

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 24th of November 2025 at 11:10am.

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

Apologies: Gary Toye, District Engineer

In Attendance: Cathal Flynn, Director of Services, Damien Thornton, District Co-Ordinator, Gemma Keenan, Senior Staff Officer, Leona O'Brien, Clerical Officer

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, the minutes of the October 2025 monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Tuesday the 28th of October 2025, were adopted.

Cllr. Gibbons spoke on the untimely deaths of Chloe McGee, Alan McCluskey, Dylan Commins, Shay Duffy, and Chloe Hipson. He spoke on the impact of the tragedy on the wider community. He extended his sympathy, support, and solidarity to their families. He gave praise to the emergency services, clergy and to the community groups who assisted, and said his thoughts and prayers will continue to be with them.

Cllr. Keelan concurred with these sentiments, noting that it is the biggest tragedy in this area and will never be forgotten. He spoke on their contribution to their societies and the depth of grief felt here and with our neighbours in Scotland.

Cllr. Conlon wished to be associated with the comments, noting how he has not met anybody who has not been touched by the tragedy. He spoke on how Chloe was held in the highest esteem at Inver College and how she was a person who was not afraid to put herself out there. He remembered the care Shay gave, looking after his two younger brothers, and the

plans he had to travel to Australia. Cllr. Conlon commended the emergency services and finished by saying that his thoughts are with the families, the community is there with them and asked them not to be afraid to reach out.

Cllr. O'Hanlon spoke on the silence of the town following the tragedy noting that the whole community is shocked and stunned by what has happened. He commended the first responders, ambulance, fire brigade and gardai. He thanked the clergy, Monsignor Shane McCaughey, and Fr. Benedict Hughes, for the way they conducted the funeral ceremonies, at a time when people were reaching out looking for hope; they performed their duties very well. He recognised the challenge and difficult time that lies ahead, noting that all we can do is keep saying a prayer and thinking about them. He acknowledged the prayer service held at St. Patrick's Church Magheracloone, noting that without friends, neighbours, and community, you have nothing.

Cllr. Carthy wished to be associated with the words spoken so well by the members, noting that their hearts go out to the families of the victims. He noted that the grief is felt at home, across the island and internationally. He thanked the Council for providing the books of condolence. He commended the decision to postpone the lighting of the Christmas lights, noting that the town has a darkness over it. He noted that all that can be done is to extend the hand of friendship, to offer our support, care, and to rally around and let the families know the community is there for them.

Cllr. Campbell echoed that there are no words. He commended the blue light services and Monsignor Shane McCaughey and Fr. Benedict Hughes for the dignity that was shown throughout the services.

A minute of silence was held in remembrance of the victims.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan:

Commended the works at Bully's Acre. Enquired if the other large trees have been audited.

Reply – Any trees identified as requiring treatment in the arborist's report have been trimmed/felled as appropriate.

Commended the work to secure the large cappings at Lannat Bridge.

Sought an update on the TIC roads.

Reply – Gorteens is resting with Solicitors. It is anticipated that the executive will have something to the members before Christmas on Steadfast.

Raised concern over the Donaghmoyne road access off the N2. Requested for action to be taken.

Cllr. Carthy:

Asked if repair work could be carried out on sections of the LT88312, LT88313 and on the junction that connects them.

Cllr. Campbell:

Commended works at Black Island and enquired on when the works are expected to be completed.

Reply – The contractor has returned to site to address flooding issues. It is anticipated that works will be completed next week.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Concurred with the sentiments on Bully’s Acre. Asked for the residents to be contacted for works carried out on trees outside area.

Asked if the speed limit on the Oriel Road has been reconciled/finalised, referencing the pedestrian crossing.

Reply – As it is a 60km speed limit zone, the pedestrian crossing will be controlled by traffic lights. The executive will review over time to see if additional traffic calming measures are required.

Observed that the budget meetings for funding for reclaimed asphalt and low-cost interventions will take place in the new year. Enquired as to the plans in relation to this, noting that it was a great success this year; common sense prevailed, and extra roads were done.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Commended that the provision of traffic calming measures at Keady Road Lakeview has been included in the funding application under the 2026 Safety Improvements Works on Regional and Local Roads programme. Enquired on when a decision will be made regarding funding.

Reply – It is anticipated that a decision will be forthcoming in mid-February next.

Enquired on when a decision will be made under the Public Lighting Programme 2026 for the provision of public lighting along the pathway in Drumillard from the playground to Oliver Plunkett Park.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Sought clarification on whether the lights on the Main Street are going to be dealt with, commenting that they are not fit for purpose. Acknowledged the progress made in the last 12 months.

Reply – The executive affirmed that the lights on Main Street will be addressed.

3.0 Correspondence Incoming

ii. Correspondence received from Minister Jerry Buttimer T.D., Minister of State for Community Development, Charities and Rural Transport

It was agreed to issue a letter to the NTA with a request to meet with the elected members to discuss current and future Local Link Services.

iii. Correspondence received from Garda Inspector Colm McNally

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon, it was agreed to reissue a letter to Garda Inspector Colm McNally inviting him to meet with the elected members to

discuss the very important issues on the agenda; with a note of availability to meet outside of hours.

A brief discussion ensued on the Monaghan Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP), a new body replacing the Joint Policing Committee (JPC). Cllr. Keelan voiced that he will bring issues to the forum on behalf of the elected members. Cllr. Gibbons asked if he could highlight the spate of break in's in Castleblayney at the inaugural meeting next week.

4.0 Correspondence Outgoing

Noted

5.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

Cllr. Carthy:

Noted his delight that the executive is currently assessing potential alternative projects to the former Bandstand project and its inclusion in the report.

Sincerely thanked the executive for works at C & M Cold Stores on the Ross Road.

Requested for a traffic counter on the Dundalk Road due to excessive speed along road.

Observed the road between Inver College and the Industrial Estate junction as having dipped in parts. Would like the executive to investigate any potential underlying issue.

Cllr. Conlon:

Requested an update on the traffic management/pedestrian access on the Old Ballybay road.

Reply – The executive is awaiting on a suitable date to meet; delay due to change in Chairperson.

Cllr. Campbell:

Commended ongoing works at Lough Muckno.

Inquired on when the draft Lough Muckno & Environs Masterplan will be presented to the members and if the Hope Castle feasibility study is included in the first draft.

Reply – It is anticipated that the draft Lough Muckno & Environs Masterplan will be brought to the members in December/January before going to public consultation. A number of options for the use of Hope Castle are being developed.

Cllr. Keelan:

Referred to the inclusion in the report that no formal correspondence has been received from the Garda Commissioners Office on the proposed CCTV schemes for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney, commending Cllr. O' Hanlon's representations in this regard.

Inquired on the causes for delay with the Public Realm Inniskeen, noting that he would like to see works commence.

Reply – The executive is amending the draft detailed design. Funding for this project has been ringfenced.

Welcomed the developments on the Creevy Lough Recreational Masterplan.

Inquired if the minor works at Tullyvaragh junction to remove hedgerow and trees are being carried out in house.

Reply – Proposed works will go to tender.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Asked the executive if a community, tourism, and arts hub could be considered for the large building at the back of the Workhouse. He spoke on the Monaghan Peace Campus, noting how the services complement each other and how the increased footfall has complimented the museum. He referred to the difficulty in getting services at the library due to the volume of people using the facility. He expressed that it would help in relation to the library and with consideration of the projected population forecast for Carrickmacross.

Reply – The executive will look at the inclusion of a library as part of the Part 8 Planning Application.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Acknowledged the success of the switching on of the Castleblayney Christmas Lights. Commended all involved.

Referred to the refusal by TII for the provision of public lighting at Brennan’s Cross.

Reply – An Garda Síochana’s report indicate that there was not a severe accident history at this junction. Refusal of public lighting to be referred back to Roads for TII to reconsider.

Requested an update on the 3-tonne signage for Church Street.

Reply – 3 tonne signage are on order and will be installed as soon as delivered.

Highlighted the road surface at Quinn’s Butchers, New Street as requiring repair and maintenance.

Requested for an update on overgrown trees at Corrintra.

6.0 Q&A

Questions raised by Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon for the November 2025 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

- 1. In relation to the recent active travel works carried out at the junction adjacent to the Mary Mother of Mercy Church in Inniskeen; has this junction been assessed to ensure vehicles can safely navigate the junction? Did these works contribute to the recent flooding at the entrance to the Church carpark?**

Response:

The executive is currently arranging for a Stage 4 Road Safety Audit and a Quality Audit of the completed works. It is expected that these audits will to be completed before the end of 2025. There were no works carried out at the access to the church carpark as part of the Active Travel scheme. New drainage gulleys were installed on the public road at the junction as part of the works. These were connected to the public storm drainage network which is located on the Carrickmacross road.

The church car park has a number of gulleys and an acco drainage channel across its access which are connected to the church’s own drainage network. Monaghan County Council staff visited the site during the week of the 10th of November and observed that the acco drain was completely blocked and the church gulleys were full. Engineering staff have contacted the parish priest to establish the location of the outfall from the gulleys and acco channel within the church property and also, to discuss maintenance and cleaning.

- 2. Following my recent motion for the completion of a feasibility study into the provision of a Food Hub in Carrickmacross Town; when is it hoped that this work will commence?**

Response:

The executive is currently exploring funding opportunities to progress a feasibility study into the provision of a Food Hub in Carrickmacross Town. Subject to funding availability, it is hoped to commence the development of a feasibility study in early 2026.

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

- 3. The cobble lock pavement on Main Street, Castleblayney has been in place for a considerable number of years and requires attention. I requested an audit be carried out assessing this paving in the context of areas like cleaning, condition of the paving bricks, presence of weeds, condition of kerbs, sections of subsidence, condition and location of manholes on the pavement and location and condition of access points to the pavement being particularly mindful of people with disabilities and people who are pushing children among other areas. I understand the audit has been completed with works recommended. Has a date been scheduled for these works?**

Response:

Municipal District engineering staff carried out an assessment of the cobble lock pavement on Main Street, Castleblayney in mid-2025. This audit identified several areas requiring repair. A follow-up examination will be undertaken, once the installation of the new public lighting is fully completed to ensure that any additional issues are fully captured. Locations requiring attention will be added to the Municipal District's essential repairs and maintenance programme, with works scheduled to commence in early 2026.

- 4. Can the lighting levels on the road from the Shercock Road leading to Iontas, Blaeberry Walk, Ard na Lorgan and Rosevale be assessed being mindful of number and location of lighting poles, strength and type of lighting provided and location and size of trees which may be preventing light dispersal from the bulbs in addition to any other issues that may be impacting on lighting levels?**

Response:

The executive shall arrange for an assessment of the public lighting along the L-3800 road, from the Shercock Road to Iontas, including Blaeberry Walk, Ard Na Lurgan, and Rosevale. If any deficiencies are identified, the required enhancement works will be included for consideration under the Municipal District's 2026 public lighting maintenance programme. Any vegetation found to be impeding light dispersal will be trimmed or pruned as required.

- 5. I welcome the imminent provision of a 3x3 basketball court at Lough Muckno and strongly support the provision of sporting facilities that can be accessed by everyone. Can the provision of tennis courts also be considered in Castleblayney? There have historically been tennis courts at Lough Muckno for many years which were very popular.**

Response:

The provision of recreational activities is being fully explored in the making of the Lough Muckno & Environs Masterplan and Development Framework. The project consultants, *Cunnane Stratton Reynolds*, have considered all the public submissions for the preparation of the Masterplan and are currently preparing detail on the Emerging Options for potential projects / activities. The consultants will present the detail on the Emerging Options at public consultation in Q1 2026.

- 6. Have the Executive any plans to submit funding proposals for a new playground in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD in the year ahead?**

Response:

Earlier this year, the Municipal District executive submitted a proposal for the provision of a new playground facility in Castleblayney, centrally located between Plás An Bhrí, Rosevale, Knocktornagh and Coill Darach housing developments, for consideration under the Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation 2025. Unfortunately, this submission was unsuccessful. The executive will continue to explore potential funding opportunities to progress this proposal in 2026.

- 7. In the playground area in Ard na Lorgan, Castleblayney there is no lighting, and the playground is unlocked at night. There has been anti-social behaviour at this location. The community have requested that lighting be installed (similar to the lighting at the playground at Cloughvalley) and the park either be locked in the evenings or CCTV focussed on the playground only be installed.**

Response:

The executive will include the provision of public lighting at Ard Na Lurgan playground for consideration under this Municipal District's 2026 public lighting maintenance programme. Feasible options for enhancing the security of the playground will be explored.

Questions raised by Cllr. Peter Conlon for the November 2025 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

- 8. Can the executive review the possibility of getting decorative / feature lighting as an attraction on the Main Street as like in Monaghan town?**

Response:

A funding application is currently pending under the 2025 Town and Village Renewal Scheme for the implementation of streetscape and amenity enhancements to the main street in Carrickmacross Town. The proposed scheme includes for the enhancement of lighting to historic landmark buildings. Feature lighting will be further considered in the detailed design of the public realm for the Main Street and Bridewell Lane Area.

- 9. Do we have an update from active travel on a review of the junction at Inniskeen church?**

Response:

The executive is currently arranging for a Stage 4 Road Safety Audit and a Quality Audit of the completed works. It is expected that these audits will to be completed before the end of 2025.

- 10. Is there a mechanism to limit / dictate the number of the same type of retail outlets in our towns e.g. Phone, Vape, takeaways etc. ?**

Response:

There are no mechanisms to limit or dictate the number of the same type of retail outlets in our towns e.g. Phone, Vape, takeaways etc. To note, if there is an existing retail use and a new retail use commences within the same building it may not require planning permission as it may fall within the same use class.

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

- 11. Has the executive any plans to surface the footpath along the left-hand side of the industrial estate that joins the running track to Oriel Road in Carrickmacross?**

Response:

The executive has no immediate plans to surface the footpath along the left-hand side of the industrial estate that joins the running track to Oriel Road in Carrickmacross.

- 12. Will the executive add an 'Estate Entrance Ahead' (or similar) sign to the Kingscourt Road, Carrickmacross, warning traffic coming towards the town of the entrance to the houses in 'Mullinary' estate? Also, when is it expected road safety, traffic calming and road marking works will take place on the Kingscourt Road leading into town?**

Response:

The executive will investigate the need for warning signage on the approach to the Mullinary estate. Any signage erected shall comply with the Traffic Signs Manual.

The executive will apply for funding, for the installation of traffic calming measures on the Kingscourt Road approach to the Town, under the 2026 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads programme. The implementation of any safety improvement works on the Kingscourt Road approach to the Town will be contingent on a successful funding application.

- 13. Has the executive looked into the viability of installing an on-surface water fountain to Lisanisk Lake, Carrickmacross (similar to Peters Lake, Monaghan)?**

Response:

Lisanisk Lake, Carrickmacross is not in public ownership. In the first instance, the executive shall contact the landowner concerned to determine their openness or otherwise to the installation of a surface water fountain.

- 14. When are the proposed upgrade works for the Cloughvalley MUGA courts expected to take place?**

Response:

It is anticipated that the proposed upgrade works will commence in late Q1 2026.

- 15. When is it expected works on the resurfacing of the Ardee Road, Carrickmacross, from Highfield crossing to Drumconrath road, will be commencing?**

Response:

Resurfacing works on the Ardee Road, Carrickmacross are currently scheduled for W/C the 1st of December 2025.

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

- 16. Will this council investigate the serious flooding that has occurred at the main access to Mary Mother of Mercy Church Inniskeen and at the pedestrian crossing at the same location and carry out whatever works are necessary to insure we will not see a reoccurrence of this problem, given the great distress this flooding has caused those attending at the Church including at funeral services?**

Response:

There were no works carried out at the access to the church carpark as part of the Active Travel scheme. New drainage gulleys were installed on the public road at the junction as part of the works. These were connected to the public storm drainage network which is located on the Carrickmacross road.

The church car park has a number of gulleys and an access drainage channel across its access which are connected to the church's own drainage network. Monaghan County Council staff visited the

site during the week of the 10th of November and observed that the acco drain was completely blocked and the church gulleys were full. Engineering staff have contacted the parish priest to establish the location of the outfall from the gulleys and acco channel within the church property and also to discuss maintenance and cleaning.

17. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the proposed CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney Town, have the council received formal confirmation from the Garda commissioner s office or the relevant department that these two schemes can now proceed?

Response:

The executive has yet to receive formal confirmation from the Garda Commissioner's Office that the proposed CCTV schemes for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney towns have received approval. Notwithstanding same, the executive is progressing the engagement of a suitably qualified contractor to complete enabling civil and electrical works.

18. In relation to the access routes into Lisdoonan village. What is the up-to-date position regarding the request from the local Community to have new village signage put in place?

Response:

The executive is currently awaiting confirmation of final costs for the detailed design and manufacture of the proposed village signage for the access routes into Lisdoonan. Subject to budget constraints, it hoped that the new signs will be installed in late Q4 2025/early Q1 2026

19. In relation to the longstanding request from the residents of Deery Terrace and Dunard estate at Inniskeen and their resident associations to have some trees trimmed back and removed where necessary. Will the council make contact with the residents' groups with a view to carrying out these works during the cutting season?

Response:

The executive will engage with residents' groups in both Deery's Terrace and Dunard estates with a view to completing any required tree trimming and cutting works within the cutting season.

20. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the flood mitigation plan for the Donaghmoynne Village area. When can we expect to see the plan implemented on the ground?

Response:

It is anticipated that a Part 8 planning application for the flood alleviation scheme will be submitted in January 2026. Subject to the outcome of the Part 8 public consultation process, it is anticipated that detailed plans and costings will be completed by the end of Q1 2026. Thereafter, the executive shall explore all potential sources of funding to advance the implementation of the scheme. It is envisaged that the interventions identified will be implemented on a phased basis.

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

21. In the interest of Road Safety, can the Municipal District executive carry out speed surveys on
a) The N53 approach road into Castleblayney particularly from Concra Woods Golf Club up past Saint Marys GAA pitch and into the Saint Marys Church?
b) The Shercock approach road into Castleblayney particular now with the increased traffic with the coming of a new school and Health Centre?

Response:

The executive shall arrange for speed surveys to be undertaken at the locations identified.

22. When is it hoped to commence the work in enhancing the sensory garden at Lough Muckno?

Response:

Initial site clearance works have been completed. It is anticipated that the proposed sensory play equipment will be installed in Q1 2026.

23. With the recent announcement of funding under the Outdoor Recreation funds for works to refurbish the outdoor adventure centre at Lough Muckno. What is the scope of this work and when will this work commence?

Response:

The scope of refurbishment works includes the following:

- Site clearance
- Refurbishment of jetty and adjacent pavilion area.
- Reinforcement to the existing natural slipway

It is anticipated that works will commence in Q1 2026.

24. What is the latest update on the CCTV for our towns?

Response:

The executive has yet to receive formal confirmation from the Garda Commissioner's Office that the proposed CCTV schemes for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney towns have received approval. Notwithstanding same, the executive is progressing the engagement of a suitably qualified contractor to complete enabling civil and electrical works.

25. With Monaghan County Council now having the tender process complete and a submission made to the Department under "Decision Gate 3 Approval to Proceed" seeking approval to award the construction contract.

a) What is the update on this process?

b) When is it envisaged for this project to start?

Response:

- a) Monaghan County Council's submission under "Decision Gate 3 Approval to Proceed", is still under consideration by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG).
- b) The commencement of construction works is contingent on the DRCDG approval timelines under Decision Gate 3. Subject to Department approval to award the construction contract, it is envisaged that project construction may commence in Q1 2026.

7.0 Director of Service Orders

Noted

8.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to Patrick Traynor & family on the death of Margaret Traynor (RIP); Stuart & Anne Connolly & family on the death of Malachy Connolly (RIP); the Harrington Family on the death of Conor Harrington (RIP) and to Jemmy & Ann Keenan & family on the death of Michael (Mikey) Keenan (RIP).

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was unanimously agreed to send a letter of condolence to the families of Chloe McGee, Alan McCluskey, Dylan Commins, Shay Duffy, and Chloe Hipson.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to Castleblayney Faughs GFC on winning the Intermediate League and to Shauna Clarke, Senior Library Assistant, for receiving the A & O

Shearman Award for Best Overall Performance in Ulster University Library & Information Management Diploma.

9.0 A.O.B

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Expressed his frustration at the outage of two ATMs on the Main Street in Carrickmacross over the weekend, four and a half weeks before Christmas. He remarked on the pressures that businesses are under and that it is not acceptable for ATMs to be out of service for 2/3 days, at a time when businesses make one third of their annual turnover. He requested the executive to send an email to the banks to convey disappointment that the ATMs located on Main Street were 'Temporarily Out of Order' over the weekend, and to enquire as to whether the banks are satisfied with the plans that they have in place to ensure ATMs are in service over the Christmas period. Cllr. O'Hanlon asked the executive to come back with a response on this.

Cllr. Conlon stated that it is an issue every year and commented that the needs for service go up at certain times of the year.

Cllr. Carthy agreed wholeheartedly with the sentiments and asked if the banks could confirm that they have additional measures in place over the Christmas period. He looks forward to the addition of the ATM at the Credit Union.

Cllr. Keelan wholeheartedly supported Cllr. O'Hanlon, adding that the banks should be providing a better service and that he also looks forward to the ATM at the Credit Union.

It was unanimously agreed to send an email to the banks to convey disappointment that the ATMs located on Main Street were 'Temporarily Out of Order' over the weekend and to request the banks to confirm their satisfaction with the protocols in place to ensure that the ATMs remain appropriately stocked over the festive period.

Cllr. Keelan:

Highlighted the main access road into Killanny as requiring maintenance works before the end of the year.

The meeting concluded at 12:33pm.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator