

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 27th of March 2023 at 10:00am.

Present: Cathaoirleach Aidan Campbell

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

Apologies: Cllr. Peter Conlon, Carmel O’Hare, A/Director of Services

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

Cathaoirleach Campbell opened the meeting by congratulating the County Team on their win against Mayo. He complimented all those involved in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Carrickmacross.

Cllr. Keelan concurred with these comments, acknowledging the large amount of work and effort involved. He also complimented the Inniskeen Parade organisers on their work.

Cllr. Carthy expressed thanks to the Municipal District staff for their work on the Parade and commended the shops who took part in the window competition.

Cllr. O’Hanlon concurred with the previous comments, passing on his congratulations to the organisers of Carrickmacross, Oram and Inniskeen Parades. He congratulated the County Team on remaining in Division 1 for the 10th year in succession and proposed that a letter of congratulations is issued on behalf of the Municipal District.

Cllr. McCooey wished to be associated with the previous comments and added her congratulations to those involved with Oram’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon, the minutes of the February 2023 Monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 27th of February 2023, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan:

Requested an update on public lighting at Magee's Corner.

Reply – The ESB has confirmed that there has been no light at this location for 15 years. The proposed lighting installation will be placed on the lighting programme for consideration by the Members.

Requested a report confirming the salting routes in the District, particularly those around the Louth and Meath border areas . A brief discussion ensued, and it was agreed that a list will be issued to all members.

Asked for an update regarding an on-going speeding issue at Blackstaff School.

Reply – A speed survey will be carried out.

Sought an update on the identification of the owner of the lands to the back of the Bank of Ireland building in Carrickmacross.

Reply – this is on-going.

Cllr. McCooey:

Requested an update on the problem of illegal dumping on Muckno Street. Opined that whilst MCC are lifting the rubbish there is no incentive to cease this behaviour.

Reply – The Environment Section has been advised of the situation and, together with the Municipal District, are working to resolve this issue.

Cllr. Carthy:

Sought an update on Gallows Hill.

Reply – Intended that Tender will issue to the Market at some stage in April.

Requested an update on the roadway around and at the back of St. Macartans Villas.

Reply – currently compiling a cost estimate.

3.0 Correspondence

i. Letter from Office of Department of Transport

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that he takes issue with responses such as this one and commented that it seems obvious that Minister Ryan did not read the letter. On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan it was agreed that a letter be issued to local representatives requesting *"That a meeting takes place very six months with the Oireachtas members in relation to important issues relevant to the local M.D. "*

Cllr. O'Hanlon commented that the Members are receiving daily calls about the roads in the MD and that there is only so much they can do – we need our local representatives to represent us.

ii. Letter from Carrick Rovers re: trip to Carhaix

Cllr. O'Hanlon asked that the Municipal District look favourably upon this and requested that the Executive explore Twinning funding.

Cllr. Carthy commented that there are resources available to fund community groups and it has not been spent over the past number of years. He suggested that contact is made between the Executive and Twinning Committee to discuss further.

Cllr. McCooley advised that there is a Twinning Committee meeting next week.

- iii. Letter from Brendan Smith TD re: Carrickmacross Courthouse
- iv. Letter from Matt Carthy T.D. re: Carrickmacross Courthouse
- v. Letter from Office of Minister for Justice

Cllr. O'Hanlon noted the response from Matt Carthy TD, stating that more like this are needed. Cllr. O'Hanlon further advised that he would like clarification as to whether there is a leak in the roof and proposed that a letter issue to the Court Services requesting that an audit is carried out on the building.

Cllr. Carthy stated that we don't need to see a tidy, unused building, advising that the best way to maintain the building is to put it into use. Cllr. Carthy noted that there are a lot of community groups who need space.

4.0 Consideration of Schedule of MD Works 2023

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

In relation to Reclaimed Asphalt, queried why this Municipal District have received nothing for the last 3 years when almost €2 million has been allocated.

Stated that he will be asking the Members at the Full Council meeting to support Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD, commenting that the NOAC report stated that some of the worst roads in Co. Monaghan are within this MD.

