

## 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 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2025 at 12:00pm

**Present:** Cathaoirleach Paul Gibbons,  
Cllrs. Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan, PJ O'Hanlon, Aidan Campbell, Peter Conlon

**In Attendance:** Cathal Flynn, Director of Services, Damien Thornton, District Co-Ordinator, Gary Toye, District Engineer, Gemma Keenan, Senior Staff Officer, Julieann O'Reilly, Assistant Staff Officer

**Presentation: Update on the flood alleviation solution for Tullynacross/Donaghmoyne area**  
- JBA Consulting

**Cllr. Keelan:**

Sought clarification on timelines.

Queried landowner engagement regarding attenuation.

Wished for an information day in the local school.

Queried the potential cost involved.

Asked if there is any way of carrying out remedial works.

Noted 3 out of 4 access roads to Donaghmoyne require attention.

Remarked that there is a need for elected members to speak to local Dáil Representatives and the local Minister.

**Cllr. O'Hanlon:**

Noted that significant funding will be needed.

*Reply – a ballpark figure for works is over €2 million.*

Queried if any consultation has taken place to deal with lands.

*Reply – This is difficult to do presently. There is a need to engage with tangible information.*

Asked what happens if there is not a positive response from landowners.

*Reply – the pipework needs to be updated regardless.*

Queried who funding applications will be made to.

*Reply – Multiple avenues will be explored. For example – OPW, Acres Programme and the Climate Adaptation & Resilience Fund.*

Asked when an application can be made.

*Reply – Following the preferred option design in October 2025. It is hoped that the OPW will look favourably on an application if presented with a good plan. There is also the possibility of using the pilot scheme to resurface the access road.*

Queried the presence of Japanese Knotweed in the area.

*Reply – The location will be added to the Japanese Knotweed Programme.*

Cllr. Conlon:

Stated it would be good for the public to see the images provided in the presentation during public consultation.

Cllr. Carthy:

Queried if Phase 1 will deal with normal levels. Also, if large culverts are used, is there still a requirement for storage beside it.

*Reply – Pipework would be designed to deal with a 1 in 100 event – the critical event would be solved first.*

Asked if storage on land will cause future issues.

*Reply – This is a conversation which will need to be held with landowners.*

Cllr. Campbell:

Voiced the importance of having consultation with landowners in terms of land to be flooded: How long for and what compensation?

Asked if an open drain along the side of the road is a runner?

Noted the price being north of €2 million.

It is critical for the people of Donaghmoynce to have an interim and long-term fix.

Queried if there are plans to do works on this road, is it a waste to patch it.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Asked if there are any Public Health implications because of the flooding due to farm waste, sewers etc.

*Reply – Yes there would be ramifications.*

The consultants advised that the CCTV showed damage to the current piping which may be possible to repair.

Gary Toye, District Engineer stated that this MD will continue to jet the pipes, as done in previous years.

## **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon, the minutes of the May 2025 monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2025, were adopted.

## **2.0 Matters Arising**

### Cllr. Keelan:

Requested that a member of An Garda Síochána is invited to the September meeting to provide an update on the CCTV Scheme applications.

*Reply – this will be requested.*

Expressed his displeasure at the lack of response from the Garda Commissioners Office to date.

Sought an update on the Famine Graveyard.

*Reply – the District Co-Ordinator and District Engineer met with Kara Ward, MCC Heritage Officer, and the osteoarchaeologist on site. Method statements are currently being prepared.*

*An update should be available in the coming weeks.*

Requested that Donaghmoyny Village is kept on the agenda by placing it in the MD Co-ordinator Report.

### Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Advised that he has spoken to the Minister for Justice, Jim O'Callaghan about the CCTV Schemes issue and suggested waiting a few more weeks as he has 100% confidence in him.

### Cllr. Keelan:

Clarified his issue lies with the Garda Commissioners Office and acknowledged the work of Minister O'Callaghan. He noted he has not put forward a notice of no confidence – he was only considering it. Again, stated his wish to invite a member of An Garda Síochána to the September meeting to provide an update.

### Cllr. Carthy:

Concurred with Cllr. Keelan's comments.

Reiterated the urgency of the need to push the streetscape option for Carrickmacross with regard to street lighting.

*Reply – An application is to be submitted to the department under Town & Village Renewal Scheme.*

### Cllr. Gibbons:

Remarked that the lighting at West Street has gone again – the public are unhappy.

## **3.0 Correspondence**

- i. Acknowledgement from Office of the Tánaiste re: response received querying funding for schools that suffered damage following Storm Eowyn

- ii. Acknowledgement from Office of the Taoiseach re: response received querying funding for schools that suffered damage following Storm Eowyn
- iii. Acknowledgement from Office of the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Employment re: Newbaze funding query  
Cllr. O'Hanlon also wished to thank Minister Niamh Smyth for her response to the above query.
- iv. Correspondence from Brendan Smith TD re: PQ response to Newbaze query

#### **4.0 Municipal Coordinators Report**

##### Cllr. Keelan:

Queried if we are hopeful that Town & Village Renewal works will commence in Inniskeen before the end of the year.

Sought an update on investigating the potential purchase of land at the back of BOI.

*Reply – MCC have commenced the process – a dereliction notice has been served.*

Requested a pothole blitz.

*Reply – any works will be carried out under our own maintenance budget.*

Advised that the road out of Bocks and the Blackstaff Road both require attention.

##### Cllr. Carthy:

Wished to note the disabled access provided at the new Cloughvalley Sensory Garden.

Requested that the elected members are informed when the tender documents for the proposed Bandstand are out.

*Reply – The Executive will inform the elected members.*

Asked that there is a future push for a pedestrian crossing at the graveyard on the Dundalk Road.

Requested, if possible, a public response to the current issue with the footpath at Rock Chapel.

*Reply – This MD have been involved in discussions with key individuals, and it is hoped to move forward positively.*

##### Cllr. Campbell:

Sought an update on Black Island, noting that the Park Run will celebrate 10 years in operation soon.

*Reply – There was a significant amount of damage caused by Storm Eowyn, approximately 4000 tons of timber is to be removed. There may potentially be a phased re-opening of the island and there will also be a two-week closure required for bridge works.*

Remarked on the Market House and his hopes of seeing it go to tender soon.

*Reply – We are awaiting the departments pre-tender approval. We are in regular contact with the department.*

Proposed writing to the Northern Ireland Executive again as there has been no response to previous correspondence regarding Ballynacarry Bridge.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Seconded Cllr. Campbell's proposal to write to the Northern Ireland Executive.

Queried when the Bocks Road and Donaghmoyne Road works are due to commence.

*Reply – Works are due to commence on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July.*

## **5.0 Q&A**

### **Questions raised by Cllr. Paul Gibbons for the June 2025 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:**

- 1. There are no road markings on a section of the road leading from Conabury Hill (behind the Alms Houses) to Tullynacrunnat in Castleblayney. Can this section of road be examined, and road markings provided in addition to a review of position and effectiveness of ramps?**

**Response:**

The executive shall arrange for an assessment of the section of the road leading from Conabury Hill (behind the Alms Houses) to Tullynacrunnat in Castleblayney, to determine the necessity for new road markings and establish the effectiveness or otherwise of existing ramps, having regard to Monaghan County Council's adopted Traffic Calming Policy. Any identified remedial/upgrade works shall be scheduled on the essential repairs and maintenance list and subject to funding availability, addressed as soon as is reasonably practicable.

- 2. Can the possibility of establishing a local committee to help maintain and promote the twinning between Castleblayney and Marseillan be examined?**

**Response:**

Awaiting a response from Corporate Services.

- 3. The L45002 at Drumhariff (left hand side coming from Blayney to Carrick) is in poor condition with large potholes on it, ditch overgrown on both sides especially at N2 junction hindering visibility and there are large open trenches on both sides of the road. Can this road be assessed, and appropriate road safety measures implemented?**

**Response:**

The required pothole repairs on the L45002 at Drumhariff will be scheduled on the essential repairs and maintenance list and addressed as soon as is reasonably practicable. Hedge cutting along the section of the N2 that traverses this Municipal District is scheduled to commence within the coming weeks. These works include for hedge and verge cutting at each public road junction.

A safety assessment will be conducted on the L45002 at Drumhariff, and any warranted road safety remedial measures will be implemented as soon as is reasonably practicable.

- 4. The Council Executive determined several years ago that there was a serious fire hazard from a large section of overgrown gorse bushes between 2 rows of houses at Thorndale, Castleblayney. The bushes have regrown. Can this area be reassessed, and appropriate remedial action taken to remove this regrown fire risk?**

**Response:**

The Municipal District executive in conjunction with Monaghan County Council's Biodiversity Officer and Horticulturist will assess the area, having regard to the Monaghan Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030, to determine the most effective management strategy for the gorse bushes.

5. **There are potholes evident and faded road markings in the Thomas Street/Church Street/Henry Street area. Can the road in these areas be examined and appropriate remedial action taken?**

**Response:**

Municipal District technical staff will examine the integrity of the road surface and road markings in the Thomas Street/Church Street/Henry Street area. Any required remedial/upgrade works will be scheduled on the essential repairs and maintenance list and addressed as soon as is reasonably practicable.

**Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for the June 2025 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:**

6. **When is it expected that repair works will be carried out on the back access road along the rear of houses on St. Macartan's Villas, Carrickmacross?**

**Response:**

It is expected that repair works to the access road to the rear of St. Macartan's Villas will be undertaken in early Q3 2025.

7. **When is it expected that works will commence on the proposed new pedestrian crossing for Oriel Road, Carrickmacross?**

**Response:**

It is anticipated that works will commence on the proposed pedestrian crossing in Q3 2025.

8. **Has the process of reviewing traffic, parking, and safe access issues around the schools in Cloughvalley, including secondary schools along Patrician Drive/Rockdaniel Road/Castleblayney Road, been completed yet and when will it be presented to the council?**

**Response:**

The executive has recently engaged the services of a suitably qualified consultant to review pedestrian safety and traffic management in the vicinity of the schools on the Castleblayney Road, Cloughvalley and Patrician Drive, Carrickmacross. A review of these locations will commence in September 2025, following the summer recess.

9. **In welcoming the start of works, can the MD Executive confirm when it's expected works will be completed on the Carrick-Kingscourt road where temporary traffic lights have been in place for a number of months?**

**Response:**

It is anticipated that these works on will be completed in early July 2025.

10. **When is it expected repair works to the boundary of Clos na Droimainn (unfinished estate) on the Ardee road, Carrickmacross, which came down following storm Éowyn?**

**Response:**

The executive has contacted the property owner concerned with a view to having any storm damage to the boundary fence along the Ardee Road repaired as soon as is reasonably practicable.

**Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for the June 2025 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:**

11. **With the ongoing work to update the paths, signage, seating, and appearance at the Black Island in Castleblayney. When with this work be complete and the Black Island open again?**

**Response:**

Coillte has had a harvester on site at Black Island since the 28<sup>th</sup> of May last, and approximately

4,000 tonnes of timber requires removal from the Island before the project can be completed. The executive is currently in discussions with Coillte and the Contractor to organise sectional access from early July 2025. The Department of Rural and Community Development has also now approved upgrade works to the bridge which will include the replacement of the decking and railings, and the provision of a non-slip surface treatment. The island will be closed off to the public for a 2-week period to facilitate these bridge works. This will be communicated to the public in advance, once dates are finalised.

**12. With regard to Castleblayney Market square regeneration project including Castleblayney Market House with funding approved from the Department of Rural and Community Development for over 11 million euro.**

- a) When will Monaghan County Council be going to tender on this project?**
- b) How long will this process take?**
- c) When is it envisaged to have works commenced?**

**Response:**

Monaghan County Council lodged a submission with the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) in March 2025 seeking approval to progress to Stage 2 of the tender process. The executive has been communicating with the Department in the interim period and is currently awaiting approval to progress to tender advertisement. Subject to securing Pre-Tender Approval, it is expected that the tender process will take a period of 10-12 weeks having regard to relevant time periods for tender advertisement, evaluation, and notifications. Following completion of the tender process, the Council will be required to make a further submission to the DRCD under Decision Gate 3 (Approval to Proceed), seeking approval to award the construction contract. Subject to DRCD approval timelines, it is envisaged that project construction may commence in Q4 2025.

**13. With the first stage of stakeholder engagement for the Masterplan for Muckno & Environs complete.**

- a) What is the next stage of the process and what timelines is envisaged to have emerging and initial concepts?**
- b) Can Monaghan County Council examine the demand now for temporary Camper Van facilities in Muckno with a number of upcoming events and festivals in the area rather than waiting for this process to finish?**

**Response:**

- a) What is the next stage of the process and what timelines is envisaged to have emerging and initial concepts?**

Following the closure of the consultation period, *Cunnane Stratton Reynolds* consultant team are presently reviewing all the submissions and information gathered and will report on their findings and potential emerging concept ideas to a staff Steering Group on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2025. It is intended that a report on the findings and emerging options will be presented to the Municipal District elected members in September 2025 before proceeding to public consultation on the emerging options.

- b) Can Monaghan County Council examine the demand now for temporary Camper Van facilities in Muckno with a number of upcoming events and festivals in the area rather than waiting for this process to finish?**

Monaghan County Council will investigate the potential for locating campervan facilities within Lough Muckno Park and the wider area, on both an interim and longer-term basis, as part of the Lough Muckno Master Plan.

**14. What is the update on the 3x3 basketball facility planned for Muckno Park?**

**Response:**

In late May 2025, the Municipal District executive was advised that Monaghan County Council had been successful in securing funding of €60,000 towards the construction of a 3x3 basketball facility in Lough Muckno Park. It is proposed to site the facility adjacent to the exiting playpark, to the rear of the Library carpark. It is anticipated that works will commence in mid Q3 2025.

15. **What is the update on the ongoing works at Muckno to enhance the area with a new sensory garden?**

**Response:**

Works commenced on the Outdoor Sensory Space in early June 2025. It is anticipated that these works will be completed within the coming weeks.

**Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for the June 2025 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:**

16. **What is the up-to date position in relation to the public realm plan for Inniskeen Village? What works are planned and when is it hoped to see these works commence?**

**Response:**

In tandem with on-going engagement with community stakeholders, the executive is reviewing the draft detailed design for public realm enhancements to the Village Heart and St. Mary's Space areas in Inniskeen Village. Further consultations with key stakeholders will take place on completion of any design amendments. The implementation of these plans is reliant on the community's endorsement of the proposed public realm enhancements.

17. **What is the up-to date position in relation to the planned temporary traffic management scheme for Inniskeen village?**

**Response:**

It is anticipated that the proposed Active Travel trial scheme will be implemented in September 2025 following the reopening of the School after the summer recess.

18. **What is the up-to date position in relation to the proposed flood mitigation plan for the Donaghmoyne Village area? What is the approximate timescale for the implication of the plan. When can we expect to see the access roads into the village given a permanent resurfacing given there very poor state of repair at present?**

**Response:**

The Design Team is currently collating and analysing survey data in order to develop a comprehensive 3D model of the assessment area. The Design Team is scheduled to provide elected members with an update presentation at the June Municipal District meeting. Following completion of the flood mitigation design, the executive shall explore all potential sources of funding to advance the implementation of the identified remedial drainage works. The executive intends to undertake significant resurfacing works to the access roads entering Donaghmoyne Village in conjunction with the implementation of flood mitigation measures.

19. **What is the up-to date position in relation to the proposed CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney town?**

**Response:**

The executive continues to await approval or otherwise from the Commissioner's Office to implement both CCTV schemes.

20. **In welcoming the funding for the repair and upgrading of Corcrin bridge, when is it hoped to see works commence on this important landmark?**



**Response:**

A consultant has been appointed to prepare the repair strategy for this structure. Given the requirement to undertake a Bird and Bat survey and an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, which, depending on the outcome of both, could have an effect on the works programme and the restrictive nature of the IFI's permitted instream works season of July to September, it is unlikely that works will commence in 2025 and will therefore be completed in 2026 subject to funding. All endeavours will be made to commence the work in 2025.

**Questions raised by Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon for the June 2025 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:**

**21. What is the up-to-date position on the speed surveys that were to be undertaken on the approach roads to Carrickmacross Town?**

**Response:**

The results of the speed surveys on the approach roads to Carrickmacross Town will be presented to the elected members at the June 2025 Municipal District meeting.

## **6.0 Director of Service Orders**

Orders Cmx-Cby 26/2025; Cmx-Cby 27/2025 and Cmx-Cby 28/2025 were noted.

## **7.0 VOS/VOC**

*Votes of sympathy* were extended to PJ & Geraldine McCahey on the death of Dylan McCahey (RIP); Paddy Dunnes & family on the death of Patrick (Paddy) Dunne (RIP); Edmond & Annmarie Meegan on the death of Anne (Nancy) Grogan (RIP); Padraig & Geraldine Lambe on the death of PJ Lambe (RIP); PJ Gilsenan and family on the death of Fr. Michael Gilsenan (RIP) and Roisín Molloy on the death of Martin Molloy (RIP).

*Votes of congratulations* were extended to Inniskeen Camogie U-15 team and management on winning their All-Ireland title; Inniskeen U-15 team and management for reaching the All-Ireland final; Annie Rooney on winning the World Title in the powerlifting competition in Rome and Tara Campbell on being appointed as head of RTÉ Radio 1.

## **8.0 Speed Survey Results**

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that where there are ramps, there are no speeding issues.

Cllr. Carthy noted that no ramps are located on the Ballybay Road or Kingscourt Rd.

Cllr. O'Hanlon wished to clarify the location of the survey on the Shercock Road.

Cllr. O'Hanlon proposed the survey results are forwarded to Inspector Colm McNally to voice the elected members concerns.

Cllr. Keelan stated that vehicles are slowed down where the ramps are in place.

Cllr. Campbell remarked it is obvious that the speed is lower where the ramps are located and noted that personal responsibility is vital also.

Cllr. O'Hanlon queried why there are ramps on the road running parallel to the Ballybay Rd, but none on it.

Cllr. Gibbons commented that people want traffic calming measures.

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

Cllr. Gibbons:

Wished to pay tribute to Cllr. Campbell for his attendance during his holiday time.

Cllr. Keelan:

Wished to acknowledge Cllr. Campbell's role as Leas Cathaoirleach last year.

Cllr. Carthy:

Queried if the L-49102, Mullantlavan, is on the county wide pilot scheme.

*Reply – This MD have proposed the L-49102 for the scheme.*

Cllr. Keelan:

Advised the LT-41102 Lisagore Road requires attention.

Queried when hedge cutting at junctions and verges will commence.

*Reply -These works are due to commence this week.*

Cllr. Gibbons:

Informed the elected members of an invitation received to visit Marseillan in two weeks' time.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, it was unanimously agreed that it would be appropriate for Cathaoirleach Gibbons to attend.

The meeting concluded at 14:35pm.

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Cathaoirleach

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Date

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Meeting Administrator