essexfort junction on the Dundalk road?

**Response:**

Traffic Calming measures were implemented at Essexford junction, on the R178 Dundalk Road, under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme in 2021. Monaghan County Council are presently assessing all Regional Roads in the County, and the Essexford Road junction forms part of this assessment. All aspects of safety are being considered and this shall inform future funding applications under the Specific Improvement Grant scheme.

10. When is it hoped to put in place the proposed pedestrian crossing adjacent to the Lisnisk/Donaghmoyn road junction and other associated works, and also when is it hoped to carry out safety improvements at the Longfield cross junction on the Donaghmoyn road?

**Response:**

Pending landowner agreement, it is envisaged that works at both sites shall be completed in Q4 2022.



Questions raised by Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon for September 2022 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

11. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the progression of the Part 8 planning for the development of the car park at Ivy lane?

**Response:**

A variation of the County Development Plan zoning is required to progress the Part 8 application. Consultants are due to be engaged to carry out an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and an Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report in relation to the proposed variation. The proposed variation will be progressed following the preparation of these screening reports. It is envisaged that the variation process shall be commenced before year end.

12. When is it expected that the Local Action Area Plans for the backlands on the East and West of the Main Street will be finalised?

**Response:**

The appointed Design Consultants produced final draft documentation in relation to the different elements of the Local Area Action Plans such as building and street layouts, traffic management etc. A review of these documents was undertaken by the Planning Section and amendments recommended. The Consultants have since replied to these recommendations and the Planning Section is currently considering these responses. It is hoped that the Local Area Action Plans shall be finalised before year end.

13. What is the update position in relation to the appointment of a Design and Build Contractor for the construction of the C Tek II development? What is the envisaged time frame for the completion of this project?

**Response:**

It is expected that a Contractor shall be formally appointed within the coming weeks. It is envisaged that the project shall be substantially complete in mid Q1 2024.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aoife Mc Cooney for September 2022 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

14. Due to the concerns previously raised in relation to road safety on the Oram Road R182, can the MD give an update on its plans for road safety measures? When does the MD through the roads section of Monaghan County Council expect to audit the road; and subsequently apply for Specific Improvements in order to remove the bends?

**Response:**

Monaghan County Council are presently assessing all Regional Roads in the County, and the R182 Oram Road forms part of this assessment. All aspects of safety are being considered and this shall inform future funding applications under the Specific Improvement Grant scheme.

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

15. With the planning permission now lodged for the Market House in Castleblayney. What's the next stage in the process and what's the timescale?

**Response:**

The Part 8 planning application for the project was submitted on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and is currently in progress. The entire statutory planning process is expected to take approximately 10-12 weeks. The Design Consultants are currently developing detailed design proposals which are expected to be finalised in late 2022/early 2023. Following this, works will commence on the preparation of project tender documentation. It is anticipated that a Category 1 RRDF grant funding application for the project implementation will be submitted in 2023.

16. What's the update on the works at the gate lodge in Castleblayney where the library is to be moved?

**Response:**

The Contractor is continuing to progress contract works for the Gate Lodge 2 Library and Public Realm facilities. The reconstructed roof on the existing Gate Lodge building has been completed along with the construction of the new roof to the extension building. Brickwork to the extension has been completed in conjunction with the installation of new windows and an external door. Internally within the new building layouts, first fix mechanical and electrical works have commenced and ceiling and wall finishes are scheduled to commence in the coming weeks. The project is currently scheduled for completion in Q1 2023.

17. What is the update on the public realm works in Inniskeen?

**Response:**

In July of this year, Monaghan County Council sought to engage an Urban Designer/Public Realm Architect-led Multidisciplinary Design Team to develop detailed designs for the Village Heart and St Mary's Space areas of the village and progress the scheme to construction tender stage. No tenders were received. Tender documents have since re-issued to the market with a tender return date of the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. Pending the appointment of a Design Team, and subject to securing any necessary statutory consents, it is hoped to commence construction in Q1 2023.

18. With regard to the works on the Monaghan Way, what is the timeline for completion of the ongoing works?

**Response:**

The anticipated completion date is April 2023.

19. What is the update on works to be carried out on Ballynacarry Bridge?

**Response**

Topographical, Hydrological and Environmental surveys commenced on site in the second half of September. A Ground Investigation contractor has been appointed and is expected to commence Works before the end of October 2022. The data collected from these surveys and investigations will be utilised in Phase 2 'Options Selection', whereby alternative options will be examined, and a preferred route selected. It is envisaged that a planning application for this scheme will be lodged in April/May 2023.

**7.0 Director of Services Orders**

Chief Executive Orders 34/2022, 35/2022, 36/2022, 37/2022, 38/2022, 39/2022, 40/2022, 41/2022, 42/2022, 43/2022, 44/2022.

**8.0 Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations**

Votes of sympathy were extended to Mary Doran & Family on the death of her sister Ann Cunningham, Oliver Keenan & Family & the Kellet Family on the death of Frances Keenan, The Finnegan Family on the death of their father Brian Finnegan, The Byrne & Logan Families and Carmel Finnegan & Family on the death of Margaret (Madge) Byrne.

Votes of congratulations were extended to Cllr. Colm Carthy and his wife Denise on the birth of their daughter Seoidín, to Conor Duffy who participated in the Men's 5000m World Athletics on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and to Carrickmacross Emmets Rounders Senior Men's Team on reaching their third All-Ireland Final in a row.

**9.0 Notice of Motions**

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

*"Following the recent review by the HSE into Disability Services at the Crannog Centre, Castleblayney, and the suggestion that clinical staff be deployed to other services, this MD calls on the Executive to write to the Head of Service (Disability), HSE Area 1, and request that this decision be reversed. We note that a dependence on one clinically trained member of staff to both manage the facility and provide adequate care to vulnerable service users, without the back-up of other medical staff on site, could lead to major implications and is not conducive to their care needs."*

## 10.0 A.O.B.

### Cllr. Keelan:

Asked if the MD Executive could look at the Corcrin Bridge and if this could be reinstated.

Reply – this bridge is scheduled on the list of bridge repairs works however two emergency repairs on the Oram road needed to take precedent.

Asked if the hedges along the local walking routes could be trimmed as these are becoming overgrown.

Reply – hedge trimming currently on-going in Castleblayney Town, to progress to Carrickmacross Town with the next couple of weeks.

### Cllr. Carthy:

Raised concerns regarding the redeployment of staff at the Crannog Centre. He stated that this would have a huge impact on service users and raise significant concerns for their family members. He requested that a letter issue to the HSE to ask them to reconsider this decision. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Keelan.

### Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Stated that he has concerns about dog fouling in the area. Requested that the MD Executive explore how other counties, such as Galway and Mayo, are dealing with the issue. Cllr. O’Hanlon understood that there is a system in use that can track dog foul back to the dog owners. He stated that dog fouling shouldn’t be tolerated and if penalties are in place, then these should be imposed.

### Cllr. Campbell:

Wished to advise that there is a public information session being held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in Gate Lodge No. 1 concerning the Lough Muckno Vision Report Feasibility Study. This will provide an opportunity for the public to have their say and raise any concerns that they may have.

Cathaoirleach Campbell thanked the Members for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 12:23pm

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Cathaoirleach

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Date

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Meeting Administrator