Cllr. Campbell:

Agreed with Cllr. O'Hanlon's comments stating that it does not make sense.

Cllr. Carthy:

Concurred with Cllr. O'Hanlon's comments and noted that the NOAC report provides proof. Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District should be looked on favourably for funding as the District has a far higher number of roads rated 1 to 4 then elsewhere in the County. Ballybay – Clones Municipal District have concurred that they are overspending on parts of roads which were taken over from Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District when the district borders changed.

Stated that MCC need to look at a different mechanism for allocating roads funding throughout the County.

Cllr. Keelan:

Concurred with the previous comments.

Stated that Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District are not being treated fairly or with equity.

Advised that there are any number of roads which would be suitable for the Reclaimed Asphalt Scheme.

Requested that the Executive talk to their counterparts in the Roads section and convey the pleas from the Elected Members that this Municipal District should receive their fair share.

Cllr. McCooey:

Commented that the Toome Road is in an awful state and is only getting worse. Funding from the Reclaimed Asphalt Scheme could have rectified matters.

Stated that this Municipal District is being treated very unfairly.

Opined that the Director of Service for Roads needs to come down here.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Commented that he believes that the other Councillors in County Monaghan will agree that Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District should get their share.

Requested that Carmel O’Hare, A/Director of Services, Damien Thornton, A/Municipal District Coordinator and Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, seek a meeting with Roads Section and revert to the Members at the next Municipal District meeting.

Wished to acknowledge that this issue is out of the control of the Municipal District Executive.

Damien Thornton, A/Municipal District Coordinator, advised that the Municipal District Executive will seek a meeting with the Roads Section to discuss the issue. He informed the Members that the Municipal District Executive try to promote the needs of the Municipal District at every juncture and will continue to do so.

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan it was unanimously agreed to adopt the proposed Schedule of Works.

5.0 MD Coordinator’s Report

Damien Thornton, A/Municipal District Coordinator, advised the Members that it is hoped to have both CCTV Scheme applications presented at the next meeting of the CCTV National Advisory Committee, scheduled for May 2023.

Cllr. Carthy:

The Mullinary Road (known locally as the “Top Road”) is in an awfully bad state. Can this be placed on the repairs list and investigate any possible ?

The L76003 in Oram is in a poor state. Roads need to be left in a good state after any services works have been completed.

Reply – both will be placed on the repairs list.

Cllr. Keelan:

Stated that the Bike Rental Scheme cannot run into another season with it not being up and running. Welcomed meeting with local groups.

Cllr. McCooey:

Stated that MCC are lagging behind on the ratings of roads.

Sought clarification that the R182, Oram road received no money under Specific Improvement Grants? Advised of a recent accident which occurred at this location.

Asked if there are any suitable schemes for the Corrygarry Road at Toome football field?

Reply - Applications were submitted for the R183, Oram Road under Specific Improvements and also Active travel, both of which were ultimately unsuccessful. We are awaiting the outcome of the Regional Roads assessment to see what schemes we may be eligible for.

Cllr. Campbell:

Complimented Damien Thornton, A/Municipal District Coordinator, and Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, for their work on The Ridge, Castleblayney.

Spoke about a recent meeting regarding the N2 and impressed on local representatives the importance of meeting with Minister Ryan about this.

6.0 Q&A

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

1. With the recent public consultations on the upgrading of the Ballynacarry Bridge. When will the results of these consultations be finalised and what is the next stage?

Response:

Monaghan County Council held two Public Consultation sessions on the 2nd and 3rd of March 2023 in order to prepare the Route Options Report for a new bridge alignment. The design team will take cognisance of any feedback received in order to ensure that the Route Options have minimal impact in terms of landowners and environmental activity. It is proposed to publish the Route Options Report in Quarter 2 of 2023.

2. With the work in progress to design a phased working solution for the flooding at Annadrummond. What is the update on this project?

Response:

Topographical and LIDAR surveys, to inform detailed design, are currently underway. Subject to securing any required statutory consents, it is hoped to commence construction works in Q3 2023.

3. With the recent funding announcement for the Black Island at Muckno to enhance the area with funding of €500,000. What stage is this project at?

Response:

The Paul Hogarth Company has recently been appointed as Design Team, for the Black Island project. A project inception meeting is due to take place within the coming weeks.

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

4. What is the up-to-date situation with the drainage works required on the pedestrian access lane between Shirley House Lane Car Park and Main Street, Carrickmacross?

Response:

A CCTV survey shall be undertaken within the coming weeks to ascertain the condition of the existing surface water drainage system along the pedestrian access lane between Shirley House Lane Car Park and Main Street, Carrickmacross. The results of this survey shall determine what, if any, further drainage works are required.

5. **When is it expected the long-awaited Dog Park will be opening in Carrickmacross?**

Response:

It is anticipated that the Dog Walking Park at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross shall become operational within the coming month.

6. **When is it expected that signage (Children at Play) will be installed to Drummond Etra (behind Newbaze), Carrickmacross?**

Response:

It is intended that *Children at Play* signage shall be installed in the Upper Drummond Etra Estate, Carrickmacross early next month.

7. **What is the expected commencement date for road safety works to be carried out on the Keady Road, Castleblayney?**

Response:

This Municipal District secured funding under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme 2023 for the upgrade of existing road markings, and the provision of additional road markings, on Muckno Street, Castleblayney. It is intended that these works shall commence in Q3 of 2023.

8. **Has there been any progress made in discussions with Castleblayney Town Team to introduce a webcam streaming to 'castleblayney.ie' website (similar to Monaghan Town and Carrickmacross websites)?**

Response:

The Municipal District Executive shall re-examine the proposal of an online live stream with the Town Regeneration Team at the next scheduled meeting of the parties. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday the 4th of April 2023.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aoife McCooey for the March 2023 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

9. **Can the MD provide an update on the progress of the Castleblayney Library?**

Response:

The Contractor is continuing to progress contract works for the Gate Lodge 2 Library and public realm facilities. Second fix mechanical and electrical works in conjunction with internal building finishes are currently being progressed. External ground works and landscaping finishes are scheduled to commence in the coming weeks. The construction contract works are currently scheduled for substantial completion in late April. Following the building handover, fit out works for the library facility will be progressed and it is expected that the new library will be operational by the end of June 2023.

10. **Can the MD provide an update on the Muckno Feasibility study?**

Response:

Fehily Timoney Consultants have informed the Council that the Stage 1 Environmental & Planning Assessment report is running slightly behind schedule but should be completed in early April 2023.

11. Can the MD provide and update on finding opportunities for outdoor sensory games for Ard Na Lorgan Castleblayney?

Response:

Members of the Municipal District Executive, together with the Council's Horticulturist and a representative of the *Saturday Club*, undertook a site suitability assessment at Ard Na Lorgan on Friday the 3rd of March last. Given the relatively steep topography, and the lack of potential car parking space, the Working Group considers the site unsuitable for the development of an accessible outdoor sensory space. The Group are currently examining an area next to Drumillard Playground as a potential viable alternative.

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

12. What efforts will the council make to ensure that the bicycle rental scheme for the Inniskeen and wider area will be operational for this summer tourism season given that the bicycles in question have been purchased some years ago?

Response:

In September 2021, the Municipal District Executive purchased a selection of manual and electric bicycles to facilitate the timely initiation of the proposed bicycle rental scheme. To date, the Executive has sought to engage a Scheme Operator via a number of mechanisms including, formal tender processes (open and negotiated procedures), direct negotiations with Community Groups, and the promotion of the scheme as a social enterprise. The Executive continues to explore all feasible options to secure the engagement of a Scheme Operator.

13. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of a CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney towns?

Response:

It is intended that the applications for authorisation to operate these proposed CCTV schemes shall be presented to An Garda Síochána for examination/consideration at the next meeting of the Garda National CCTV Advisory Committee, which is currently scheduled for the 1st/2nd of May 2023.

14. What plans have the council to improve the access roads in to Donaghmoyne Village given their poor state of repair at present?

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.

15. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the carrying out of further improvement works and extra safety measures at Essexford junction given how busy and dangerous this junction is?

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 will inform future Specific Improvement grant applications.

16. How many applications have been made for flood alleviation measures in this council area how many have been granted?

Response:

In November 2022, the Municipal District Executive submitted 11 No. schemes for consideration under the Department of Transport's *Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works* funding stream. This Municipal District was successful in the receipt of funding for 1 No. scheme.

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

17. In relation to the reclaimed Asphalt Pilot Projects carried out in the county over the last number of years, what has been the spend in each of the three Municipal Districts?

Response:

The roads for the Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot scheme are selected following a comprehensive testing to determine which is most suitable for the trial. In 2022 the following roads were tested:

- In 2021 three road were selected for consideration which included the R179 R-162 Drumacruttan (Monaghan MD)
- R-180 Lough Egish (Ballybay – Clones MD)
- R-179 Drumganny (Carrickmacross – Castleblaney MD)

The R180 in Lough Egish was deemed to be the most appropriate road on which to carry out the trial.

7.0 CE Orders

The following Orders were noted: CMX-CBY 15/2023; CMX-CBY 16/2023; CMX-CBY 17/2023. CMX-CBY 18/2023; CMX-CBY 19/2023; CMX-CBY 20/2023; CMX-CBY 21/2023; CMX-CBY 22/2023; CMX-CBY 23/2023; CMX-CBY 24/2023; CMX-CBY 25/2023; CMX-CBY 26/2023; CMX-CBY 27/2023; CMX-CBY 28/2023; CMX-CBY 29/2023; CMX-CBY 30/2023; CMX-CBY 31/2023; CMX-CBY 32/2023; CMX-CBY 33/2023; CMX-CBY 33/2023; CMX-CBY 35/2023; CMX-CBY 36/2023; CMX-CBY 37/2023; CMX-CBY 38/2023 and CMX-CBY 39/2023

6.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to the Kent family on the death of Philomena Kent (RIP); the Lennon family on the death of Madge Lennon (RIP); Irene Cunningham, Gerry and Kieran Hand on the death of Kitty Hand (RIP); Dara Daly on the death of Kay Daly (RIP) and Tina Sweeney on the death of Gerard Sweeney (RIP).

Votes of congratulations were extended to Castleblaney U14 Basketball Team on winning the All-Ireland U14 Championship and to the members of Carrickmacross Emmets Rounders Team who played for Ulster against Munster recently, having just lost out by 1 point.

7.0 A.O.B

Cllr. Carthy:

Requested that the Executive and Cathaoirleach of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District write to the Mayor of Carhaix to extend our best wishes and welcome the return of visits.

Commended the work of the Municipal District Outdoor Staff on St. Patrick's Day and the clean up afterwards. Suggested the addition of wheelie bins for next year in high density areas.

Sought an update about the security railing at the Convent Lands playground.

Asked if there had been a response to the letter issued to the HSE regarding the premises at Rockdaniel Road?

Cllr. Keelan:

Noted that eleven projects had been submitted for consideration under the Climate Action funding stream and that only one had received funding.

Reply – Overall available funding was approximately €375,000 which was split three ways amongst the MD's.

Proposed that a letter of congratulations is issued to Carrickmacross Cancer Society for their work over the past 30 years as their current committee is standing down and to also express best wishes to the new incoming committee.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Concurred with Cllr. Keelan's comments concerning Carrickmacross Cancer Society.

Cllr. Campbell:

Proposed that a letter is sent to Castleblayney Drama Festival Committee to congratulate them on this year's very successful festival.

Cllr. McCooey:

Seconded Cllr. Campbell's proposal and commented on the serious amount of work that goes into organising this event. Stated that the Arts movement in Castleblayney is very strong and has great economic benefit to the town.

Cllr. Campbell wished John Fox, Assistant Engineer, the very best of luck in his new position in MCC. All Members concurred with this and expressed their good wishes to Mr. Fox.

The meeting concluded at 11:35

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator