

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 22nd of May 2023 at 10:50am.

Present: Cathaoirleach Aidan Campbell

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

Apologies: Cllr. Aoife McCooley

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

Cllr. Campbell opened the meeting by complimenting Damien Thornton, A/District Co-Ordinator on the successful day last Friday, when the National CCTV Advisory Committee advised that they shall be recommending the approval of both Carrickmacross and Castleblayney Community CCTV Schemes schemes to the Garda Commissioner’s Office.

Damien Thornton, A/District Co-Ordinator in turn expressed his thanks to those members of the Executive involved in developing both schemes.

Cllr. O’Hanlon also expressed his thanks to the MD team and wished to acknowledge the role of Cllr. Keelan in keeping the matter on the agenda.

Cllr. Keelan echoed Cllr. O’Hanlon’s sentiments and queried when it is hoped to have the Carrickmacross CCTV Scheme up and running?

Reply – the MD have provisionally engaged with a contractor to secure costings.

Cllr. Carthy welcomed the progress and thanked all involved. Cllr. Carthy also wished to commend the Executive for the work done regarding the bandstand.

Cllr. Conlon commended the MD team for the work on the projects. He wished to acknowledge the sensory garden project, stating that a lot of locals will be happy to see this.

The Elected Members all agreed that the CCTV Schemes will be an asset to both towns and will hopefully act as a deterrent against crime and anti-social behaviour.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon, the minutes of the April 2023 Monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 24th of April 2023, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan:

Requested that the matter of correspondence issued to TD's requesting a meeting every 6 months is followed up on in the coming weeks. Cllr. Keelan commented that it is fair to say that all of the Elected Members will facilitate such meetings, noting that Mondays and Fridays seem to be the best day for Oireachtas Members. He stated that roads issues are particularly important to discuss.

Asked for an update on identifying the landowner of the land at the back of BOI.

Reply – this is still being investigated.

Cllr. Carthy:

Requested an update about the installation of security railing at Convent Lands playpark.

Reply – a contractor has been procured and hopes to begin work by the end of this week.

Cllr. Carthy thanked Matthew Lambe, District Engineer for his quick action at Mindszenty Park.

Carmel O'Hare, A/Director of Services noted a mistake on the date of last months meeting and requested that this is corrected.

3.0 Correspondence

i. Letter from Castleblayney Fair Day Committee

Cllr. Carthy voiced his concern about this letter, stating that last year, groups were contacted about funding in order to get them up and running again post-Covid. He wondered if Castleblayney Fair Day will be able to go ahead without help and requested that the Executive tie in with Mr. Lambe to see if we can support them in any way.

Cllr. O'Hanlon suggested that the Elected Members should hold a meeting to discuss how these types of groups can be supported and requested that the Cathaoirleach organise same.

Cllr. Campbell commented that there will be a lot of groups approaching the Members seeking assistance and he would like to think that the Fair Day can be supported.

ii. Letter from Matt Carthy TD re: proposed meeting every 6 months

iii. Letter from Brendan Smith TD re: Minister's response regarding Carrickmacross Courthouse

Cllr. O'Hanlon acknowledged the response from Brendan Smith TD. He commented that the reply from Minister Harris had nothing to do with the structure of the building, which is where the concerns lie. He questioned if anyone came and checked the roof and state of the building? Cllr. O'Hanlon suggested holding back until the next meeting to see if a response is received from the local judge. If there is no response, another avenue will have to be considered.

Cllr. Keelan voiced his support to Cllr. O'Hanlon, commenting that the Elected Members have a responsibility to protect this building.

Cllr. Conlon stated that determining who owns it and what plans they may have for its future is step one. Then it may be determined what may be done with it for the community as there are many groups that require building space.

Cllr. Carthy commented that the Courts Services need to determine what the plans are for the future, stating that it is not acceptable to let it lie idle. Cllr. Carthy used the Courthouse buildings in Clones and Castleblayney as examples of using such buildings for the good of the community.

iv. Letter from The Mayor of Carhaix

Cllr, Carthy welcomed this letter.

Cllr. Campbell noted the contents of the letter and mentioned that Twinning was brought up at the CPG meeting.

Cllr. Keelan stated that if we are serious about twinning, it needs to be funded and commented that it is all volunteer work.

Carmel O'Hare, A/Director of Services advised that there was a €30,000.00 allocation to MDs for Twinning, however, this fell to the wayside due to Covid. Any funding applications for Twinning need to go to the Twinning Committee via Corporate Services.

4.0 MD Coordinator's Report

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Following on from this morning's Turning of the Sod at C:TEK II, Cllr. O'Hanlon commented that today is a good day for Carrickmacross, noting that there will eventually be approximately 150 people working in both C:TEK buildings.

Put the call out to anyone living rurally who need proper facilities to utilise the C:TEK building. Expressed thanks to all involved and advised that he will be seeking a C:TEK III when the other two are full!

Cllr. Carthy:

Concurred with Cllr. O'Hanlon's comments and commended Cllr. O'Hanlon for keeping the C:TEK II on the agenda.

Advised that there are new speed signs at Cloughvalley calling for 50km/hr, specifically around the playground and school. Can this be investigated?

Has received calls about dangerous junctions in Carrickmacross, namely, at Church Hill and at Steadfast Industrial Estate. An elderly gentleman had a near miss with a HGV at Church Hill. Can this location be monitored at peak times to see if any safety measures can be implemented?

At Steadfast junction, pedestrians are just crossing in front of it. Large vehicles are having to edge out due to sightline issues.

Reply – Steadfast Industrial Estate road is a private road – MCC are limited in what they can do.

Members of the public have complained and presented a petition about the poor state of the L49101 and L49102.

Advised that previous reassurances were given that the L4861 would be repaired.

Reply – a meeting has been scheduled regarding this.

Stated that roads need to be put back to good order if Uisce Éireann or other statutory bodies carry out works.

Cllr. Conlon:

Commented that it is a good day story in Carrickmacross today and suggested that a town location should be used for a C:TEK III.

Cllr. Keelan:

Concurred with the comments about the C:TEK II.

Voiced concerns about the proposed Bike Rental Scheme in Inniskeen. He noted that the Executive is working hard on the project and commented that the big issue seems to be Public Liability Insurance. Urged the Executive to do all that they can.

Reply – The Executive are exploring all options.

Welcomed the Inniskeen Public Realm Spatial Plan and stated that he hopes to see it at construction stage by the end of the year.

Stated that it is vital not to forget the roads in our villages and requested that the Executive look at the access roads into same.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Noted that this MD has never handed back a penny of funding and stated that a 3-year programme was agreed and then the MD are asked to do work on other roads, with no monies available. Stated that roads numbered 1-4 on the NOAC report, particularly 1 and 2, are impassable and has no doubt that these have cost MCC money due to insurance claims.

Requested a report for the next meeting advising how much it will cost to repair the roads listed numbers 1 and 2. Suggested that they could be repaired in sections. This report will be brought to the attention of Jack Chambers TD.

Commented that when funding comes in that it should not be all channelled into the regional roads.

Pointed out that CIS funding has been cut by 50% and stated that he does not believe that the public should have to use this scheme.

Advised that in 2011, spending on roads was in the region of 11/12 million – additional funding is needed.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commented that there is a responsibility to raise issues of public safety and acknowledged that there is not enough money to repair all roads.

Cllr. Campbell:

Commended Minister Humphreys and the Government for the funding, commenting that Rural Ireland is not being forgotten.

Requested an update on Annadrumman.

Reply – The topographical and LIDAR surveys are complete, and we expect to have a detailed design completed within the coming week.

Cllr. Conlon:

Stated that he recently went to Magheracloone and noted that issues on the road seems to be caused by surface water. Is there a mechanism to open up channels / drain this water away?

Commended the works being carried out by the MD and noted that this MD have lost good engineers recently. Cllr. Conlon wished them all the best in their careers.

5.0 Q&A

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

1. Has the review into the streetlights along Carrickmacross Main Street concluded yet and is the Executive looking at mechanisms to spread the light outwards to increase visibility for pedestrians and motorists?

Response

Awaiting a response from Roads Section.

2. Will the Executive consider, as previously requested, the repair of fencing at Mindszenty Park, Castleblayney, and the addition of secure fencing along the lakes edge (where boats are moored) to increase safety in the area?

Response

The MD Executive shall arrange for the carrying out of any necessary repairs to the existing fencing within the coming weeks. The Executive shall further commission a safety assessment of the lakeshore area to identify any additional required safety measures. The Executive shall explore all potential sources of funding to provide for the installation of any safety measures so identified.

3. It has been noted that some, previously installed, Carrickmacross-Carhaix Twinning signage, at entrance roads to Carrickmacross, have been removed; can the executive confirm the reasoning behind their removal and confirm if it is intended to re-fit these or replace them?

Response

The MD Executive will investigate the removal of the Carrickmacross-Carhaix Twinning signage on the entrance roads to the town and revert to the Members with an update on this matter at the next available opportunity.

4. When is it expected the Oriel Road, and other affected areas, will have its surfaces repaired following extensive works carried out by Irish Water for the Carrickmacross treatment plant?

Response

The sections of road pavement on the Oriel Road showing signs of structural distress appear to have resulted from works completed circa 15 years ago and not the works recently completed on behalf of Irish Water. The MD Executive is currently exploring potential sources of funding to carry out pavement repairs at various locations in the Carrickmacross urban environment, including repairs to sections of pavement along the Oriel Road. Pending the securement of the required monies, the Executive shall be in a position to outline a programme of repair works.

5. What is the up-to-date situation with the Ross Road works, which have been on our agenda for a number of years, and what measures will be carried out in the interim period to repair damage and potholes along this road; will the executive also look at repairing the potholes along Mullinary Road and Mullinary Street as these areas are in very poor condition?

Response

Following consideration of the original Options Selection Report for the scheme, the NTA requested that the preferred design be revisited to ensure its consistency with any future town centre cycling facilities. Consultants, DCE Ireland, are currently finalising an updated Phase 2 Options Selection Report.

Ross Road is on the current Maintenance and Repair list and pothole repairs shall be undertaken within the coming weeks.

Extensive velocity Patching works on the Mullinary Road and Mullinary Street commenced on Friday last, the 19th of May 2023.

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

1. Can the MD help identify a potential site in Castleblayney for a Scouts Den, a place to hold a storage unit for equipment and meeting place for the Castleblayney Scouts group.

Response

The MD Executive shall explore potential sites for a Scout's Den and advise CastleblayneyScouts accordingly.

2. Can the MD provide an update on the Market House project in Castleblayney.

Response

The Design Consultants are progressing detailed design proposals for the project which are currently scheduled for completion in June 2023. Following this, works will commence on the preparation of draft tender documentation. The Council held an information event in Gate Lodge 1 on April 25th to provide an opportunity for the public to see project progress and design proposals. The event seen a large attendance from the local community and received positive feedback for the project design proposals. It is Monaghan County Council's intention to submit a grant funding application for the project implementation to the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) once the new RRDF application process is officially opened

3. Can the MD provide an update on the Lough Muckno Feasibility study. When can we expect a report and presentation on this item?

Response

The draft report is currently with the Executive for review. It is anticipated that it will be presented to the full council at the June/July meeting.

4. Can the MD provide an update of the LP03410 Corracloughan in relation to the assessment which was to be carried out in relation to sinking on this road.

Response

A visual assessment has been completed on this section of road pavement and whilst there is evidence of moderate surface defects there is no evidence of sinking or significant structural distress.

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

1. Will the proposed bicycle rental scheme for Inniskeen village and the wider south and mid Monaghan area be up and running for this summer season ?

Response

The MD Executive has initiated discussions with the principal community groups in the Village to examine 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.

2. What further works will the council carry out to improve the very dangerous Essexford junction with the funding currently available ?

Response

The provision of Traffic Calming measures was completed at Essexford junction on the R178 Dundalk Road in 2021 under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme. Monaghan County Council are at present 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.

3. What is the up to-date position in relation to the proposed CCTV camera systems for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney towns?

Response

Following a presentation on both schemes to the National CCTV Advisory Committee on Friday last, the 19th of May 2023, the Committee advised that they shall be recommending the approval of both schemes to the Garda Commissioner's Office. The Committee further advised that it shall be a minimum of 6 weeks before Monaghan County Council receives approval or otherwise from the Commissioner's Office.

4. What plans have the council to carry out extra safety and traffic calming measures adjacent to Blackstaff National School given the concerns of parents and school management about ongoing speeding vehicles in the vicinity of the school?

Response

A meeting recently took place between the District Engineer and the School Principal to discuss the speeding issues, and the availability of car parking at the school. The upgrade

of existing and provision of additional road markings has recently been completed. The District Engineer has spoken with the Roads Policing Inspector for Cavan and Monaghan, and he has undertaken to inform the Roads Policing Sergeant for the Blackstaff area to give the area extra attention and carry out speed checks with the objective of detecting any potential speeding offences.

5. In commending the Council for carrying out some improvement works to the Longfield cross junction on the Donaghmoyn Road (R179) will the council examine the possibility of putting in place measures to deal with the ongoing problem of excessive speeding in this area which is a huge concern for the local residents and other road users?

Response

The District Engineer has spoken with the Roads Policing Inspector for Cavan and Monaghan, and he has undertaken to inform the Roads Policing Sergeant for the Longfield Cross, Carrickmacross area to give the area extra attention and carry out speed checks with the objective of detecting any potential speeding offences.

7.0 CE Orders

The following CE Orders were noted: CMX-CBY 43/2023; CMX-CBY 44/2023; CMX-CBY 45/2023; CMX-CBY 46/2023; CMX-CBY 48/2023 and CMX-CBY 49/2023

6.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to the Lennon family on the death of Owenie Lennon (RIP); the McCabe family on the death of Veronica McCabe (RIP); Bernie Mallon & family on the death of Tom Mallon (RIP) and Michael Carroll on the death of Seamus Carroll (RIP).

7.0 A.O.B

Cllr. Carthy:

Sought an update on the crack in the wall at St. Macartans Villas/Convent View.

When will the bins which were removed for repair/cleaning be replaced?

Commended Carrickmacross Tidy Towns on their works and commented that there seems to be a big push on the local businesses' tidying up.

Can the possibility of a water feature for Carrickmacross be investigated, perhaps under the Per Cent for Arts Scheme? This would be a focal point for Carrickmacross and also would aid Carrickmacross Tidy Towns.

Asked if one of the current Traffic Wardens will consider visiting the town until a new Traffic Warden being appointed.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Commented that Carrickmacross is looking well and concurred with Cllr. Carthy's comments about a water feature.

Queried when the pedestrian crossing at Mucker will be completed?

Reply – Tenders are currently being assessed.

Noted the dangers at Church Hill and Mullinary Junctions and advised that weight restrictions need to be enforced. Suggested that AGS should be invited to a meeting and requested that an invitation is issued.

Stated that Tuath Housing have fulfilled their end of the bargain regarding Drummond Close and asked that a letter is issued acknowledging their role and expressing appreciation.

Cllr. Keelan:

Asked for an update on a Traffic Warden for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney.

MCC has received a high number of applications for this post. It is hoped the interview process shall be completed by the end of the summer.

Cllr. Campbell:

Wished to remind business owners not to park on the main streets all day.

The meeting concluded at 12:10

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator