

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 24th October 2022 at 10.20am.

Present: Cathaoirleach Aidan Campbell

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

Apologies: Matthew Lambe, District Engineer

In Attendance: Carmel O’Hare, Damien Thornton, A/District Coordinator, Deirdre Power, Staff Officer, Julieann O’Reilly, Assistant Staff Officer, John McArdle, Broadband Officer, Toirleach Gourley, SE Planner

SIRO Presentation

SIRO Delegates: Amanda Glancy, Director of Corporate Affairs, Suzanne Tracey, Chief Technology Officer, Damien Murray, Head of Projects, Aislinn Burke, Corporate Affairs

Cllr. Campbell thanked the delegates for the presentation and queried as to when Castleblayney will join the list.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commented that it is exciting news for Carrickmacross.

Asked how SIRO is funded?

Reply – it is privately funded.

Stated it is good to see competition in the market.

Clarified that SIRO is concentrated in the town, not rural areas.

Requested an indication of costs in comparison with other companies?

Reply – This is at retailer level. However, it is worth noting that installation costs will not be passed onto the customer.

Welcomed that a good part of Carrickmacross will have good broadband by 2023.

Cllr. Carthy:

Enquired as to who will own the fibre network once it is rolled out as it is using national infrastructure?

Noted that NBI has been on the table for many years. Asked if SIRO intend to cover remote areas? Is SIRO rolling out to areas that have existing broadband coverage?

Regarding the roll out of infrastructure in new estates – should this be the responsibility of developers?

Reply – SIRO submitted their maps to NBI - there may be some overlap.

Until SIRO existed Eir owned all infrastructure. SIRO have disrupted the market positively.

The target market is retail towns, and we will go out as far as we can. Where SIRO stops, NBI should pick up.

EU legislation states that new developments must have infrastructure in place. This is not in Irish Law yet.

Toirleach Gourley, MCC SE Planner, advised that MCC do have policy in place. He queried if 100m ducting is sufficient?

Reply – it is.

Cllr. McCooey:

Asked if a survey has been carried out for Castleblayney.

Noted that NBI will include remote areas.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Thanked the delegation for a great presentation however queried if SIRO could deliver? What guarantees can be given? Sought clarification that SIRO operate through the ESB network.

Asked for any success stories SIRO may have. Commented that it is up to individuals to make their own decision.

Reply – SIRO operate through the ESB system. Other operators use a copper system. SIRO is an alternative to Eir. Eir have a similar product. SIRO have over 165,000 connected customers.

Towns such as Dundalk, Drogheda, Swords are all connected with SIRO.

Cllr. Conlon:

Stated it is a positive step for Carrickmacross and commented that reliability of service is key.

Asked if there is capacity– will the service drop the more people join?

Reply – SIRO has its own dedicated network. Speed tests will be carried out.

Cllr. Keelan:

Regarding Active Travel – can it be ensured that any new pavements etc are ready without the need to dig up again afterwards? Common sense is needed.

Cllr. Campbell:

Referenced the digital hub initiative mentioned in the presentation and asked for a commitment that SIRO will investigate the new hub in Castleblayney.

Reply – more information will be needed to assess the feasibility.

John McArdle, MCC Broadband Officer advised that this is a hugely important project for Carrickmacross and Monaghan. There will be much faster speeds and it is more commercially viable for smaller businesses and there are also affordable solutions for town homeowners. He expressed his thanks to SIRO for the presentation and advised that the members can direct any queries to him.

Presentation on Residential Zoned Land Tax
Presented by -Toirleach Gourley, MCC SE Planner

It was clarified at the beginning of the presentation that there is no conflict of interest for landowners present.

Cllr. Conlon:

Are sporting grounds such as GAA and FAI exempt?

Reply – No, that message needs to be put out there.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commented that it is a government initiative.

Noted that there can be access issues e.g., problems with access to public roads, getting third party agreements.

This needs public engagement – can an information day be organised?

Reply – this will be investigated.

Cllr. McCooey:

Regarding sporting grounds – is it up to themselves to make a submission?

Do we have a draft map?

Reply – Yes, it is. We are working on the draft map.

Opined that the only way people will know if they are affected will be through the media.

Concerned that people may not realise they may be affected. All Cllrs. need to get the message out there.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Asked if this is an Executive Function?

Reply – Yes, but it is important that the message is delivered, and any queries answered. There is no decision-making function for the members.

Stated that it is vital that all government agencies / departments have their “ducks in a row”, for example the Courthouse in Carrickmacross.

Expressed frustration that we are only at the tip of the iceberg, talking about a tax which is to be implemented in 2024. Commented that he supports it in principle, but more serious issues need to be focused on.

Cllrs. O’Hanlon and Campbell both queried if zoned land can be de-zoned.

Reply – Now is the opportunity to request that land is de-zoned – submissions before January 1st, 2023. However, caution must be exercised when dealing with re-zoning and de-zoning. If you have land which is fully serviced, it should not be de-zoned.

Cllr. Campbell reiterated that the role of the members is to get the message out to the public.

Proposal of New Housing Development Name

The developer, Glassford Developments, have proposed the name of Gleann Droimnín for the new housing estate located at Nafferty, Carrickmacross.

On the proposal of Cllr. McCooey and seconded by Cllr. Carthy it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the name Gleann Droimnín.

Cllr. O’Hanlon requested that going forward, all proposed Estate name should have a historical link. Cllr. McCooey suggested that in the future, any proposed names could be issued via email to speed up the process.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, the minutes of the September 2022 Monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 26th of September 2022, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Carthy queried the status of works on the footpath at Drumillard Estate in Castleblayney.

Reply – works were intended to be carried out in the past few weeks; however, these are now due to occur in the new year.

Cllr. Carthy asked when will the Dog Park be available to use, and queried as to whether the gate is locked?

Reply – the gate is locked. The Executive met with the Tidy Towns Committee to discuss the opening of the park. To allow time for the grass to firmly establish it has been agreed that the Dog Park will open in Spring 2023.

Cllr. Carthy requested that A/District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton revert to him regarding the opening times of the public toilets in Carrickmacross.

Cllr. Keelan sought an update regarding the missing streetlight in Inniskeen.

Reply – this issue is resting with ESB.

Cllr. O’Hanlon requested an update on speeding issues on the Donaghmoyne Road, seeking clarification that it will be looked at next year.

Reply – the speed survey has indicated that there is an issue with speeding at this location. This will be investigated further in the new year.

3.0 Correspondence

- i. Response from Office of Minister for Health re: GP shortages in Carrickmacross

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

“That this Council notes with great concern up to 6 GP’s have retired from general practice in the Carrickmacross – Castleblayney area in recent years. In light of this very worrying development and given the ongoing difficulty that many people have in accessing GP services, that we write back to the HSE requesting information as to what efforts have, and are being made, to replace those GP’s that have retired in our area.”

It was requested that this motion is cc’d to the Minister for Health.

ii. Acknowledgement Letter from HSE re: Crannog Centre, Castleblayney

Cllr. Campbell advised that he has been led to understand there will be no reduction in services. Cllr. Carthy suggested that the members await the official response to which Cllr. Campbell agreed.

iii. Letter from Convent Lands residents re: Convent Lands Playground

Cllr. Carthy agreed with the letter sent and stressed the importance of listening to the public. He stated that the amenity needs to be secured, noting that the playpark at Drumillard had to be withdrawn due to vandalism.

Cllr. O’Hanlon spoke about similar issues that occurred at Cloughvalley Playpark. Can a similar solution be used for the Convent Lands? Cllr. O’Hanlon proposed getting a costing for securing the amenity.

Cllr. McCooey commented that there is similar vandalism in Castleblayney, for example the arson attack on the community garden which was a disgrace. Cllr. McCooey queried if anything can be done with community policing. She suggested an awareness campaign is needed and questioned whether people realise the work and funding that go into these projects.

Cllr. Conlon concurred with Cllr. O’Hanlon’s suggestion of getting costings. He stated that residents’ feedback and buy-in are necessary.

Cllr. Keelan commented that one or two people cannot be allowed to dictate what happens.

4.0 Section 183 notice – Blayney Rovers

On the proposal of Cllr. McCooey and seconded by Cllr. Campbell it was unanimously agreed to proceed.

5.0 MD Co-Ordinator Report

Cllr. Keelan:

In relation to the Public Realm Plan, can the lands at BOI, Bridewell Lane be kept in mind.

When will the design for Ballynacarry Bridge be available?

Reply – will seek an update from the Roads Section.

Regarding the bridge at Inniskeen – full consultation is needed.

Cllr. McCooey:

Will members be able to look at the report on Brennan's Cross before it goes to TII? Do members have any role to play?

Reply – Will follow up with the Roads Section.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Welcomed progress on flooding works at Nafferty.

Regarding the N2 and the 60 landowners yet to engage, can the members do all in their power to contact these people.

Cllr. Carthy:

Hopes that there will be provision for a pedestrian crossing on the Oriel Road under Active Travel.

6.0 Director of Service Orders

Orders 45/2022; 48/2022; 49/2022 and 50/2022 were duly noted.

7.0 Questions

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

1. Was a traffic/speed count carried out at the school crossing on Farney Street, Carrickmacross, and has consideration been given to adding additional signage/road markings to force motorists to slow down?

Response:

The results from a 7-day traffic and speed survey indicate that in general, having regard to the posted speed limit, speeding is not an issue at this location. The recorded 85th percentile vehicular speed over the 7-day period was 39.97km/h.

2. What is the up-to-date situation with the Convent Lands Playground? Has the executive decided on what mechanisms will be in place to reopen this important amenity as quickly as possible? Will the executive commit to installing heavy-duty high railings, similar to Cloughvalley Playpark, to ensure that vandalism is minimised?

Response:

The Municipal District Executive, in conjunction with Monaghan County Council's Horticulturist, has completed the design of a natural play park to replace the existing playground. The proposed natural play park shall provide a playscape that is robust, resilient, and less susceptible to vandalism. Pending public consultation, it is intended to seek funding for the construction of the proposed natural play park in 2023.

3. Has the Executive re-examined the possibility of installing a Bandstand at the Carrickmacross Civic Offices, as per previously agreed plan, and are we looking at alternative designs that could assist in delivering this project?

Response:

Funding received under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 provided for the completion of the detailed design of the proposed Bandstand. Alternative solutions were considered during the design process, and the finalised design was considered the “best fit” having regard to the architecture of the adjacent buildings. The Municipal District Executive shall explore all potential sources of funding to realise the construction of the proposed Bandstand.

4. When is it expected works will be carried out on the entrance of Drumillard estate, Castleblayney – resurface of road and ramped/ditched edging added to footpaths on either side for pedestrian access?

Response:

It is envisaged that the works to the entrance of Drumillard Estate shall be completed in Q1 of 2023

5. When is it expected repair works to Muckno Street footpaths, Castleblayney, will be completed?

Response:

It is envisaged that the proposed footway repairs on Muckno Street shall be completed in Q4 2022.

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

6. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the public realm plan for Inniskeen village and progressing to a commencing works stage?

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 21st 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.

7. When is it hoped to put in place additional traffic calming measures in Inniskeen village including adjacent to St Daighs Terrace as requested by local residents?

Response:

It is envisaged that the installation of additional Traffic Calming measures in the vicinity of St. Daigh’s Terrace, Inniskeen, shall be completed in Q4 of 2022.

8. As a follow on from a motion passed by the council members some time ago in relation to a feasibility study in conjunction with Louth County council as to what improvements could be reasonably carried out to the main access route from the Dundalk Road (R178)

in to Inniskeen village centre given the importance of this route as a public transport and economic link is there any update?

Response:

In January 2022, the Municipal District Executive issued an invite to the Roads Section of Louth County Council to engage in initial discussions with Municipal District Engineering staff. The Executive has since re-issued correspondence and is awaiting a response.

9. As discussed previously what plans have the council in the time ahead to upgrade and replace the wing walls at Corcrin Bridge as requested by local residents?

Response:

Corcrin Bridge has been scheduled on the Planned Bridge Works programme for funding consideration in 2023.

10. Given that a final design for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney road scheme is moving forward at pace what progress if any has been made in relation to the possibility of providing a park and ride facility adjacent to Carrickmacross and Castleblayney town?

Response:

The N2 Ardee to Castleblayney scheme is currently at the Design & Environmental Stage. It is hoped to lodge a planning application and CPO in Q2 of 2023. At this stage, it would be deemed premature to initiate meaningful discussions with TII in relation to a park & ride scheme, as the line and in particular, the junction strategy of the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney scheme has not yet received planning approval. Once planning permission is secured, then alternative options for a park & ride or park & share facility may be explored, as network connectivity along the side roads and junctions with the N2 will be known.

Questions raised by Cllr. Peter Conlon for October 2022 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

11. Is it possible to have the TII complete a report on the safety of the junction at the bottom of the Convent hill / Kingscourt road?

Response:

Transport Infrastructure Ireland has no direct responsibility for the non-national road network. The Municipal District Executive, in collaboration with Monaghan County Council's Roads Section, shall seek to secure a safety assessment of the Convent Hill/Kingscourt Road junction.

12. Do we have a commencement date for the start of works for the Lurgans hill footpath?

Response:

It is intended that a Letter of Acceptance shall issue to the preferred tenderer within the coming week, with a view to works commencing in mid-November 2022.

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

13. What's the update on the pedestrian crossing on the junction of the Alms Houses and the Saint Marys church? This junction is used by two different schools and the church and is in need of upgrading for safety.

Response:

It is envisaged that detailed design shall be completed in November 2022 and, pending NTA approval, that the scheme shall proceed to construction in Q1 2023.

14. Is there any update on the welfare facilities for Castleblayney Rovers at their pitch in Drumillard has the clubs long term future at the grounds being secured?

Response:

Monaghan County Council are currently progressing a 20-year lease agreement with Castleblayney Rovers to assist in securing the Club's long-term future at the Drumillard site. The Executive shall continue to support the Club in the identification of potential sources of funding for the installation of permanent welfare facilities.

15. What's the latest update on the CCTV in Castleblayney?

Response:

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.

16. What plans has the MD to engage with the active travel unit to roll out more electric bicycles for the Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD?

Response:

The Municipal District Executive engages on a regular basis with the Active Travel Team, to identify and develop a range of potential active travel projects and initiatives, including consideration of electric bicycle provision.

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

17. Has this Municipal District received any update from the Court Services in relation to the condition of the Court House building in Carrickmacross and their plans for its future use?

Response:

The Municipal District Executive issued a letter to the Court Service in May 2022 seeking confirmation as to the condition of the Court House building and its intended future use. The Executive has since re-issued correspondence and is awaiting a response.

18. When is it expected that the design and planning phase of the new C:TEK II building shall be completed?

Response:

It is envisaged that the design and planning Phase of the proposed C:TEK II building shall be completed in mid Q1 2023.

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

19. 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?

Response:

An Assessment of Need Study for a Vehicle Restraint System on the R182 at Lisdonny, undertaken in August 2022, has determined that some 90 metres of safety barrier is required at this location. The Municipal District Executive is currently progressing the detailed design of the Vehicle Restraint System, with a view to installation commencing in December 2022

20. 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:

Awaiting a response from Roads Section.

8.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of Sympathy were extended to Michael / Denis Ward and family on the death Anne Maher, the Greene family on the death of Brendan Greene and to Olive Markey on the death of Nancy Donlon.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to Killanny GAA Club on winning the Junior Football League; Corduff GFC on winning the Intermediate Championship and Corduff LGFC on winning the Intermediate double; Sarah Hanratty on winning the world title at the WAKO Children, Cadets, and Juniors World Championship and Castleblayney Faughs LCFC on winning the County Final and proceeding to win the first round of Ulster Club Championships.

9.0 AOB

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Local people need to know what's happening regarding the New Baze factory. Is it opening? Can Members provide any assistance? Proposed that a letter should be written to Minister Leo Varadkar and Minister Heather Humphreys requesting a meeting and an update on the situation. Cllr. McCooney seconded this. Cllr. Conlon queried if the Ministers are the best point of contact? Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that he is simply seeking clarification as to what is happening.

Commented that the MD need to liaise with various local groups regarding Christmas Lights following the recent directive from Minister Eamon Ryan. We need to be in sync with the arrangements.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commented that the public have a right to know what is happening with the New Baze factory, particularly as public money has been spent.

Stated that footways need to be clear and asked if there will be another round of hedge cutting.

Asked if it is being ensured that ducting is in place on upcoming Active Travel projects.

Cllr. McCooey:

Noted that the LT77011, Dromore has not been surfaced dressed.

Reply – The surface dressing season has finished.

Stated that the Toome Road/Corrygarry Road is in an awful state. Can funding be sought for same?

Cllr. Carthy:

In relation to the New Baze factory, noted that the Chinese Authority is still on lock down. They have very stringent regulations. Agreed that the situation cannot be allowed to continue and stated that it is important to get New Baze around the table also.

Can the Kingscourt Road, Carrickmacross be placed on the list for consideration for LCSI.

There was a recent accident at this location – can this be used to support an application?

Requested that the Executive liaise with Castleblayney Regeneration Team to investigate a live stream camera for Castleblayney.

Requested that a motion recently submitted is included in next month's agenda.

Cllr. Campbell:

Can the re-lining work on the Monaghan Road, Castleblayney be investigated? The old lines are still visible.

The road in Lackafin is in bad shape, nearly impassable.

The meeting concluded at 13:00

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator