

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 Gate Lodge No. 1, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan on Monday the 19th of December 2022 at 11:00am.

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 Co-Ordinator, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, Deirdre Power, Staff Officer, Julieann O’Reilly, Assistant Staff Officer

Cathaoirleach Campbell welcomed all to Castleblayney for the December Municipal District monthly meeting. He proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of Private Sean Rooney who died recently during a UN peace mission. He also wished Private Shane Carney, who is currently seriously ill in hospital, a speedy recovery.

Cllr. Keelan seconded this proposal and commended the work of the Defence Forces.

Cllrs. O’Hanlon, Carthy, McCooey and Conlon all concurred with these sentiments.

Cllr. Carthy also expressed condolences to Private Carney’s “second family”, the Defence Forces. Cllr. Conlon voiced his utmost respect for the Defence Forces and An Garda Síochána.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon, the minutes of the November 2022 Monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 28th of November 2022, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan:

Spoke about the replacement of public lighting at Magee’s Corner. He noted that it is an ongoing issue with the ESB, however it is a public safety issue.

Reply – this matter is resting with the ESB. The MD Executive shall actively seek a response.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Stated that the closing date for submissions regarding the Residential Zoned Land Tax is the 31st of December 2022. Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that he hopes that common sense will prevail, and latitude will be given to anyone who contacts Monaghan County Council (MCC) before the closing date. He requested that A/Director of Services Carmel O’Hare pass this message directly to the Planning team.

Reply – Director of Services Carmel O’Hare commented that MCC staff are working hard to deliver this project. Submissions may be made online and/or in person. The message will be relayed to Director of Services, Cathal Flynn.

Cllr. Carthy:

Queried if the meeting with Castleblayney Regeneration Team occurred and if the livestream webcam was discussed?

Reply – Castleblayney Regeneration Team were unable to meet as planned in early December. The next meeting is scheduled for January 2023.

Requested an update on a sensory area being provided for the Carrickmacross St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

Reply – Staff Officer Deirdre Power and Assistant Staff Officer Julieann O’Reilly are currently exploring options.

Cllr. McCooey:

Requested an update on a sensory garden /green area in Ard Na Lorgan.

Reply – suitable interventions are being investigated.

Cllr. Campbell:

Asked for an update on Oram Graveyard.

Reply – works are substantially complete.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commented that he is concerned that the older generation are not “tuned in” to the Residential Zoned Land Tax.

Cllr. Carthy:

Mentioned the maps on display in MCC offices and sought clarification that the maps are available publicly?

Reply – A/Director of Services Carmel O’Hare advised that the maps are available online.

3.0 Correspondence

i. Response from Brendan Smith T.D.

- Accepting invitation to attend MD monthly meeting in January 2023.

ii. Response from Newbaze Ireland

- Inviting Members to meet representatives of Newbaze Ireland at the plant.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that the offer of meeting should be taken up as soon as possible. It was unanimously agreed that a meeting should be arranged for Wednesday 21st December at 9.15am approximately.

4.0 MD Co-Ordinator's Report

Cllr. Carthy:

Welcomed the announcement of funding for Gallows Hill and commented that he is looking forward to seeing what is put together. He suggested that it should not be as outlandish as the original design from 20 years ago.

Pleased to see works begin on the Old Ardee Road – this will be beneficial to walking routes. Welcomed ORIS funding for Rahans Lake and expressed thanks to District Engineer Matthew Lambe.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Stated that he is delighted to hear that the C:TEK II has gone forward for planning.

Sought clarification that an update on Carrickmacross LAAPs shall be available for the next meeting. Also sought confirmation, in relation to the proposed carpark development at Shirley House Lane, that the required variation to the County Development Plan is progressing.

Spoke about the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme commenting that it is vital that the process is transparent, and members must remain vigilant. If agreements are made, these must be followed through on.

Cllr. McCooey:

Asked when we should expect to hear back about the CCTV Scheme, delayed due to the re-submission of the application.

Reply –there is no significant additional information required under the revised application process, it is largely about reconfiguring existing information. It is however required that Garda Vetting be undertaken in the new. The Garda Vetting process has apparently a three-week turnaround.

Asked what is the plan regarding Black Island trails?

Reply – upgrading current facilities and way-marking.

Commented on the importance of biodiversity at Lough Muckno.

Expressed thanks to the MD team.

Cllr. Conlon:

Welcomed the funding for Rahans Lake and expressed thanks to former Councillor Aidan Murray and Minister Heather Humphreys for their part.

Also welcomed the progress on C:TEK II and requested that MCC keep the pressure on.

Cllr. Keelan:

Expressed frustration at the delays of the CCTV Schemes, noting that small progress has been made, but it is very slow.

Welcomed that the tender is going back out for the Inniskeen Bike Rental Scheme. Asked if we are confident that the scheme will be up and running next year?

Reply – it is difficult to predict however, the MD will promote it as much as possible.

Suggested that MCC may need to run the scheme if there is no positive response to the tender.

Cllr. O'Hanlon proposed that if nothing comes from the market there should be a meeting with IPB in an attempt to move forward.

Cllr. Carthy queried if discussions have taken place with bodies such as Sliabh Beagh regarding such issues.

Reply – Insurance premiums appear to be the main hindrance. Premiums for such policies have increased.

Cllr. Keelan commented that insurance costs are a country-wide problem.

Reply – It is worth noting that this is the first time the tender is going to the wider market as it was previously kept to the local market only.

Commented that it is important that the Inniskeen Public Realm Plan is done correctly. The buy-in of the community is vital.

Regarding the Carrickmacross Town Public Realm Plan - requested that the acquisition of land at the back of BOI in Carrickmacross is kept on the agenda.

Reply – This MD will continue to investigate same.

Cllr. Campbell:

Complimented the Co-Ordinator's Report, stating that it shows the progress of the MD. A massive amount of work has been done within the district.

Wished to pay tribute to the MD Office.

Commented that A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton and An Garda Síochána are trying to push on the CCTV schemes. Revisions to the application process are beyond our control.

Cllr. Campbell thanked A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton for his work on the project.

Spoke about the €500,000 funding for Lough Muckno, commenting that there is a lot of work to be carried out – new seating, flood mitigation works, bridge works, signage etc. Asked when these works will commence?

Reply – Works are due to commence in February 2023.

Commented that the funding will be spent wisely. Also stated the importance of being cognisant of the wildlife.

Advised that "The Ridge" enterprise hub is coming to fruition and opined of the direct economic benefit the facility will have for Castleblayney.

Stated it is positive news that the new Library in Castleblayney will open soon.

5.0 VOS / VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to the Grimes family on the death of Catherine Grimes (R.I.P.); Hugh Duffy & family on the death of Julia Duffy (R.I.P.) and Pat & Catherine Kelly on the death of Maureen Duffy (R.I.P.)

6.0 DOS / CE Orders

The following Order was noted: CMX-CBY 55/2022.

7.0 A.O.B

Cllr. Carthy:

Commended MCC staff who are currently working on derelict and vacant spaces – this has to be welcomed. The public need to be made aware that, if they have a unit/property they wish to dispose of, MCC can be contacted.

Also commended the Municipal District outdoor team for their efforts during the recent cold spell. Footways and roads were treated early on.

Requested that the Salt Bin Scheme is publicised on MCC social media in the new year, particularly for housing estates.

Reply – will liaise with Roads Section concerning same.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Concurred with Cllr. Carthy’s comments regarding the Municipal District outdoor staff.

Congratulated Minister Heather Humphreys on being reappointed to her role.

Cllr. O’Hanlon proposed *“That a letter be sent to the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Education that all Roads leading to schools are gritted and salted and that additional funding is provided for the same”*. He stated that we cannot accept a response advising that funding for this is taken from our own discretionary funds and requested that all Members work with local TDs on progressing this matter.

Cllr. Carthy asked that the Minister for Local Government be included in the letter.

Cllr. O’Hanlon agreed with same.

Cllr. McCooey seconded the proposal, noting that most roads nearby schools are treated.

The proposal was unanimously agreed by all Members.

Cllr. Keelan:

Acknowledged the works carried out by the MD office and outdoor staff during the cold weather. He read aloud a letter received from a constituent who wished to pass on their thanks for the good job done during the freezing weather.

Noted that MCC treat their part of the Drumconrath Road, right up to the Meath border and stated that Meath County Council don’t treat their side. Commented that similarly, Louth County Council do not treat their side of the border on the route from Carrickmacross town to Inniskeen village. Requested that the Executive telephone each to ask that they do their part. Both Cllr. O’Hanlon and Cllr. Conlon concurred with these comments and supported the request to contact the relevant authorities.

Stated that local businesses’ need our support and made a plea to all to shop local, including online. Also commented that Town Vouchers are an excellent gift to either give or receive.

Cllr. McCooey:

Stated that she has been on about the Oram Road for a while now.

Asked if the report has been done regarding the rating of the roads? Where does the Oram Road sit on this list?

Reply- no update at present.

Commented that Climate Change is here and noted the recent adverse weather.
Questioned how many days in a year do MCC have to grit the roads?
Reply – Will liaise with Roads Section with a view to carrying out a trend analysis.

Cllr. Conlon:

Thanked MCC for carrying out their part in de-icing the Dundalk Road, commenting that this stretch of road is a prone to black ice. Stated that he has already made representations to Louth County Council regarding the lack of gritting on their side.
Expressed thanks to MCC for carrying out the salting programme.

Cllr. Campbell:

Wished MCC Assistant Staff Officer Mary Murray the very best in her upcoming retirement, having served 42 years.

Congratulated Minister Heather Humphreys on retaining her position.

Acknowledged the coalition with Fianna Fáil, stating that he thinks the Government is doing a good job.

Wished Taoiseach Leo Varadkar well and congratulated Tánaiste Micheal Martin on his success.

Thanked the Executive and commented that this MD work well as a team. Also expressed thanks to the press for their work.

Reminded all of the importance of shopping local.

Wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

A/Director of Services Carmel O’Hare, on behalf of the Executive, thanked the Municipal District team, both indoor and outdoor, and also thanked the Members, stating she is looking forward to working with everyone in 2023. She pledged her full support to the Municipal District to drive forward the various projects and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

The meeting concluded at 12:20

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator