

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, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday the 22nd of January 2024 at 10:00am.

Present: Cathaoirleach Aoife McCooey

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

In Attendance: Carmel O’Hare, Director of Services, Damien Thornton, A/District Co-Ordinator, Julieann O’Reilly, Assistant Staff Officer, Sarah Moore, Clerical Officer

Update on Town Voucher Scheme

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon it was agreed that the meeting would go into committee.

Carmel O’Hare, Director of Services, provided an outline of the proposed changes to the town voucher scheme within the county and a brief discussion with the elected members ensued.

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan it was agreed to come out of committee.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, the minutes of the December 2023 Monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 18th of December 2023, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan:

Advised that the barrier located at Essexford bridge is in a dangerous condition and sought an update on same.

Reply – Currently seeking quotations for repair works.

Requested that works be considered to improve the sightlines at Essexford bridge. Also acknowledged previous good works at this location.

Reply – this will be investigated.

Cllr. Carthy:

Requested an update on the proposed site for the pop-up pool in Carrickmacross?

Reply – The proposed site near the running track in Carrickmacross has been put forward as the preferred site. The Executive are awaiting approval from Swim Ireland.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Requested that Robert Burns, Chief Executive, is kept informed of progress due to his expertise in this area.

Cllr. Keelan:

Requested an update on contact with the NTA regarding the proposed pedestrian / cyclist bridge at the River Fane in Inniskeen.

Reply – the MD Executive has not been in direct contact. The Active Travel Unit liaise with the NTA on a regular basis. The MD Executive has contacted local Oireachtas members to seek their support on the matter, as requested by the elected members.

Cllr. Carthy:

Advised that there have been some near-misses at the Mac -Fab junction.

Reply – this will be investigated.

Stated that there is a large pothole on the Drumconrath Road footpath. Please also investigate switching on of lights.

Reply – the pothole has been repaired.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Queried whether any responses have been received from local Oireachtas members in relation to meeting with the elected members of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD.

Proposed that a delegation from Weev, together with Pamela Arthurs and Dette Hughes from the East Border Region (EBR), are invited to provide the elected members with an update presentation on the roll-out of rapid electric vehicle chargers. Cllr. O’Hanlon advised that the charge points would not be in place but for these people and they should be acknowledged for same.

Cllr. McCooey:

Seconded Cllr. O’Hanlon’s proposal.

Requested an update on public toilets for Main Street, Castleblayney.

Reply – The Executive has explored a number of potential sites. The ideal location would appear to be Market Square, which would form part of the longer-term regeneration works. Suggested that we need some solution, particularly in the summer months.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was unanimously agreed to send a letter to Carrickmacross Emmets, commending them on their very successful Christmas Day Swim event.

Commented that it is very important to recognise their good work.

All members concurred with these comments and Cllr. Conlon also wished to thank the River Rescue Services for their services.

In echoing these sentiments, Cllr. McCooey highlighted the successful walk in Toome in aid of Multiple sclerosis (MS).

Cllr. Keelan:

Advised that there are large branches stuck in the middle of the River Fane and requested a report of the removal of same.

Reply – the MD carry out regular inspections. Due to the current high-water levels, the immediate removal of the debris presents an unnecessary health and safety risk .

3.0 Correspondence

i. Response from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council re: Ballynacarry Bridge

Cllr. Campbell:

Commented that it seems funding will be sought, but there is no commitment to money. Expressed disappointment that it took sending a letter from this MD for them to seek funding. This needs to be monitored.

Cllr. Keelan:

Spoke about the current issues with the Government in Northern Ireland.

Noted that he has raised Ballynacarry Bridge funding with a colleague in Northern Ireland and she will raise same.

Stated that we need to keep the pressure on.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Commented that when the Northern Ireland Executive get back around the table, he believes that they should make a retrospective contribution.

Noted that the EBR committee has members of various political parties who sit and work together and complimented Cllr. Campbell in his role as chairperson.

Remarked that he finds it very unfair that projects along the border are being completely funded by taxpayers in the Republic of Ireland.

Cllr. McCooey:

Noted that it is difficult as Northern Ireland is in a political deadlock and implored that some solution is found.

ii. Hudsons Funfair Application 2024 – St. Patrick’s weekend

Cllr. Carthy:

Reminded the group that a price increase had been discussed last year as the fee has remained the same for many years.

Stated that he is happy to propose a price increase.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Concurred with Cllr. Carthy's comments and seconded the proposal of a price increase. Requested that local residents and businesses are informed of the plans for the weekend in question.

Suggested that Carrickmacross Festival Committee could receive extra funding, noting that the Festival Committee have not received an increase in their funding.

Cllr. Campbell:

Welcomed the funfair coming to the town and expressed agreement with a price increase.

Cllr. Conlon:

Concurred with previous comments and requested that the Executive come up with a figure.

Cllr. McCooey:

Asked that the Executive propose a figure for agreement.

Cllr. Carthy:

Clarified that the fee income for the funfair is allocated specifically to Drummond Etra.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commented that he is in favour of all monies coming into the town.

It was agreed that the fee will increase to €2,500.00.

- iii. Acknowledgement from Min. Eamon Ryan office re: pedestrian and cyclist facilities Inniskeen
- iv. Response from Brendan Smith TD re: pedestrian and cyclist facilities Inniskeen
- v. Response from Niamh Smyth TD re: road rating in CMX CBY MD and Roads underspend
- vi. Response from Niamh Smyth TD office re: availability for proposed meeting with elected members

Cllr. Keelan:

Requested that a date be set for the proposed meeting and stated that roads issues need to be top of the agenda.

Stated that the elected members need to have a meeting with local Oireachtas members.

Cllr. Carthy:

Remarked that we are at a disadvantage in County Monaghan due to the large number of higher rated roads.

Commented that elected members were told at the last full council meeting that with the current funding available, our roads will deteriorate and advised that this is the type of point that needs to be made at the proposed meeting with Oireachtas members.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Concurred with Cllr. Keelan's comments.

Stated that he found the meeting with Minister Ryan very frustrating and that he is very disappointed with the attitude being taken towards roads funding.

Cllr. Conlon:

Remarked that it is a very frustrating issue which affects everyone.

Commented that the current monies being made available will lead to a regression in the state of our roads and an increase in claims for damaged vehicles.

Cllr. McCooey:

Stated that the weather is not helping with the state of the roads.

Advised that the meeting with the local Oireachtas members needs to be pursued.

Remarked that it is discrimination against people living in our area.

Proposed that a meeting be arranged for the day of the next MD meeting.

The press requested that they are included in the meeting with the Oireachtas members.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Advised that the members have no problem with this however, it is ultimately the decision of the local Oireachtas members.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Conlon it was unanimously agreed to invite local Oireachtas members to a meeting on the 26th of February 2024 at 10:00am, with the following local MD matters on the agenda:

1. Roads funding, to include tertiary, local and regional roads.
2. Pedestrian / Cyclist facilities in Inniskeen.

Cllr. O'Hanlon requested that the Executive to provide a one-page presentation, highlighting the issues with roads in the MD, which can be sent to the Oireachtas members prior to the meeting.

4.0 MD Coordinator's Report

Cllr. Conlon:

Sought clarification on the Gallows Hill project – is it a consultant or designer that is being sought?

Reply – the MD are currently in negotiations to secure the services of an Urban Designer-led Multidisciplinary Design Team.

Queried whether MCC might take on with operating the proposed Inniskeen Bike Rental Scheme, as insurance appears to be the issue again.

Reply – IPB has previously advised that no local authority has undertaken the direct operation of a bike rental scheme.

Cllr. Keelan:

Acknowledged the work of the MD Co-Ordinator and MD team.

Commented that the approval of the CCTV Schemes is taking an extraordinary amount of time.

Stated that public liability insurance remains the issue regarding the proposed Inniskeen Bike Rental Scheme. Acknowledged that A/District Co-Ordinator Damien Thornton is working on it and advised that he hopes to see progress on it soon.

Noted that other towns have similar schemes running so it should not be beyond us to get it up and running.

Wished to note that taxpayer's money has been spent on it already.

Re: roads maintenance - we are spending hundreds of thousands on fixing potholes.

Stated that the lack of funding to maintain the roads is a problem.

Commented that we seem to be returning to the same problem areas again and again and questioned if it would be better to spend money re-surfacing areas?

Cllr. Carthy:

Commented that he is surprised that no tenders came in for Gallows Hill and acknowledged the Executive for contacting a team to encourage them to have another look.

Remarked that the progression of the Shirley House Lane carpark is currently resting with the Town Regeneration Team.

Commented that the project is dragging on and that he hoped the Town Regeneration Team are aware of the urgency.

Expressed thanks to the Town Regeneration Team for recently extending the public consultation.

Reply – the Town Regeneration Team are very much aware of the urgency of the matter.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Noted that it at least 4 years since Shirley Lane car park was purchased and acknowledged that there were issues and problems outside our control.

Stated that the members need a quarterly report from the Town Regeneration Team.

Advised that he will be bringing a proposal to the meeting with local Oireachtas members to use hot patch repairs, as opposed to the velocity patcher.

Stated that he is aware of the higher costs, but it has proved successful in repairing roads – funding needs to be sought for this.

Cllr. McCooey:

Sought updates on ORIS funding for the Mullyash Walking Loop and the sensory space at Lough Muckno.

Reply – it is hoped that this MD will hear back about these in the near future.

Sought an update on the Shercock Road – Mile Hill junction under Active Travel.

Reply – this MD will keep the members informed.

Queried the costs for road repairs.

Reply – this is dependent on the road condition – it will vary from road to road. Hot patching is 6 times more expensive than the velocity patcher.

Damien Thornton, A/District Co-Ordinator, advised the members there is a balancing act. The priority is road safety and making roads passable. He stated that the velocity patcher affords more value for money in terms of the volume of reactive maintenance works that can be undertaken however, it is very weather dependant. The MD are trying to improve the scrutiny of these operations. An alternative option is to look at a “sub” roads programme using hot patch repairs however, issues will arise if emergency situations occur.

Cllr. Keelan:

Remarked that people are getting used to having bad roads which is ridiculous.

Commented that hot patching seems to do a good job, however it will affect the responses to incoming calls about necessary repair jobs.

Stated that it is very concerning we do not have sufficient funding to maintain our roads and will raise this issue with local Oireachtas members at the proposed meeting.

Cllr. Conlon:

Concurred that the situation is concerning.

Remarked that works need to be all-encompassing – drainage etc. Such works will save having problems in the future.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Stated that this has been an on-going problem for years.

Advised that hot patching costs in the region of €200 – 250k for 10 – 12 weeks and informed the group that it would cost just shy of €30 million to bring our roads up to scratch.

Stated that he is awaiting a meeting with Minister Michael McGrath.

Cllr. Carthy:

Wished to acknowledge the work of Gary Toyne, District Engineer, and stated that he has noticed some recent velocity patching jobs which have lasted – it is not ideal but is better than what it was.

All members concurred with Cllr. Carthy’s comments.

Cllr. Keelan:

Requested an update on the road maintenance programme.

Reply – the drainage programme has started. Teams are currently out tackling issues. The weather has not been great since November for patching, but it is hoped to get going with this in the coming weeks.

5.0 Q&A

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for the January 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. Will the council consider adding seating/benches along the path that runs through Cloughvalley park, Carrickmacross, to boost the amenity of the area?

Response:

The provision of amenity seating along the path that runs through Cloughvalley Park, Carrickmacross, shall be considered in conjunction with the current *Community Recognition Fund* scheme for the provision of a sensory garden/play area and outdoor educational space at Cloughvalley Park.

2. Has any further progress been made on the long-standing request to bring a water feature to Carrickmacross town?

Response:

The provision of a water feature is included in the scope of works for the proposed Public Realm enhancement scheme for Main Street and Bridewell Lane. It is envisaged that an Urban Designer/Public Realm Architect-led Multidisciplinary Design Team shall be engaged in Q1 2024 to progress this scheme.

3. Can I request that consideration be given to adding street lighting to Drumgossatt to service the school, church, shop, and soon-to-be-completed Community Centre? Can I also request that an invite be extended to the Community Centre Committee to meet with this MD to give us an update on how the project is progressing?

Response:

The Executive shall carry out an assessment of the existing public lighting to ascertain the need for additional lighting. Further, the Executive will extend an invitation to the Community Centre Committee to meet with the Elected Members and provide an update on the status of the Community Centre development.

4. Has the MD Executive made any progress on the provision of signage to the Market Square, Carrickmacross, for the Lace Gallery and Collective?

Response:

The Executive is currently reviewing appropriate and feasible signage options having regard to the planning constraints associated with the Market Square building, which is a protected structure.

5. Will the council carry out a review on all council-owned, and AHB, estates in the Municipal District to note which ones have salt bins provided?

Response:

The Executive shall carry out a survey on all council-owned housing developments in this Municipal District to determine which developments have been provided with a salt bin.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for the January 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the public realm plan for Inniskeen village including a parking strategy, when can we expect to see works commence on the ground?

Response:

Detailed design, including the development of a car parking strategy, is nearing completion. Pending Part 8 planning approval, it is envisaged that works shall commence in Q2 2024.

7. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the roll out of the proposed CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney town?

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 continue to await approval or otherwise from the Commissioner's Office.

8. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the roll out of the proposed bicycle rental scheme for the Inniskeen and wider area?

Response:

The Executive are awaiting confirmation from a perspective operator of their ability to secure appropriate insurances to implement the scheme.

9. What plans have the council in the year ahead to address the ongoing problem of serious flooding in the Donaghmoyne village area, and to improve the access roads into the village which are in a poor state of repair?

Response:

An application for funding has been submitted under the *Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works* programme for the engagement of a design consultant to assess the on-going flooding problems and develop feasible solutions. Thereafter, the Executive shall explore all potential sources of funding to advance the identified remedial drainage works. Localised surfacing repairs to the access roads into the Village have been included on the Essential Repairs and Maintenance Schedule.

10. Will the council in conjunction with the active travel department examine the feasibility of putting in place a walking route from the Donaghmoyne road, adjacent to the Lisanisk junction, along the bypass fence line and out to the Castleblayney roundabout?

Response:

Monaghan County Council have been working on an active travel provision to be included along this section of national road as part of the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme (indicative design drawings are available on the interactive map published on the project website in February 2023)

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/62f2dcfc59e4449fb21c575b4d7f7ebf/>.

This scheme is on currently on hold. The Executive are hopeful that funding to further progress the scheme may become available in 2024.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for the January 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

11. What is the update on the works to be carried out at the Black Island to upgrade the paths, signage, flood alleviation works and enhancements to the area with the €500,000 funding granted under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme?

Response:

Detailed design is nearing completion. Subject to securing Part 8 planning approval, the project is scheduled for substantial completion in Q2 2024.

12. When will the Part VII planning be lodged for the upgrade of the Ballynacarry Bridge and what is the next stage of the process?

Response:

The Design Report for this project is now complete and has been forwarded to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for acceptance. Subject to TII acceptance of the Design Report and approval to progress to the next phase, a public consultation process will be held in NI in Feb 2024 and a resultant report will be included in an official planning application to Newry & Mourne District Council. It is intended to lodge a Part 8 planning consent application to MCC in March 2024.

13. With a number of our local roads in very poor condition, when is it hoped to start the roads programme for 2024?

Response:

The drainage works element of the 2024 Restoration Improvement programme commenced in mid-January 2024. It is envisaged that resurfacing/restrengthening works shall commence in Q2 2024.

14. With the opening of the new Library at the Gate House in Castleblayney and the demand for more parking in the area, when will the works commence on the upgrading of the Orchard Car Park at Hope Castle and the works to resurface and put in a new footpath for pedestrian access on the Avenue to Hope Castle?

Response:

It is anticipated that the upgrade works to the Orchard Car Park at Hope Castle shall commence in Q1 2024.

15. The lights on the main street of Castleblayney are very poor and in lots of cases the lights which are on the buildings are not working. Can the MD get a survey done and get this problem resolved and if there is new lighting required have the installed?

Response:

The Executive shall arrange for an assessment to identify problematic public lights along Main Street in Castleblayney, and thereafter report any so identified to the responsible lighting contractor for repair.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aoife McCooey for the January 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

16. Can the MD provide an update on the horseshoe road, at Killygola, Castleblayney with details on drainage works completed and planned at this location and pothole remediation. Exact location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Jo65rWSvUxyF6p1a7>

Response:

The Executive has completed localised remedial drainage works along the L-76001/L-76002 in the townland of Errybane. Any necessary pothole repairs have been scheduled on the Essential Repairs & Maintenance list.

17. Can the MD provide an update on the pilot Traffic Calming Scheme for Oram village?

Response:

The Executive are currently developing a new Traffic Calming Policy for adoption by the Elected Members. The proposed pilot Traffic Calming Scheme for Oram village is to be undertaken in line with the new Traffic Calming Policy.

18. Can the MD provide an update on plans for an outdoor gym in Oram village?

Response:

The MD Executive are currently exploring potential sources of funding for the provision of an Outdoor Gym in Oram Village.

19. Can the MD provide an update on the vacant properties' strategy for Castleblayney?

Response:

The Council's Town Regeneration Team is currently in the process of drafting a policy to address the County's dereliction and vacancy issue. The high-level principles of the policy were discussed at the November 2023 meeting of the Council. These were also considered in detail by the Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development and Enterprise Support in December 2023, with a further review planned for the 24th of January 2024. The policy document will set out an agreed approach to implementing the Council's powers as contained within the Derelict Sites Act 1990.

Following detailed discussions, the Executive has obtained the support of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for additional staff resources to implement the policy. It is envisaged that the team necessary to implement the policy will be in place by March 2024. Initially, the County's five towns, Monaghan, Castleblayney, Clones Carrickmacross and Ballybay will be priority areas for intervention.

Questions raised by Cllr. Peter Conlon for the January 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

20. What is the update on the trimming of the trees at the bottom of the Convent Hill? Will the council proceed to trim these by March 1st, the end tree cutting timeframe?

Response:

The Executive has recently received a commitment, from a representative of the landowner concerned, that the tree-trimming works shall be completed within the coming weeks.

21. What is the latest on the Convent Avenue masterplan?

Response:

The Executive has appointed a consultant to progress the development of a masterplan for the Convent Avenue area. This process shall commence within the coming weeks.

22. Where are the council on the addition of the sensory park upgrade in Cloughvalley park?

Response:

It is envisaged that construction works shall commence in late Q1 2024. The works programme shall be confirmed once a suitable works contractor is appointed.

23. Will the council examine ways to use the area under the old library / UDC yard into a multi-functional community space?

Response:

The Executive shall examine potential uses of the old library/UDC yard in conjunction with the development of the Local Area Action Plan that is currently being progressed for this area of the town.

Questions raised by Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon for the January 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

24. Can the MD undertake a safety assessment of Breffni House? Some of the windows are ready to fall out and I would be concerned that a serious accident could occur, and a member of the public seriously injured.

Response:

The Executive shall, in the first instance, arrange for a visual assessment of the building and convey any outward safety concerns to the property owner concerned. Failing timely action by the property owner to address any issues identified, the Executive shall endeavor to secure and make safe the building as soon as is reasonably practicable.

25. Can the MD confirm when the footway works adjoining Gleann Droimnin Estate shall commence?

Response:

It is anticipated that the footway upgrade works adjoining Gleann Droimnin Estate shall commence within the coming weeks.

26. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the development of a pedestrian link between the Convent Avenue and Carrickmacross Town Centre?

Response:

The Executive has prepared a draft plan indicating how the Convent Avenue could be linked to Carrickmacross Town Centre, via Distillery Lane. Following preliminary discussions with relevant landowners, the Executive is further proposing to develop a Masterplan for this area. This process, which will commence in the coming weeks, will review the development proposals of relevant adjoining landowners, and will seek to identify the optimum route for the pedestrian link. The consultation process for the draft Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan has also identified the need for this project, and the Carrickmacross Town Team has recommended the inclusion of this project in the finalised plan.

27. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the engagement of design consultants for the progression of the Workhouse project in Carrickmacross?

Response:

The Executive are currently conducting tender evaluation. Pending the outcome of this process, it is envisaged that a Design Team shall be appointed in mid-late Q1 2024.

28. When is it expected that the construction of the new C:TEK II building shall be completed?

Response:

The Contractor’s current Works Programme provides that the new C:TEK II building shall be substantially complete in July 2024.

Cllr. O’Hanlon noted that Breffni House is in a dilapidated state and commented that he hopes if a building is in a derelict state and requires remedial works, that this is covered by the owner. Cllr. O’Hanlon requested that Cllr. Keelan contact the owner, as previously, for an update on the plans for the property, as from a safety point of view, works need to be carried out. Cllr. Keelan advised that his previous contact is no longer viable and requested that Damien Thornton, A/District Co-Ordinator, follow up on the matter. Cllr. O’Hanlon asked that Mr. Thornton revert to the members about same. Cllr. Carthy stated that there needs to be a tough stance on dereliction and action needs to be taken in a timely fashion. Cllr. McCooey noted that

an individual was injured in Dundalk a year ago from falling debris. Damien Thornton, A/District Co-Ordinator confirmed that the matter will be investigated.

6.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to Michael Goodman & family on the death of Mary Goodman (RIP); Pat Drury & family on the death of Sheila Drury (RIP); Philip Gartlan on the death of Martin Gartlan (RIP) and Noel Cooney & family on the death of Kathleen Cooney (RIP).

A Vote of Congratulations was extended to Carrick Cruisers basketball team on winning the Men's National Intermediate Cup

Cllr. Carthy requested that Carrick Cruisers are included on the list for the civic event.

9.0 A.O.B

Cllr. Carthy:

Complimented the MD staff for dealing with the issues during the recent storm events.

Requested an update on the shuck in Foxfield.

Advised that there have been a number of drones flying around Carrickmacross in the past 6-8 weeks and wondered if any notification had been given to MCC.

Cllr. Keelan:

Can the signage and lines on the approach road to Magee's Bridge, Inniskeen be reviewed as a lot of lorries are getting stuck at this location.

Asked that parking at Deery Terrace, Inniskeen is kept on the agenda.

Can signage be looked at for the Finger Post, Ballybay Road?

Wished to acknowledge recent works on the Bocks Road.

Advised that nets are needed for the goalposts in Cloughvalley playpark.

Acknowledged the work of the outdoor staff during and following Storm Isha.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Spoke about the good news stories of the CTek II and the number of new houses being erected in Carrickmacross.

Requested that such details are added to the www.carrickmacross.ie website to promote the town.

Mentioned issues regarding parking at Scoil Rois and St. Louis Convent during drop off / collection times. Residents access is being blocked during these times. Can contact be made with both schools and the traffic warden? Possibly carry out a survey.

Cllr. Carthy:

Suggested inviting Enterprising Ireland to meet with the members and inform them of their plans / which businesses are intending to use the CTek II. This could help with promotion.

Also suggested having a link to Enterprising Ireland on the www.carrickmacross.ie website.

Added that the public need to be made aware of the facility and aware of its availability.

Cllr. Campbell:

Thanked the MD team for all their work over the past few weeks. Paid particular mention to the resolution of issues in Castleblayney over Christmas involving the pedestrian lights and the gritting of the roads.

Cllr. Conlon:

Advised that the timings of the traffic lights at Highfield do not appear to be working correctly. They are turning red themselves.

Cllr. McCooey:

Requested an update on possible signage for the Market House in Castleblayney which will inform the public of future plans.

Advised that there is a trench which is very loose on the back road at Oram and queried whether it is a candidate for hot patching.

Advised that there are potholes along the road fronting the Cottages in Oram which need to be filled.

Asked for an update on the request for a departure regarding lighting for Toome and Broomfield.

Reply – this is resting with Roads Section

Expressed thanks to the outdoor team for their efforts in such severe weather.

The meeting concluded at 12:16.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator