

Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan

Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney

Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of the Municipal District Monthly Meeting held in Carrickmacross Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Co. Monaghan on Monday the 24th of April 2023 at 09:30am.

Present: Cathaoirleach Aidan Campbell

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

In Attendance: Damien Thornton, A/District Co-Ordinator, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, Deirdre Power, Staff Officer, Julieann O’Reilly, Assistant Staff Officer

Presentation by Marie Cullinan, Executive Planner, MCC

Castleblayney – A Town Centre for Living in well

Cllr. Keelan:

Can properties avail of the Croí Cónaithe scheme?

Reply – it is understood that they will be able to do so from next week onwards.

Cllr. Campbell:

Commented that it is unfortunate that funding applications have been unsuccessful and wondered if there are any applications in for this year?

Reply – it is hoped to proceed with funding from the Town Centre Living Initiative. The appointment of the Town Regeneration Officer and Vacant Homes officer will help.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Commented that it is an extremely slow process but acknowledged that Covid-19 caused issues and that progress has been made.

Cllr. Carthy:

Commended the Vacant Housing staff in MCC for engaging with the owners.

Remarked that Muckno Street and its surrounding areas need support to bring them back to good condition and hopes that the scheme will aid with this.

Cllr. Campbell:

Acknowledged frustration at the slow progress, commenting that he likes to see “boots on the ground.”

Commented that property owners need to engage as the MD can only do so much.

Thanked Marie Cullinan, Executive Planner, MCC for the presentation.

Cathaoirleach Campbell opened the meeting by congratulating all involved in the successful fishing competition held at Lough Muckno over the weekend, particularly MCC staff members John Fox, Dympna Condra and Deirdre Power. He commented that it highlighted the need for works at Hope Castle and encouraged MCC 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 March 2023 Monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 27th of March 2023, were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. McCooey, the minutes of the Roads and Budget Meeting, held on Monday the 14th of April 2023, were adopted.

Cllr. Keelan requested that the MD investigate the access roads to Donaghmoyne, Lisdoonan and Corduff which need some repair works.

Cllr. Carthy requested that a timeline for the implementation of this year’s Lighting Programme be provided at next month’s meeting.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan:

Requested an update on speeding issues at Blackstaff School.

Reply – a meeting has been arranged with the principal of the school.

Has a landowner been identified for the land at the back of BOI, Carrickmacross?

Reply – The land appears to be unregistered. The Executive will continue to investigate.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Remarked that this MD received less than 5% of the funding made available to the County under the Reclaimed Asphalt Scheme and proposed that the MD Elected Members collectively submit a motion for the next plenary Council meeting requesting that any funding received under the scheme in 2024 be allocated to Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD.

Cllr. O’Hanlon advised that the NOAC report highlights that the worst roads in the County are located in Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD.

Cllr. McCooey seconded this proposal, commenting that the Members appear to have received false information and that the MD has not received equitable or equal treatment.

Cllr. Keelan acknowledged that he understood where Cllr. O’Hanlon is coming from and opined that it is a fundamental issue that the 3 MDs are treated fairly on the % of roads. Cllr. Keelan noted that at the last meeting there had been a request for the Executive to contact Roads Section about the issue.

Reply – a meeting has been requested with Roads Section and we are awaiting a date to be confirmed.

A robust discussion ensued amongst the Elected Members, and it was agreed to amend the suggested wording before submission to the plenary Council. Cllr. Conlon commented that everyone will know what this motion is about and stated that it needs to be explained why Carrickmacross - Castleblayney MD have received so little.

Cllr. Carthy:

Requested an update on surface water drainage at Ivy Lane.

Reply - Oak Environmental recently carried out jetting and CCTV works on the surface water drainage system. There were no structural defects found, however lines were silted up. Silting has been removed.

Is there a confirmed opening date for the Dog Park?

Reply – the MD are working closely with the Tidy Towns. The TT has received horticultural advice to defer opening as long as is possible due to the very wet March. That said, in light of the Best Kept Town competition, it is hoped the park will be opened within the coming weeks.

Cllr. Keelan:

Asked if we have written to our TD’s about meeting every 6 months to discuss issues in the MD?

Reply- Correspondence was issued.

Cllr. McCooey:

Requested an update on illegal dumping on Muckno Street and advised that this issue has moved to McGrath Road also.

Reply – Unaware that illegal dumping had occurred on McGrath Road. The matter will be followed up.

Asked for an update on the rating of Regional Roads.

Reply – Awaiting an update from Roads Section.

3.0 Correspondence

i. Letter from Carrickmacross Festival Committee

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Conlon it was unanimously agreed to grant permission to use the following public areas in Carrickmacross from Friday 2nd June until Monday 5th June 2023:

- Carpark in front of Courthouse
- Market Square
- Drummond Etra Car Park

- Parking area along Main Street from Market Square up to Markey's Bar
- Cloughvalley Park (on Monday 5th)
- Monaghan Street (South Side – on Monday 5th)

ii. Letter from Carrickmacross – Carhaix Twinning Association

Cllr. Carthy queried the availability of funding that had not been used during Covid.

Damien Thornton, A/MD Co-Ordinator, clarified that the twinning budget is not a capital balance and that there is not a pot of money. The fund is generally allocated to Elected Members to facilitate travel to twinning events.

Cllr. Carthy acknowledged this but wished to note that he feels sure that this money had been used in assisting groups for events such as Canada Day in the past. He stated that the Members are not using this money.

Cllr. Keelan stated that if we are serious about Town Twinning, MCC need to put their money where their mouth is.

Cllr. O'Hanlon remarked that to be fair, this MD have always been behind the Twinning Committee. The Elected Members need to be able to sit down collectively to decide what is best for economic development.

Cllr. McCooey stressed the importance of supporting these groups, remarking that they are great for young people. There needs to be some sort of mechanism set up to support these groups.

Cllr. Conlon concurred with the previous comments agreeing that a suitable mechanism needs to be found.

Cllr. Campbell wished to be associated with the previous remarks. He questioned the idea of the fund, stating that a mechanism is needed to support the young people going – it should not be about the Members.

4.0 MD Coordinator's Report

Cllr. McCooey:

Asked if there is any update on the Monaghan Way regarding development of a walking loop at Mullyash?

Reply – Feasibility study is on-going as part of the overall project.

5.0 Q&A

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for the April 2023 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. What is the update on the completion of the CCTV in Castleblayney?

Response:

The application for authorisation to operate the proposed Community CCTV scheme is currently being validated by An Garda Síochána, with a view to the scheme being presented for consideration/approval by the National CCTV Advisory Committee in May 2023.

2. What is the update on the works on the Monaghan Way and when is it envisaged that these works will be complete?

Response:

Phase 1 works are complete. A tender for the engagement of a contractor to complete Phase 2 works shall issue to the market within the coming weeks, with a view to works being substantially complete in early Q3. The mapping design is currently being finalised.

3. What is the latest update on the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme?

Response:

Monaghan County Council seek funding from TII on an annual basis to progress this scheme. The TII funding for 2023 has included conditions under Section 24 of the Roads Acts 1993 to 2015, which specifies that the €600,000 allocation is to “meet current project commitments”. The €600,000 allocation is less than the funding requested for the project in 2023 and is not sufficient to allow current design work to be completed. Pending additional funding being made available, design work and progress on the project has been stopped. Recommencement of the project will be dependent on further funding from TII.

A request for additional funding of €600,000 to complete the Phase 3 design work was submitted to TII on the 8th of March 2023. A response has not yet been received.

A request was issued to Minister Eamonn Ryan on the 9th of March 2023 for an urgent meeting with Monaghan County Council in relation to funding for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney and the N2 Clontibret to Border Road Schemes. A response has not yet been received.

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for the April 2023 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

4. When is it expected works will commence on the Rahans Lake slipway (ORIS funded project)?

Response:

An invasive species survey/study shall be undertaken at Rahans lake within the coming weeks. The findings from this study shall enable the completion of detailed design. Thereafter, it is anticipated that works shall commence in early Q3 of 2023.

5. When is it expected that works will conclude on the Lurgans Hill footpath, Carrickmacross?

Response:

It is anticipated that works will conclude on the Lurgans Hill footpath in Q2 2023.

6. What is the next stage of the rollout of Active Travel works in both Carrickmacross & Castleblayney?

Response:

Active Travel Investment Grants: 2023 Allocations for CMX-CBY MD					
Project Code:	Project Name	2023 Allocation	Current NTA Phase at Q2 2023	Expected Phase at Q4 2023	NTA Phases explained
<u>Monaghan County Council</u>					
Please list all projects including any schools or footpath projects in previous project bundles					
MN/21/0010	Carrickmacross Castleblayney Rd Active Travel Scheme	€35,500	Phase 2	Phase 4	NTA Phase 1 - Scope and Purpose
MN/21/0020	Low Cost Junction Tightening/Pedestrian Crossing Schemes (*split over 3 x MDs)	€16,667	Phase 1	Phase 3	NTA Phase 2 - Options Selection
MN/21/0021	Light Segregation Cycle Schemes	€90,000	Phase 3	Phase 7	NTA Phase 3 - Preliminary Design
MN/23/xxxx	Urban Mobility/Sustainability Active Travel Plans for; Castleblayney, Ballybay, Clones, & Carrickmacross	€32,500	Phase 1	Phase 2	NTA Phase 4 - Statutory Processes
MN/23/xxxx	Carrickmacross R178/Oriel Road Active Travel Scheme	€75,000	Phase 2	Phase 4	NTA Phase 5 - Detailed Design and Procurement
MN/23/xxxx	Carrickmacross - Lurgans Active Travel Scheme	€155,000	Phase 6	Phase 7	NTA Phase 6 - Construction
MN/23/xxxx	Inniskeen Village Active Travel	€45,000	Phase 3	Phase 4	NTA Phase 7 - Close out and Review

7. Following last month's official MD response, and the high level of public interest, when will the Carrickmacross Dog Park be open to the public?

Response:

It is envisaged that the dog walking park shall be opened within the coming weeks.

8. Following confirmation from Monaghan County Council last month that aesthetic maintenance works would begin on Hope Castle, Castleblayney in late April, when is it expected that these works will commence?

Response:

As previously outlined, the proposed aesthetic maintenance works are being undertaken in collaboration with Muckno Community Partnership (MCP). With the support of the Municipal District Executive, MCP are currently finalising the engagement of a painting contractor and sponsorship agreements for the provision of false openings. It is expected that these arrangements shall be completed within the coming weeks, at which point site works shall commence.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for the April 2023 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

9. What is the up to-date position in relation to the bicycle rental scheme for Inniskeen village and the wider area? Will the scheme be in operation for this summer tourism season?

Response:

Following an initial exploratory meeting, held on Friday last, the 21st of April 2023, is intended to convene a follow-up meeting with representatives from the principal community groups in the Village within the coming fortnight, to discuss and assess the feasibility of implementing the bicycle rental scheme as a social enterprise. Pending the outcome of these discussions, it is hoped that the scheme will become operational in early Q3 2023.

10. What plans have the council to carry out maintenance and improvement works to the access roads into some of our village centres including Donaghmoyne, Corduff and Lisdoonan?

Response:

There are three roads accessing Donaghmoyne Village, two of which, the LT45101 and the LP4510, have a PSCI rating of 4. Neither of these roads form part of this Municipal District's current Adopted Roads Programme. The worst affected sections of roadway on both the aforementioned roads have been scheduled for consideration on the Municipal District's prioritised list of essential repairs and maintenance works.

11. What is the up to-date position in relation to the upgrading and improvement of the Monaghan way from Inniskeen to Castleblayney?

Response:

Phase 1 works are complete. A tender for the engagement of a contractor to complete Phase 2 works shall issue to the market within the coming weeks, with a view to works being substantially complete in early Q3. The mapping design is currently being finalised.

12. What is the up to-date position in relation to the provision of extra traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures for Inniskeen village?

Response:

Construction tender documents for the installation of a new pedestrian crossing near Inniskeen Church are currently being prepared. It is anticipated that a preferred Contractor will be appointed in Q2 2023, with a programme of works of approximately 4 weeks to complete the crossing.

Following feedback from the Elected Members, the Active Travel Team has requested a workshop with the NTA to revisit the identified preferred option for the provision of dedicated pedestrian & cyclist facilities at the River Fane bridge crossing in the Village. It is anticipated that this workshop will take place within the coming weeks.

13. What is the up to-date position in relation to the implementation of public realm plan for Inniskeen village?

Response:

The *Inniskeen Village Public Realm Spatial Plan* formed the basis for a successful funding application under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for Public Realm, Heritage and Amenity enhancements to the *Village Heart* and *St. Mary's Space* areas of Inniskeen Village. Consultants, *C.S. Pringle*, have been appointed to progress the scheme through to construction tender stage. The scheme is currently at Preliminary Design Stage. Subject to securing any necessary statutory consents, it is hoped to commence construction in Q3 2023.

Questions raised by Cllr. P J O'Hanlon for the April 2023 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

14. When is it expected that the construction phase of the new C:TEK II building shall commence?

Response:

The construction phase of the new C:TEK II building is scheduled to begin W/C the 15th of May 2023.

15. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the progression of the car park at Ivy Lane?

Response:

Awaiting a response from the Planning Section.

16. What is the status of the Workhouse project in Carrickmacross?

Response:

It is intended that a Multidisciplinary Design Team shall be engaged in Q2 2023, to progress the scheme through to construction readiness. The programme for the delivery of the current Category 2 enabling project anticipates a project duration of 12 months from the date of the appointment of consultants. Broadly, the process shall involve two stages. Stage 1 (6 months) shall provide for analysis, engagement with key stakeholders, non-statutory public consultation, the development and appraisal of preliminary options and the selection of a finalised strategy. It is anticipated that preliminary designs shall be available for presentation to the Members in late Q3 2023. Stage 2 shall provide for detailed development, including environmental evaluation, of the preferred option and the progression of the scheme through Part 8 Planning procedures. The finalised masterplan for the Workhouse site shall provide for a pipeline of integrated shovel-ready projects that it is hoped will be delivered over a 10-year time horizon.

7.0 CE Orders

The following Orders were noted: CMX-CBY 40/2023; CMX-CBY 41/2023; CMX-CBY 42/2023.

Cllr. Keelan requested that the MD meet with the Chamber of Commerce to see what can be done to invigorate the Thursday Market in Carrickmacross voicing concern that some traders have fallen away.

6.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to the Geoghegan family on the death of Peter Geoghegan (RIP); to Patsy McNally on the death of Kathleen McNally (RIP); to Mary & Michael Courtney and Angela Bagge on the death of Peter Connolly (RIP) and to Pat, Owen, and Carmel Duffy on the death of Kathleen Duffy (RIP).

A Votes of congratulations was extended to Maisie Flanagan and Castleblayney Boxing Club on winning the All-Ireland Boxing.

7.0 A.O.B**Cllr. Carthy:**

Requested an update on the webcam in Castleblayney.

Reply – this matter has been touched upon at recent meetings. Unsure of the appetite for same.

When are works expected to start on the Bandstand?

Reply – there has not been an announcement of funding allocation.

Requested an update on the streetlights in Carrickmacross?

Reply – awaiting a response from the energy section.

Requested an update on the installation of a security railing at the Convent Lands Playpark.

Reply – This is out for tender. It is hoped works will begin next month.

At Mindszenty Park – can ramps be installed in the park itself and securing fencing placed at shucks.

Reply – this will be investigated.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

When will the convent Lands Playpark be re-open? A plan needs to be put in place. AGS can be called if necessary. Requested a report for next month's meeting.

Proposed sending a letter to the local District Judge regarding the re-opening of the Courthouse and its services.

Noted that a liquidator has been appointed at The Nuremore and wishes to convey that this MD will support anyone who wants to run the hotel as a going concern.

Cllr. Conlon:

Raised the issue of bird fouling at the bottom of Convent Hill and commented that we need to think outside the box for a solution. Suggested trimming back rather than cutting down the trees. Pointed out the waste of resources that goes into power washing and it is becoming destroyed soon after.

The wall on the bottom of Convent Hill needs to be protected.

Cllr. Keelan:

Advised that he has been contacted by parents and the Community Development Association of Donaghmoyne to investigate the possibility of a speed ramp at the park location.

Also advised that taxi drivers have contacted him about the poor state of some of the roads following utility company works. Can this MD look at the roads around town. Commented that the Tidy Towns competition will begin soon.

Cllr. McCooey:

Road maintenance is needed at Lakeview, Castleblayney.

The road surface leading to Hope Castle in in poor condition.

The meeting concluded at 10:45

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator