

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 Tuesday the 29th of October 2024 at 12:20pm.

Present: Cathaoirleach PJ O’Hanlon,

Cllrs. Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan, Paul Gibbons (via Teams), Peter Conlon (via Teams), Aidan Campbell

Apologies: Gary Toye, District Engineer

In Attendance: Carmel O’Hare, Director of Services, Damien Thornton, District Co-Ordinator, Gemma Keenan, Senior Staff Officer, Julieann O’Reilly, Assistant Staff Officer

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, the minutes of the September 2024 monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 23rd of September 2024, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan:

Recognised the remedial work carried out on the Lisagore Road and queried if there is a long-term plan.

Remarked that a water safety plan seems to be in place for Inniskeen but has not been implemented. Requested that the Executive liaise with Inniskeen Development Committee and Inniskeen Pitch n’ Putt regarding same.

Asked that Carmel O’Hare, DOS, take on board the previous request to have a mechanism in place to allow small monies to be made available for awards/grants, mentioning that he did not get agreement from members regarding this.

Cllr. O'Hanlon raised a point of information, seeking clarification about not having agreement from the members.

Cllr. Keelan clarified that he was referring to the CPG.

Cllr. O'Hanlon concurred with passing this matter to Carmel O'Hare, DOS.

Cllr. Carthy:

Regarding a letter received last month from Carrick Cruisers, advised the members that the matter now lies as a discussion between Carrick Cruisers, Monaghan Sports Partnership and MCC C&E section.

Cllr. Keelan:

Requested a comprehensive report on the potholes on the N2 and queried who is responsible for repairs on the N2.

Reply – permanent reinstatement at this location is complete and this is noted on the MD Co-ordinator Report. TII have maintenance contractors in place.

Following on from a motion passed at last month's meeting, requested a report on the feasibility of making the private road at Gorteens, Coolskeagh, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan a public road.

Cllr. O'Hanlon remarked that the members need to know if this is allowable – a clear directive is required from the Executive.

Reply – Advised caution regarding setting precedent and informed the members that a comprehensive report will be provided.

Asked that a collapsed culvert at the back of Aughnafarcon school be investigated.

Requested that metal barriers adjacent to Inniskeen Pitch n' Putt be put back in place.

Cllr. Campbell:

Noted 3 presentations were scheduled for today's proceedings and remarked that this needs to be looked into.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that he was disappointed there had been 3 scheduled and advised that this will be looked into.

3.0 Presentation

Inniskeen Active Travel – Bernadette McArdle, S.E.E; and Frankie Murphy, E.E.

Cllr. Keelan:

Thanked the presenters for the work carried out.

Noted that the traffic light option previously went down badly with locals in Inniskeen.

Remarked that the survey in Inniskeen was carried out in July, during school holidays.

Stated that the general preferred option was a pedestrian/cycle bridge and commented that Monaghan town has received funding for similar and voiced unhappiness that the NTA would not consider this option for Inniskeen.

Advised that Inniskeen have a very active community.
Stated that something needs to be done and stressed the importance of getting it right.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Clarified that it is a temporary plan.

Bernadette McArdle advised that it is proposed to put the trial in place for 4 weeks with cameras installed, possible in February 2025. If agreement is received from the elected members and local community groups, funding is available and can be applied for. It is intended to liaise with the members and the MD Co-ordinator regarding meeting with community groups.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Remarked that it won't please everyone, however, a decision needs to be made. Safety is paramount.

Cllr. Carthy:

Commented that it is a great idea to run a trial such as this and agreed that not everyone will be happy. Stated that the trial will give a clear indication of how it will work.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Complimented the idea of using cameras.

Cllr. Campbell:

Concurred with previous comments.

Clarified that the longest wait observed in Rooskey was 2 minutes and noted that the school is located nearby in Inniskeen, which will skew that result.

Noted that the proposed bollards can look messy and be knocked over and advised that he saw similar recently in Dublin.

Stressed the importance of liaising with the local groups in the community.

Cllr. Conlon:

Echoed the previous comments.

Remarked that having a month's trial is a good start as seeing it work might help with an effective solution.

Agreed with the importance of involving the local community.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, it was unanimously agreed to move forward with the plan once local community groups do not vehemently oppose it.

4.0 Correspondence

- i. Acknowledgement from Minister Helen McEntee re: Carrickmacross Courthouse
- ii. Acknowledgement from Minister Humphreys re: Carrickmacross Courthouse
- iii. Acknowledgement from Senator Robbie Gallagher re: Carrickmacross Courthouse
- iv. Correspondence from Matt Carthy TD re: Carrickmacross Courthouse

Cllr. O'Hanlon acknowledged the responses received regarding Carrickmacross Courthouse and suggested that it looks like it may end up with the OPW. Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that if this does turn out to be the case, that a letter is forwarded to Minister Patrick O'Donovan.

Cllr. O'Hanlon remarked that this building cannot be allowed to lie idle.

Cllr. Campbell suggested, based on what reply is received, that we let them know we had a similar situation in this MD.

Cllr. O'Hanlon asked that Cllr. Campbell formally request this once the new Government is in place.

Cllr. Carthy agreed wholeheartedly that speed is of the essence.

Cllr. Conlon and Cllr. Keelan wished to be associated with the previous comments.

- v. Acknowledgement from Jack Chambers TD re: N2 Ardee to CBY funding
- vi. Acknowledgement from James Lawless TD re: N2 Ardee to CBY funding

Cllr. O'Hanlon acknowledged the response received and remarked that the members need to work together on this issue.

- vii. Correspondence from Superintendent Alan McGovern re: CCTV applications

Cllr. Keelan wished to acknowledge this letter.

- viii. Letter from Sean Egan, Carrickmacross – Carhaix Town Twinning Association

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Campbell, it was unanimously agreed that Cllr. O'Hanlon and Cllr. Carthy remain on the committee.

- ix. Letter from Carrickmacross Festival Committee

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon, it was unanimously agreed that Cllr. Carthy remain on the committee.

5.0 Proposed Civic Reception – MD Community Games Gold Medal winners 2024

The elected members agreed to host 2 separate civic receptions in Carrickmacross Civic Offices and requested that the MD contact Joanne Marron regarding same.

6.0 Agree date for December monthly meeting

It was agreed to hold the December monthly meeting in Carrickmacross Civic Offices on Monday, December 16th at 10am.

7.0 Municipal Coordinator's Report

Cllr. Carthy:

Queried the use of the name "Bath Avenue" – advising that it has always been known as "Convent Avenue".

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Remarked that that this should be investigated.

Cllr. Carthy:

Concurred with this.

Cllr. Campbell:

Stated that the Armstrong family should be recognised for providing the old bus shelter on York Street and on the proposal of Cllr. Campbell and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon it was unanimously agreed to repurpose the old shelter for use in Oram village.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Sought an update on Ctek II.

Reply – This will be officially opened on Friday 8th November by Minister Heather Humphreys.

Cllr. Carthy:

Insisted that Cllr. O'Hanlon should say a few words at this occasion as Cathaoirleach of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD.

8.0 Q&A

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

- 1. What is the latest update, and programme for delivery, on all Active Travel schemes in this Municipal District?**

Response:

The Active Travel unit are continuing to work on over 20 Active Travel schemes across the county with a budget of €3 million for 2024 from the NTA. The schemes are progressing through the 7 phases of the NTA Cost Management Guidelines and the

necessary approvals at each phase.

The list below outlines the schemes in the Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD that are expected to commence and/or be completed by the end of 2025. This funding allocation is for 2024 and continued funding is dependent on the NTA.

Project Code:	Project Name	2024 Allocation	MD
MN/21/0010	Carrickmacross- Castleblayney Rd Active Travel	€75,000	Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney
MN/21/0020	Low-Cost Junction Tightening/Pedestrian Crossing Scheme- Inniskeen & Mille Hill Road Castleblayney	€100,000	All 3
MN/21/0021	Light Segregation Cycle Scheme- Castleblayney	€35,000	Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney
MN/23/0007	Carrickmacross R178/Oriel Road Active Travel Scheme	€60,000	Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney
MN/23/0020	Urban Mobility Plans- Castleblayney, Ballybay, Clones & Carrickmacross	€60,000	Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney Clones/Ballybay
MN/23/0102	Woodview to Glen Road connectivity - Monaghan Town	€200,000	Monaghan

2. When is it expected that footpath repairs will be carried out/completed in the Municipal District for 2024 and will the council be carrying out a review of all housing estate footpaths over the coming months to establish the repair needs of our housing developments?

Response:

It is anticipated that the Municipal District's Annual Programme of Footway Repairs will be completed in November 2024.

Engineering staff shall undertake surveys of the footways in council-maintained housing developments in this Municipal District to identify sections of footway requiring repair. Any sections of footway so identified, shall be included for consideration under the Municipal District's 2025 Annual Programme of Footway Repairs.

3. Now that variation no. 6 of the Co. Development Plan 2019-2025 has been approved by Monaghan County Council, when is it expected planning works will conclude on the proposed Shirley House Lane Car Park, Carrickmacross?

Response:

A presentation on the Proposed Variation No 6 was provided to elected members at the County Council meeting held on the 2nd of September 2024 and it was agreed to place the proposed variation on public display for comment. Notice of the proposed variation to the County Development Plan was advertised in the Northern Standard on the 19th of September 2024. This newspaper notice provided details on the nature of the proposed variation (change of zoning of lands in the settlements of Carrickmacross), where a copy of the proposed variation could be viewed, how written submissions or observations could be made and the closing date/time for such submissions to be received. The period for submissions and observations to be submitted closed at 5pm on the 18th of October

2024.

A report on the submissions received shall be prepared and submitted for consideration by the elected members prior to the 14th of November 2024, and will thereafter be considered at the December meeting of Monaghan County Council.

4. Will consideration be given to allow members of the public to book a slot in the Carrickmacross Pop Up Pool at our local Civic offices using cash/card; specifically, to facilitate those who would not be comfortable using the online booking system themselves?

Response:

Monaghan county council will consult with *Swim Ireland* to explore the feasibility of offering an in-person booking facility.

5. Has there been any update on the review of the streetlights on Carrickmacross Main Street and are there any plans to improve nighttime visibility for pedestrians and motorists in our town centre?

Response:

To date, the Executive has been advised on several occasions (most recently when developing the Town Centre First Plan for Carrickmacross Town) that the streetlights along Main Street, Carrickmacross comply with all relevant technical standards. Notwithstanding same, the MD Executive intend to commission an independent assessment of the street lighting on Carrickmacross Main Street, in the context of overall road safety, within the coming weeks.

Questions raised by Cllr. Paul Gibbons for the October 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. Can I ask that the public lighting in The Crescent, Castleblayney be examined and upgraded as necessary? Lighting levels in the area seem very low, the poles are far apart, and I have been advised of several incidents where residents and visitors have fallen with a low level of lighting identified as a cause.

Response:

The Executive has engaged a public lighting specialist to conduct an audit on the public lighting in The Crescent housing estate. The outcome report shall identify any necessary upgrades.

7. Can traffic calming be examined in the following Castleblayney estates where numerous residents have contacted me to request same - Thorndale, Connabury Hill, Coill Darach and The Willows?

Response:

Having regard to Monaghan County Council's adopted Traffic Calming Policy, the Executive shall arrange for road safety assessments to be undertaken in Thorndale, Connabury Hill, Coill Darrach and The Willows to determine any road safety measures that may be required.

8. Can the footpaths in Drumillard, Bree and Laurel Hill be assessed and upgraded as necessary?

Response:

Engineering staff shall undertake surveys of the footways in Drumillard, Bree and Laurel Hill housing developments to identify sections of footway requiring repair. Any sections of footway so identified, shall be included for consideration under the Municipal District's 2025 Annual Programme of Footway Repairs.

9. Can the road salting routes in the wider Castleblayney/Broomfield/Oram areas be provided?

Response:

Awaiting response from Roads Section.

10. Can an update be provided on works approved to upgrade the Mullyash walking loop?

Response:

The project is currently at design stage. It is envisaged that works shall commence in early Q1 2025.

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

11. When can physical work be seen on starting the sensory park in Cloughvalley?

Response:

It is envisaged that works shall commence in early Q1 2025.

12. The trees on the Convent Hill need to be trimmed for safety reasons. What is the latest progress on this? Will the council consider completing this task?

Response:

The Executive has contacted the relevant utility providers regarding the trees on Convent Avenue. The utility providers are to conduct site inspections to determine if the trees pose a safety concern.

13. Donaghmoynne village has seen flooding issues, a detailed report was / is to be completed. How has this progressed?

Response:

The Executive is currently in the process of appointing a suitably qualified consultant to advance the design of feasible flood mitigation measures. It is anticipated a suitably qualified consultant shall be appointed within the coming weeks.

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

14. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the Donaghmoynne Village area and the ongoing problem of flooding, including the need to have the access roads in to the village upgraded and resurfaced, Have the council executive managed to engage a consultant to design the flood mitigation measures required?

Response:

The Executive is currently in the process of appointing a suitably qualified consultant to advance the design of feasible flood mitigation measures. It is anticipated a suitably qualified consultant shall be appointed within the coming weeks.

15. Will the council executive engage with the residents' associations in both Deery Terrace and Dunard at Inniskeen, in relation to their request to have some of the large trees in the estates trimmed back and removed where appropriate in the interests of road safety and general convenience?

Response:

Initially, the Executive intend to engage an arborist to undertake a survey of the trees in question. Upon receipt of the outcome report the Executive shall commence consultations with the residents' associations in both Deery Terrace and Dunard at Inniskeen.

16. Will the council executive examine the possibility of putting in place special speed limits and other traffic calming measures including the provision of speed ramps adjacent to Blackstaff School, given the ongoing problem and safety concerns of parents and school management with speeding at this location, including the added dangers and volume of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) using this roadway?

Response:

There is currently a national plan in place to reduce the speed limit on local roads from 80km/h to 60km/h. Once these speed limits are implemented and having regard to Monaghan County Council's adopted Traffic Calming Policy, the Executive shall investigate the feasibility of implementing traffic calming measures in the vicinity of Blackstaff school.

17. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the public realm plan and also the parking strategy for the Inniskeen village area, Is the council still engaging with landowners with a view to acquiring land for the purpose of additional car and bus parking. What funding is available for the public realm and parking strategy. Is this funding ringfenced while design and the consultation are ongoing with community organisations?

Response:

Following submissions from community groups, the Executive is currently reviewing the draft detailed design for public realm enhancements to the Village Heart and St. Mary's Space areas in Inniskeen Village. In tandem, the Executive is continuing to explore all potential opportunities to provide enhanced car and bus parking facilities in the Village. The total available funding for the current scheme, including match funding, is €283,000. The Executive is awaiting confirmation as to the envisaged longevity of the funding agreement.

18. What is the up-to-date position regarding this Council’s engagement with the Local Link Bus service, National Transport Authority (NTA) in relation to putting in place extra bus stops throughout the area, including at Ballymackney on the Dundalk road, and the re-establishment of the very important bus stop at Dunard estate in Inniskeen?

Response:

Having regard to the criteria set out in the NTA’s “Guidance on Bus Stop Locations in Rural Areas” the MD Executive examined the potential of additional bus stops at the following locations:

Corvally	Raferagh Cross
Corvally	Corvally Presbyterian Church
Rakeeragh	Rakeeragh Junction
Kinallyduff	Ballymackney Cross
Inniskeen	Kednamisha Cross
Inniskeen	Lacklom
Inniskeen	Entrance to Dunard Housing Development
Inniskeen	St. Daigh's Terrace
Inniskeen	Football Field

An outcome report was subsequently furnished to the Roads Section to aid further consultation with Local Link representatives and the NTA on the feasibility of additional bus stop provision within the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District. It is hoped that the outcome from these discussions will be confirmed within the coming weeks.

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

19. Can the executive examine the issue of speeding on the main approach roads into Carrickmacross Town?

Response:

The Executive shall undertake speed and surveys on the main approach roads into Carrickmacross Town to determine the extent of any speeding issues.

20. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the handover of the new C: TEK II building? When is it expected that the official opening will take place?

Response:

Official/contractual handover to the Client took place on Wednesday last, the 23rd of October 2024. The official opening of the new C: TEK II building is scheduled to take place on Friday the 8th of November 2024. Confirmation on arrangements shall be circulated to elected members within the coming days.

21. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the refurbishment of Breffni House?

Response:

The Executive has contacted the property owner on several occasions in the recent past

to ascertain an outline programme for the refurbishment of the building. Aside from an initial clear out, refurbishment works appear to have stalled. The Executive shall endeavor to engage with the property owner over the coming days with a view to their expediting the proposed refurbishment works.

9.0 CE Orders

Orders Cmx-Cby 47/2024; Cmx-Cby 48/2024; Cmx-Cby 49/2024; Cmx-Cby 50/2024; Cmx-Cby 51/2024; Cmx-Cby 52/2024; Cmx-Cby 53/2024; Cmx-Cby 54/2024; Cmx-Cby 55/2024 and Cmx-Cby 56/2024 were noted.

8.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to Rosaleen Flanagan on the death of Patjoe Kerr (RIP); Eleanor & Peter Mulholland on the death of Patjoe Kerr (RIP); Dave Walker on the death of Patrick Walker (RIP) and Declan & Yvonne McConnon on the death of Frank (Sonny) McConnon (RIP).

A Vote of congratulations was extended to Magheracloone Mitchells GAA club on winning the 2024 Intermediate Championship.

9.0 A.O.B

Cllr. Campbell:

Wished to mention Heather Humphreys T.D. announcement that she would not be re-running for election and acknowledged all her work, wishing her well in her retirement. Cllr. Campbell advised that he shall speak further on the matter at a later date.

On the proposal of Cllr. Campbell and seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was unanimously agreed to send Heather Humphreys TD a letter to wish her well and thank her for her service.

Cllrs. Keelan; Carthy; O'Hanlon; Conlon and Gibbons wished to be associated with the comments.

Carmel O'Hare, Director of Service voiced her huge respect for Heather Humphreys TD as a female leader, noting the difficulties that politicians can face in today's society and stated that the Executive and politicians work hard together for the community.

Cllr. Keelan:

Stated that there is a need to meet with the local Chamber of Commerce.

Cllr. O'Hanlon recognised Cllr. Keelan's comment and advised that an invitation has been issued by Carrickmacross Tidy Towns Committee . A separate meeting will likely be held.

The elected members agreed to discuss the matter of Steadfast Industrial Estate on the 25th of November, following the MD monthly meeting.

The meeting concluded at 14:12.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator

Date