

**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 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 10am.

**Present:** Cathaoirleach Aoife McCooey

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

**In Attendance:** Carmel O’Hare, A/Director of Services, Damien Thornton, A/District Co-Ordinator, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, Michael Broderick, Assistant Engineer, Deirdre Power, Staff Officer, Sarah Moore, Clerical Officer, Nadine Casey, Clerical Officer

**1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O’ Hanlon, the minutes of the June 2023 Monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2023, were adopted.

**2.0 Matters Arising**

**Cllr. McCooey:**

Wished to extend her condolences to Assistant Staff Officer, Ms. Julieann O’Reilly, and her family, on the passing of her mother.

Cllr. McCooey also commended the Monaghan Senior Football team, together with the Minor Men and Women’s teams, on their recent sporting achievements and wished them every success for next season.

**3.0 Correspondence**

**Letter re Carrickmacross Town**

Cllr. O’Hanlon commented that it was a very positive letter and remarked that someone would take time and effort to write such a letter and that a letter of acknowledgement should be sent in appreciation. Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that he was happy the town had performed well in the recent *Best Kept Town* competition and acknowledged the work of Municipal District staff and the Tidy Town’s Committee.

#### **4.0 Presentation on Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)** **Ms. Nicola Payne, Administrative Officer, Community and Enterprise**

Cllr. O'Hanlon opined that a lot of the Plan was very aspirational and remarked the issues facing economic development from a road infrastructure standpoint, stating that everyone present was aware of the statistics. Cllr. O'Hanlon advised that 80% of the workforce in the county is employed by small local enterprise and these companies are more concerned with what is going on outside the gates of their premises. Cllr. O'Hanlon further stated that it was time to see action on this matter, as the Members have been highlighting the issue for the last 10 years. The Members have approved this, it has gone to SPC level, and the Engineers have stated that the biggest issue facing roads is lack of funding. These reports needed to be acted on. Cllr. O'Hanlon noted that progress with the implementation of the Plan is to be reviewed in 2 years and advised that he will be watching this closely.

Cllr. Keelan thanked the presenters and voiced his support for Cllr. O'Hanlon's comments. Cllr. Keelan stated that there needs to be a focus on supporting the agricultural sector and farming community. He commented that County Monaghan is world class in terms of food production and that we should never lose sight of this as the farming community is the backbone of the county. Cllr. Keelan acknowledged that the farming community had work to do in relation to climate action but was confident that solutions can and will be found. Cllr. Keelan further commented that having the Plan was all very well, but that responsibility rests with national government to provide resources to implement the Plan.

Cllr. McCooey queried what the success rate was for delivering on the targets set out in the previous LECP and what can be expected to be achieved for this plan.

Ms. Payne advised that the vast majority of targets were achieved and any that were not had been carried into the new Plan but that she would revert with further information on this.

#### **5.0 Municipal District Coordinator's Report**

##### Cllr. McCooey:

Highlighted that Matthew Lambe was moving to pastures new and wished him every success in his new role and thanked him for his dedicated service.

##### Cllr: Keelan:

Wished Matthew Lambe well in his promotion, stating that he was devastated that the Municipal District was losing an engineer with such a wealth of knowledge and that Matthew was a problem solver who had an in-depth knowledge of the area and would be very hard to replace.

##### Cllr. Carthy:

Wished Matthew Lambe the best of luck in his new role, that it was well deserved, and he had no doubt that Matthew would progress further in his career as he is such a talented engineer.

##### Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Stated that Matthew Lambe was always only ever a phone call away and would go out of his way to accommodate the Members. Commented that Matthew was first class at his job and

that he would be a massive loss to the Municipal District. Thanked Matthew sincerely for the work that he had done during his time in the Municipal District.

Cllr. Campbell:

Stated that if a member of the public rings one of the Elected Members with an issue and they ring Matthew Lambe, he would always come back to them. Cllr. Campbell commented that the Co-Ordinator's Report was evidence of all the work that was done by Matthew Lambe and Damien Thornton. He thanked Matthew for his work on *The Ridge* in Castleblayney and for his involvement in the new C:TEK 2 building. He commented that Matthew was a people's person and that he would be a huge loss to the Municipal District but that he wished him the very best in his new role and that Ballybay/ Clones were very lucky to have him.

Cllr. Conlon:

Stated that Matthew Lambe knew every inch of the county and that he was someone who could positively engage with members of the public. He noted that he was an extremely skilful engineer and that His departure would be a big loss for the Municipal District but thanked him for all his help.

Damien Thornton:

Stated that he wished to echo the Members' sentiments. He noted that Matthew Lambe was the longest serving member of the current Municipal District Executive team and that he was integral to creating that sense of team required to ensure the successful delivery of services. Commented that Matthew was a very honest, trustworthy, and loyal individual and wanted to thank him on a personal level for the support and friendship that both he and his wife Sharon had afforded him. On behalf of the Municipal District team, thanked Matthew for his service, stating that he would be greatly missed.

Carmel O'Hare:

Commented that Matthew had a demeanour about him that nothing was ever a problem and that he would get on quietly with what had to be done. She noted that he was extremely loyal public servant, as was his wife Sharon, and that his career path was on the up.

Cllr. McCooey:

Stated that she never heard tributes like it but wanted to say thank you to Matthew for all his work and welcomed Michael Broderick to the team.

Matthew Lambe:

Thanked the Members for their kind words and thanked everyone for their help and support.

Cllr. Carthy:

Wished to point out that Bogtown Lane required a tidy up.

Requested an update on the tidy up of the Convent Lands Playpark. When is it expected to reopen? This needs to be prioritised.

Requested an update on the LP4816, Enagh Road.

Noted also the L49101 and L49102. Stated that the road was patched last week but that part of the road has gone past patching.

Commented on the speed of cars on the Castleblayney Road, Carrickmacross once you leave the 50km zone. There is a new industrial estate along this road and the Executive need to look at extending the speed limit here.

Regarding Gallows Hill, have we got a definitive date yet.

Reply – the tender for the engagement of design consultants shall issue within the coming weeks.

Cllr. Keelan:

Stated that he is very concerned about the bicycle rental scheme. Will this ever be up and running? There has been a substantial amount of money spent on this to date.

Regarding the Public Realm Plan for Inniskeen, he is hopeful that work will commence on this by the end of the year. Stated that there was a very good community team in Inniskeen, working hard. Would like to see further enhancement on this.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Requested an update on Shirley House Lane Carpark and the Workhouse. Noted the Municipal District has lost 3 engineers in the last 12 weeks, and that this was not good for business. He stated that this Municipal District had the biggest turnover in staff, and projects are falling behind. Shirley House Lane Carpark has not been done. Stated that he will be deeply annoyed if any funding received was to be returned to the Department. Cllr. O’Hanlon opined that Ms. O’Hare needed to address staffing with the new Chief Executive and request stability within the Municipal District Executive team.

Cllr. Conlon:

Stated that commitments were given in relation to Shirley House Lane Carpark being progressed but that delays have held this up and this in turn makes the Members lose credibility. He hoped that there was going to be a seamless handover between Matthew Lambe and his replacement as he noted that within private business, it can take 6-12 months for the business to get back up and running following changeover in staff.

Cllr. McCooey:

Stated that she was in Sligo recently and had hired bicycles. Noted that the company was called *Bolt* and you could book your bikes through an app. Opined that this may be of interest in relation to the Inniskeen Bike Rental Scheme if no local groups are interested.

Requested a timeline for the works at Brennan’s Cross.

Carmel O’Hare, A/Director of Services:

Noted the issue with staff within the Municipal District. Stated that there was a lot of movement throughout the organisation and not just within this Municipal District. Advised that the Executive could not hold people back but could improve on the handover period. Advised that there is a replacement for Matthew and handover is taking place at present, with another new engineer due to start on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

Damien Thornton, A/District Co-Ordinator:

Advised with regard to Gallows Hill and the Workhouse, that there was a slight delay with these projects but assured the Members that no monies would be returned to the Department.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commended Deirdre Power and Damien Thornton for their work to date on the Inniskeen Bike Rental Scheme however voiced concern that public money had been spent on the purchase of bicycles with no real outcome and this was unacceptable. Stated that we are into another holiday season and that pressure needs to be applied and a plan B needs to be explored.

## **6.0 Q&A**

### **Questions raised by Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon for the July 2023 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District Council:**

1. Can the MD Executive advise as to when the currently vacant Assistant Engineer Posts in this Municipal District will be filled?

**Response:**

There is currently 1 No. vacancy at Assistant Engineer grade in the Municipal District Executive team. A newly appointed Assistant Engineer is scheduled to commence employment in the Municipal District on Monday the 31st of July 2023. Separately, the Executive has secured funding for an additional Assistant Engineer post. An offer of employment to fill this additional post has issued within the past fortnight.

2. Can the MD Executive advise as to when the soon to be vacated post of District Engineer is to be filled?

**Response:**

A newly appointed District Engineer is scheduled to commence employment in the Municipal District on Monday the 14th of August 2023.

3. In relation to projects to be undertaken by this Municipal District, can the MD Executive guarantee that, under no circumstances, will grant monies be returned to the various funding bodies owing to projects not being progressed on time.

**Response:**

Excepting unforeseen events outside of the direct control of the Municipal District Executive, the Municipal District Executive shall endeavour to ensure that all grant monies are fully utilised.

### **Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for the July 2023 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District Council:**

4. Can the Executive give me a date for:
  - the reinstallation of the bench on Church Hill (Carrickmacross) at the entrance to the Convent
  - the reopening of the Convent Lands Playground (Carrickmacross)
  - the installation of ‘Children at Play’ signs to Drummond Etra estate upper (Carrickmacross) and
  - the clean-up of Oram playground (with consideration for safety latch on entrance gate)

**Response:**

- The bench at Church Hill has been removed for repairs, sanding and repainting and will be reinstalled later this month.
- The Convent Lands play park is awaiting inspection and approval by an approved playground and equipment assessor. It is envisaged that this inspection will be completed early next month.

- “Children at Play” signs will be erected in the coming weeks at the Drummond Etra estate in Carrickmacross.
  - The play park at Oram is regularly maintained under the playground maintenance programme. The gate at the play park is specifically designed for play parks.
5. When is it expected that repair works will take place on roadways along ‘The Hill,’ Carrickmacross, St Macartans Villas, Convent View etc, including the rear access roads?
- Response:**  
Repair works to the L8701, and the L87102 at St Macartans Villas and Convent View are scheduled on the maintenance and repairs list and shall be completed within the coming weeks. There are no plans at present to carry out repairs to the rear access lanes.
6. When is it expected that the new Traffic Warden (who will service the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District) will be starting in their new role?
- Response:**  
It is envisaged that the new Traffic Warden shall be appointed in early Q4 2023.
7. Can the Executive seek to have repairs carried out on the roadways and ramps along the Convent Lands as there are a significant number of potholes and broken patches throughout?
- Response:**  
It is intended that maintenance repairs shall be completed within the coming weeks.
8. When is it expected that works will commence on the Low-Cost Safety Improvements to Keady Road, Castleblayney as well as repairs to Mindszenty Park?
- Response:**  
The Executive is currently exploring the potential of an alternative scheme, as the R181 Muckno Street/Keady Road is due to be resurfaced under the 2024 Restoration Improvement Programme.

**Questions raised by Cllr. Peter Conlon for the July 2023 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District Council:**

9. Have we had a response from the landowner re the trimming of the trees at the bottom of the convent hill?
- Response:**  
The MD Executive has received correspondence from the landowner concerned. It is intended to hold an on- site meeting within the coming weeks. Date and time TBC.
10. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the Workhouse project in Carrickmacross?
- Response:**  
It is intended that a Multidisciplinary Design Team shall be engaged in late Q3/early Q4 2023, to progress the scheme through to construction tender stage. 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. It is further anticipated that a Category 1 RRDF grant application, for project implementation, shall be submitted in 2024.

**Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for the July 2023 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District Council:**

11. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of a CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney that will help deter and indeed detect some antisocial behaviour in our towns?

**Response:**

Following a presentation on both schemes to the National CCTV Advisory Committee on Friday the 19th of May 2023, the Committee advised that they would be recommending the approval of both schemes to the Garda Commissioner's Office. The Executive are currently awaiting approval or otherwise from the Commissioner's Office.

12. As a follow on from discussions with local community organisations, what progress if any has been made in relation to the proposed bicycle rental scheme to complement the Patrick Kavanagh centre in Inniskeen village?

**Response:**

Following concerns raised surrounding public liability insurance requirements, the Executive has entered into discussions with the Department and IPB to explore a feasible solution.

13. Will the Council consider carrying out some maintenance including drainage works at the car park adjacent to the pitch and putt course in Inniskeen village, also will the Council consider putting in place a disabled parking place adjacent to the club house and public toilets at this location?

**Response:**

The viability of the proposals outlined above will be examined as part of the current Town and Village Renewal Scheme, which provides for Public Realm, Heritage and Amenity enhancements in the Village Heart and St. Mary's Space areas of Inniskeen Village.

14. In relation to the Council's public lighting programme for this area what projects are planned to be completed in this current year?

**Response:**

The following schemes are programmed for completion in 2023:

- Installation of public lights adjacent to the L4800, Drumcondrath Road, Carrickmacross.
- Installation of public lights adjacent to the L4630 in Inniskeen from Magees Shop towards Finnegans Cross.
- Installation of public lights in Lisdoonan to the northern side of the village, from the shop to the junction of the L8080.
- Installation of public lights adjacent to the L4622 at Mucker, Inniskeen.
- Installation of public lights at Mullinary Road, Carrickmacross

15. What is the up-to-date position in relation to low-cost safety schemes planned for this MD area in the current year?

**Response:**

2023 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads				
Road Number	Location	Description of Proposed Scheme	Status	Allocation
R179	Kingscourt Road, Carrickmacross	Lay high friction anti-skid surface	Complete.	€35,000.00
LT48002	Woodlands, Carrickmacross	Provide 2 No. speed ramps and new road markings	Scheduled for completion in Q3 2023.	€10,000.00
R181-4	Shercock Road, Castleblayney Castleblayney	Additional Road markings	"	€15,000.00
R181-3	Muckno Street, Castleblayney	Additional Road markings	The Executive is currently exploring the potential of an alternative scheme as the R181, Muckno Street, is due to be resurfaced under the 2024 Roads Programme.	€15,000.00
LS8150	Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross	Installation of Traffic Calming measures	Scheduled for completion in Q3 2023.	€10,000.00
<b>Total=</b>				<b>€85,000.00</b>

**Questions raised by Cllr. A. McCooey for the July 2023 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District Council:**

16. Can the MD provide an update on the rating of regional roads in the county. This is needed to proceed with works for the Oram Road R182.

**Response:**

Monaghan County Council (MCC) has developed a Regional Road Assessment Tool that has been presented to the Department of Transport. The DoT has expressed an interest in using this tool as a pilot project in County Monaghan. Before proceeding with the regional road rating process using this assessment tool, MCC Management Team, the Corporate Policy Group and the Strategic Policy Committee will need to be briefed on its detail via a presentation at Full Council, likely in September.

17. Can the MD provide information of any town centre regeneration projects in Castleblayney and Carrickmacross.

**Response:**

The Department of Rural & Community Development has awarded initial funding of €100,000 to Monaghan County Council to prepare a Town Centre Masterplan for Carrickmacross Town. It is envisaged that the procurement process to engage consultants to prepare this Masterplan will commence in September, with the finalised plan expected to be completed in Q1 2024. Subject to the award of available of funding, it is hoped that a similar process will commence in Q1 2024 for Castleblayney Town.

The Town Centre Masterplan will provide a vision for the development of the town, building buy-in from existing property owners and local communities. It will include a detailed study of the area and identify key projects/actions to further the realisation of the vision.

The Masterplan will offer a comprehensive path forward for the revitalisation of the town as a desirable place to live and work as a central component of the Governments Town Centre First



Policy. This Masterplan will subsequently provide a basis for the town to seek support from multiple funding streams [including RRDF and Town & Village Renewal Scheme], help to maximise State investment, and offer an opportunity for the delivery of a co-ordinated programme of investment for an area.

18. Can the MD provide an update on the status of the Market House project in Castleblayney, do we have an expected timeline for completion? When can we expect the Rural Regeneration Development Fund to open this year? When does it usually open for Applications?

**Response:**

The Design Consultants are currently finalising detailed designs for the project and preparation of draft tender documentation has also commenced. It is expected that final designs and the draft tender package will be completed by the end of Q3 2023. The timing for new calls for applications under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) is at the discretion of the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). Monaghan County Council have submitted a query to the DRCD to clarify if it is expected that a new call will be announced for Category 1 RRDF projects in 2023. The DRCD's response to this query will be shared with the Elected Members once received.

**Questions raised by Cllr. A. Campbell for the July 2023 meeting of Carrickmacross -Castleblayney Municipal District Council:**

19. Can the MD organise to have a second disabled car parking space made available and marked for Oram Church?

**Response:**

The MD Executive will examine the viability of an additional disabled car parking space at Oram Church.

20. What is the update on the planned works to raise the road at Annadrummond, Castleblayney to help alleviate flooding in the area and when is it envisaged that these works shall commence?

**Response:**

Detailed designs have been completed and MD Engineering staff are currently reviewing these proposals. Subject to securing any required statutory consents, it is hoped to commence construction works in late Q3 2023.

21. With the recent announcement of funding under the ORIS measure 2,3 with €500,000 for works at Muckno in Castleblayney and €79,000 for works at Rahans Lake. What is the update on these projects? When is it envisaged that work on the ground will commence? What is the time scale for completion of these projects?

**Response:**

**Black Island:**

The project is at Preliminary Design stage. Consultants, The Paul Hogarth Company, are currently developing a preferred design solution in light of the feedback received following the recent public consultation event. Subject to securing Part 8 planning approval, and the subsequent engagement of a suitable Works Contractor, it is hoped to commence construction in early 2024. The project is scheduled for substantial completion in Q2 2024.

**Rahans Lake:**

An invasive species survey/study has been completed. Detailed design is nearing completion. It is anticipated that works shall commence in early Q4 2023, with a 2-month timeframe for completion.

22. With regard to the dangerous junction coming out from the Rock Chapel (Saint Patrick's Church) in Magheraclone on the LP4800. What is the update on improving the safety of this junction?

**Response:**

Applications for funding were submitted in 2022 and 2023 under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme however, these proved unsuccessful. The MD Executive shall continue to explore all potential sources of funding to progress the implementation of any required safety upgrades at this junction.

23. With the recruitment process in place for our MD what is the update on the new Traffic Warden?

**Response:**

It is envisaged that the new Traffic Warden shall be appointed in early Q4 2023.

## 7.0 Motion

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

*"That, going forward, the July meeting of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District is held on the 2nd Monday of the month".*

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

*"That the Municipal District Executive examine the feasibility of implementing a community-led Christmas Market Event in Carrickmacross Town this coming Christmas Season."*

Cllr. Conlon advised that during discussions with members of the Chamber of Commerce that this was seen as a great opportunity for the town. It is creating an atmosphere and by keeping it local you are giving people a Christmas experience and bringing footfall to the town.

Cllr. Campbell stated that he felt this was a great idea and that Castleblayney needed to be added on to this motion. He stated that a lot of bigger towns in Europe hold these markets. He advised that there was a lot of work involved in organising the markets but was something that should be worked on.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that working collaboratively with the Chamber of Commerce was very important.

Cllr. Carthy advised that the only issue he would have with the markets would be the amount of work that was involved. He stated that the Council needed to take a hands-on approach with the event management in terms of insurances and Health and Safety. Cllr. Carthy further stated that the Chamber of Commerce put in considerable effort at Christmas each year in relation to the town voucher scheme and the Christmas lights and that this needed to be a committee-led event rather than a community-led event.

Cllr. Keelan stated that he supported the motion but agreed that any events were hard to run without the support of the local authority. He commented that the town was fortunate to

have such an active Chamber of Commerce and commended them on the work they do to promote the town.

Cllr. McCooley stated that she also supported the motion and that anything that brings people into the town over Christmas gives businesses great opportunity.

## **7.0 CE Orders**

The following CE Orders were noted: CMX-CBY 55/2023; CMX-CBY 56/2023.

## **8.0 VOS/VOC**

*Votes of sympathy* were extended to: Jim McGeough & Philomena McGeough on the death of Pat McGeough (RIP); to Derbhla, Callum, Caitlín & Rihanna Byrne on the death of Colm Byrne (RIP); to Maureen & Eugene McDonald & Family on the death of Gene McDonald (RIP); to Olive McConnon & Family on the death of Martin McConnon (RIP); to Micheál Magee & Family on the death of Philip Magee (RIP); to the St. Louis Family on the death of Sister Marie de Paul Neiers (RIP); to Michael Finnegan on the death of Rose Finnegan (RIP); to Kathleen Dooley & Family on the death of Peadar Dooley (RIP).

## **9.0 A.O.B**

### Cllr. Campbell:

Proposed that a congratulatory letter be sent to the Muckno Mania Festival Committee following another highly successful event. Stated that they were blessed with the weather, and it was a fantastic weekend. Thanked the Municipal District outdoor staff for their hard work over the weekend and stated that the town never looked so well.

Proposed that a letter be sent to the Blayney Rockets Committee commending their recent 10-mile run. Cllr. Campbell advised that over 200 competitors took part, and it was a great event and thanked all involved in organising the event.

Noted that the town had a further two events taking place over the August bank holiday weekend, the Faughs Country Music Festival, and the Castleblayney Agricultural Show, and he wished both events every success.

### Cllr. Keelan:

Stated that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of road deaths and that there was a 14% increase from this period last year. He wished to make an appeal to road drivers to be extra vigilant on the roads and wanted to see greater enforcement. He noted that there had been another serious accident on the N2 and that the Members had written once again to the government regarding funding for the redesign of this road. Is there any update on funding for this scheme?

### Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Stated that Cllr. Carthy, at the last meeting, brought a proposal regarding Lough Feagh and he wished to have it noted that he had serious reservations in consulting with Jess Holdings regarding access to the estate and stated that to improve that facility with taxpayers' money was totally unacceptable.

Cllr. Carthy:

Stated that he suggested that the Tourism Section should consult with the property owners to open the estate to the public and at no stage suggested that this should be done for monetary means. He stated that he was totally in agreement with Cllr. O'Hanlon on this and at no stage looked for financial benefit for the property owners.

Stated that he suggested that the Tourism Department should consult with the property owners to open the estate to the public and at no stage suggested that this should be done for monetary means. He stated that he was totally in agreement with Cllr. O'Hanlon on this and at no stage looked for financial benefit for the property owners.

Cllr: O'Hanlon:

Stated that he had no issue with this if no money was being exchanged because everyone in the Town was aware of the issues with Jess Holdings.

Cllr. Keelan:

Concurred with Cllr. O'Hanlon concerning Jess Holdings and stated that they had nothing but a negative effect on the town. Noted that what Cllr. Carthy has suggested is the extension of walking tours through the estate and agrees that this should be explored, provided no public money is to be spent.

Cllr. Conlon:

Asked for an update on the CTEK 2. Is it progressing to the intended timeframe?

Asked if the verge cutting could start in Carrickmacross as opposed to Castleblayney this year and that going forward that this should be alternated between the two towns each year.

Advised that he drove the road at Lisanisk and that it is in very bad condition.

Cllr. McCooey:

Noted the following roads which require repairs: -

- L4300 turning from Brennans Cross
- Lane at Oram Cottages
- York Street, Castleblayney

Remarked that €500 had been given to Oram towards Christmas lights. Suggested that small grants should be made available to smaller communities to apply for things like Christmas lights etc.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Stated that both towns in the area are missing out on funding because things have been so streamlined and that the funding some groups receive has not changed in years.

Cllr. Keelan:

Stated that there should be a small pot of money available for unforeseen circumstances.

Cllr. Carthy:

Commended Aidan and the entire Muckno Mania Committee on such a successful event and likewise commended the Blayney Rockets Committee on the 10-mile run.

Welcomed the new local links and hoped to see more links come online in the coming years. Queried the delay with the appointment of a Traffic Warden and if there was anything that could be done to speed up the process. Stated that he is receiving complaints on a daily basis regarding the two-hour parking in the town.

Queried whether the fence in Woodvale Estate, which provides the border with the Cul An Ri Estate, could be replaced, as it has been left in tatters following recent works in the area.

Stated that he has been approached by members of the public concerning the provision of a Dog Walking Park in Castleblayney, similar to that in Carrickmacross. Requested that the Executive consult with Castleblayney Tidy Towns in relation to this matter.

Cllr. McCooey:

Stated that she also had received calls from members of the public wanting a Dog Walking Park in Castleblayney and that this would be a most welcome development.

Commended the effort that the businesses and the Committee had put into the Muckno Mania Festival and congratulated all involved.

Congratulated all involved in the 10-mile run.

Stated that the Country Music Festival was taking place on the bank holiday weekend and that there was a lot going on in the town and the town had a lot to be proud of.

Wished to express her thanks to the Members and staff of Municipal District and looked forward to welcoming everyone back in September but to enjoy the summer break in the meantime.

The meeting concluded at 12:04pm

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Cathaoirleach

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Date

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Meeting Administrator