

## 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 (MD) Monthly Meeting held in Carrickmacross Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2026 at 10:00am.

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

**In Attendance:** Cathal Flynn, Director of Services, Damien Thornton, District Coordinator, Gary Toye, District Engineer, Aoife Kelly, Senior Staff Officer, Julieann O’Reilly, Assistant Staff Officer

**Press:** Veronica Corr, The Anglo Celt

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paul Gibbons opened the meeting by extending a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Dr. Rory O’Hanlon (RIP). All elected members expressed their condolences to the O’Hanlon family.

Director of Service, Cathal Flynn expressed sympathy on behalf of the executive and MD.

As a mark of respect, the meeting was adjourned at 10.20am.

The meeting resumed at 10.25am.

A vote of sympathy was also expressed to the family of Eamonn Prenter (RIP), Director and Planner with *Cunnane Stratton Reynolds*.

#### **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon, the minutes of the March 2026 monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2026, were adopted.

## **2.0 Matters Arising**

### Cllr. Carthy:

Asked for an update on the road markings on Main Street.

*Reply- The executive is scheduling the contractor to remedy the situation.*

### Cllr. O'Hanlon:

On the proposal Cllr. O'Hanlon and jointly seconded by Cllr. Keelan and Cllr. Conlon, it was unanimously agreed *"That a letter be sent to the Minister of Roads Darragh O'Brien via Monaghan County Council to request that the increase in costs of roads materials is supplemented so that we complete the Roads Programme of 2026"*.

### Cllr. Keelan:

Noted that it is hoped to have a response back from the Minister's office at the May full council meeting.

Advised that the N2 into Donaghmoyne access road is a dangerous area.

*Reply – Funding has been applied for.*

Sought an update on the proposed meeting with Inspector Colm McNally.

*Reply – will engage will Inspector McNally and revert with a suitable date.*

Queried if the yellow box at the Cloughvalley/Donaghmoyne junction can be extended?

*Reply – This is on the road marking schedule.*

Queried what funding is available for road markings.

*Reply – €20,000 including VAT for road markings.*

### Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Requested that the parking bays at Carrickmacross Civic Offices to be reviewed/cleaned – can road marking paint be applied?

### Cllr. Gibbons:

Asked if there are long term plans for New Street.

*Reply – New Street is not on any specific programme; however, it remains on the maintenance list.*

Expressed disappointment that traffic calming measures are not going ahead due to budget constraints. Is there any potential for works.

*Reply – Funding will be applied for again next year.*

Sought an update on the public lighting at Bramley Crescent and Crescent Hill.

*Reply – The executive is actively exploring the TIC of the public lighting in these estates and has engaged a lighting consultant to determine the costs associated with rectifying any defects.*

## **3.0 Section 38 Approval – Active Travel Scheme R178 Dundalk Rd & R927 Oriel Rd**

**- Bernadette McArdle, Senior Engineer**

### Cllr. Conlon:

Sought clarification that there will be second pedestrian crossing on Oriel Road.

*Reply – This will be a push button crossing – lights will remain green until the button is pressed.*

Cllr. Carthy:

Welcomed the mention of going underground with ESB where possible.

Requested, that going forward, any submissions/questions raised be included in presentations.

Welcomed the Dundalk Road Pedestrian Crossing at Drummond Radharc.

Noted the nearness of the Group Home to the crossings which will have a positive impact.

Asked how confident the ATU are that funding will be received.

*Reply – the matter has been raised with the NTA. The ATU has advised the NTA that it intends to proceed to construction in 2027.*

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Queried if the swimming pool site has been taken into consideration and wondered at having two pedestrian crossings within 100m of each other. Asked if it would make more sense to have one in the middle. Queried if this will cause traffic delays,

Wondered how many pedestrian crossings Carrickmacross will have.

The Director of Services, Cathal Flynn, summarised that the elected members seemed happy enough with the proposal but had concerns about the pedestrian crossings. Mr. Flynn noted that there is an underpass available and perhaps more use could be made of this.

Cllr. Carthy:

Clarified that he is not raising concerns about the second pedestrian crossing.

Noted the next phase of the footpath at Lough Na Glack and the hope to extend.

Also noted the secured for exploring the bypass.

Remarked there is a need to slow the traffic down.

Cllr. Keelan:

Remarked that a pedestrian crossing at the graveyard on the Dundalk Rd is badly needed.

*Reply – An independent Road Safety Auditor witnesses a number of primary school children crossing on the Oriel Road – very dangerous and advised this crossing is badly needed.*

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Queried whether the Road Safety Auditor was aware of the swimming pool plans.

*Reply – No, however the ATU are aware. It is a collaborative approach.*

Remarked that this needs to be taken into consideration.

Cllr. Carthy:

Commented that the swimming pool designers will need sight of this to take it into consideration for their plans.

Cllr. Conlon:

Queried whether there will be another public consultation.

*Reply – The ATU will revert to the elected members once the detailed design is completed.*

Cllr. Keelan:

Queried what the plans are from the Dundalk Road roundabout to the Nuremore Hotel Road, and whether there are plans for traffic calming along this section of the Dundalk Road.

The Director of Services, Cathal Flynn, advised that a commitment has been given to construct a footpath between the Nuremore and the roundabout.

The next phase of the Active Travel scheme may consider traffic calming on the Dundalk Road. Bernadette McArdle advised that the ATU will look at this from the point of view of all road users.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Asked if there are any plans for Castleblayney.

*Reply – There is a Safe Routes to School scheme in Castleblayney.*

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, it was unanimously agreed to proceed to the next stage of the scheme.

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

Cllr. Carthy:

Welcomed the Building Frontages Enhancement Scheme and asked if premises on O'Neill Street and Farney Street can be included.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Queried whether the scheme is not open to all rate payers.

Suggested that premises outside of Main Street could be included if there is leftover funding available.

*Reply – The BFES is only one element of an overall enhancement scheme comprising three elements. The idea was born from meetings with the Town Team, with a view to focusing on Main Street. Depending on the number submissions received, and if all funding has not utilised for this element, the executive may revert to the Department to extend the scope of the BFES to include other streets.*

Cllr. Carthy:

Queried if businesses from O'Neill Street and Farney Street were represented on the Town Team. Urged executive to facilitate applicants from these locations if possible.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Acknowledged the work of the town Team and the MD executive.

Requested that all businesses are notified when making such an application again.

Cllr. Keelan:

Remarked there should be a mechanism to include all.

Cllr. Campbell:

Sought an update on the CCTV in Castleblayney.

*Reply – the application is now approved in principle with the Crime Prevention Officer happy to proceed.*

Sought an update on Black Island.

Advised there are some teething issues at Muckno – drainage issues across the bridge.

Remarked that these need to be nipped in the bud.

*Reply – The MD executive is liaising with Dymphna Condra.*

Cllr. Keelan:

Sought an update on the CCTV in Carrickmacross.

*Reply – This MD are ensuring that the proper procurement procedure is followed.*

Sought an update on the lands at the rear of BOI.

*Reply – Valuations have been completed and the matter is on-going.*

Cllr. Gibbons:

Sought an update on the 3x3 basketball court.

*Reply – The executive is exploring suitable sites.*

Commented that Castleblayney would love a BFES.

*Reply – The BFES was applied for under T&V for Carrickmacross. In Castleblayney, funding was applied for the sub aqua club – significant investment for Castleblayney. Streetscape Enhancement funding can be investigated for next year.*

Cllr. Conlon:

Concurred with Cllr. Keelan's query regarding lands to the back of BOI.

Queried what the current uptake on the BFES is.

*Reply – A dedicated Town Team subcommittee is liaising with property owners/occupiers. There has been decent interest to date.*

Welcomed the recent public consultation at Creevy Lough and the swimming pool progress.

## 5.0 Q&A

### **Questions raised by Cllr. Paul Gibbons for the April 2026 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:**

- 1. I have raised on numerous occasions the deplorable levels of lighting in Crescent Hill, Killycard Manor and Bramley Crescent. Have the Executive assessed lighting levels in these Castleblayney estates and explored possibilities around taking the lighting in charge or carrying out repair work in these residential areas?**

**Response:**

The MD executive is actively exploring the feasibility of Taking In charge the public lighting in Crescent Hill, Killycard Manor, and Bramley Crescent. An assessment of the public lighting in these estates is underway to identify the costs associated with rectifying any existing defects.

- 2. Can the locations of footpaths that received repair under the 2025 footpath maintenance programme be provided?**

**Response:**

The executive has begun compiling a list of repairs carried out under this Municipal District's 2025 Footway Maintenance Programme. This record will be shared with elected members in due course.

- 3. I requested 12 months ago an examination of parking in the vicinity of Market Square leading into Muckno Street ( i.e. at Ginos Diner leading down to Muckno Street) in Castleblayney being mindful of among other issues sight lines of cars and lorries driving on the road, parked cars and their impact on same, placement and suitability of double yellow lines in this area and incidences of parking on pavement hindering progress of people with disabilities and parents with prams? Can the result of this examination be shared along with plans for any planned works?**

**Response:**

Over the coming weeks, the executive will provide the members with a drawing indicating potential amendments to the parking layout at this location, together with a summary assessment of the benefits and drawbacks.

- 4. There are many locations in Castleblayney, Oram and surrounding areas where road markings have worn away. Can an overview be given on plans to refresh road markings in the MD, along with a list of roads/estates currently selected for renewal of road markings in 2026.**

**Response:**

Existing road markings are subject to on-going review by technical staff. Any required remedial/upgrade works are scheduled on the essential repairs and maintenance list, prioritised, and addressed as soon as is reasonably practicable.

- 5. Can details be provided on plans being developed by the Executive for the provision of additional sporting facilities in Castleblayney and the surrounding area?**

**Response:**

Additional sporting and recreational facilities are being fully considered in the emerging Lough Muckno Masterplan and Development Framework. The design team is currently reviewing the draft Framework in light of comments received at February's in-committee meeting. It is intended to hold a follow-up meeting with the MD elected members within the coming month.

Elsewhere, a Request For Tender has been issued for the provision of a BoxUp Unit at

Drumillard playpark. The closing date for tender submissions is Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2026. Additionally, the executive is currently preparing alternative layout designs for the proposed recreational exercise space in Oram Village. It is intended to commence a 3-week non-statutory public consultation process with the Oram community in the coming weeks.

**Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for the April 2026 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:**

- 6. When is it expected the lighting for the new Oriel Road pedestrian crossing will be completed?**

**Response:**

It is anticipated the installation of the lighting heads at the new pedestrian crossing on Oriel Road will be completed within the coming week.

- 7. When is it envisaged works will commence on the upgrade works for Cloughvalley MUGA pitches?**

**Response:**

The executive has commenced the procurement process for the engagement of a suitably qualified works contractor. Subject to the outcome of this process, it is anticipated that works will commence in June 2026.

- 8. A local transport plan for Carrickmacross has been referred to by the Co. Council's Road section as well as the MD executive (in previous responses); can the Executive give the members an expected timeframe for this plan to be completed and ensure, also, that extensive public engagement be included?**

**Response:**

Monaghan County Council appointed a consultant to prepare a Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Carrickmacross in January 2026. The preparation of the Plan is being supported by National Transport Authority (NTA) funding of just over €80,000. The LTP will take the form of an area-based transport assessment and is expected to be completed in Quarter 4 of 2026. The study will examine existing and future transport needs within Carrickmacross, including opportunities to improve walking, cycling, public transport and overall network efficiency.

Public consultation is a core element of the LTP development process and is carried out in accordance with NTA guidance.

Early engagement will take place through a pre-draft online public consultation survey, which is scheduled to be published w/c the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2026 and will invite residents, businesses and other stakeholders to share their experiences of travel and priorities for Carrickmacross. This early feedback will inform the development of emerging options for the draft plan.

Once completed, the Draft LTP will be placed on public display for a defined consultation period, during which written submissions will be invited and public information events may be held. All feedback received throughout the process will be reviewed and considered by the project team prior to the finalisation of the plan.

- 9. Has the executive carried out an assessment on the stretch of Castleblayney Road, Carrickmacross, between Inver College and the new Industrial estate as previously raised?**

**Response:**

The executive secured funding of €330,000 towards the resurfacing of the R927 Castleblayney road, Carrickmacross. It is anticipated that the resurfacing works will be

completed in Q3 2026.

**10. When is it expected a list of footpath works/repairs will be presented to members for ratification/discussion?**

**Response:**

The proposed 2026 Footway Maintenance Programme will be presented to elected members for consideration at the In-Committee Roads Area Meeting, scheduled to take place immediately following April's Municipal District meeting.

**Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for the April 2026 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:**

**11. In the interest of road safety what plans have the council to put in place public lighting from the Dundalk Road (R178) junction out to the Nuremore Hotel on the L4700?**

**Response:**

The provision of public lighting on the L-4700 from the R178 Dundalk Road junction to the Nuremore Hotel entrance will be included for consideration under this Municipal District's 2026 Public Lighting Programme. The proposed 2026 Public Lighting Programme will be presented to elected members for consideration at the In-Committee Roads Area Meeting, scheduled to take place immediately following April's Municipal District meeting.

**12. What is the up to-date position in relation to the delivery of the 2026 road programme. What funding is available for general road maintenance & pothole repair. With the increase in fuel costs and other associated costs what impact will this have on our road maintenance work?**

**Response:**

Preparation works, drainage and cleaning on the Restoration Improvement roads are near complete. Similarly, the tender process for the engagement of a resurfacing contractor is due to conclude by early May, with works programmed to start in May. The Municipal District engineers are to finalise the road programme once the tender process is concluded.

Funding for road discretionary/general maintenance:

Discretionary Grant	€415,798
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**Own Resources**

Footpath/signs/lines	€51,246
Local/rural Roads	€239,271
Urban Roads	€178,238
Sweeping/Scavenging	€387,941
Pothole repairs	€100,000

The increase in fuel costs and other associated costs will have a significant impact on the delivery of the road maintenance programme this year.

**13. In commending the work done by the MD to date on the old famine Graveyard / Bully's Acre when is it hoped to complete this work?**

**Response:**

Upon completion of Phase 1 works in November last, the appointed osteoarchaeologist, in consultation with the executive, submitted proposed alternative methodologies to the National Monument Service (NMS) for the sensitive reinstatement of the upended tree root balls and the disarticulated remains entangled within the root fibres. The executive continues

to await confirmation from the NMS, as to the most appropriate strategy. It is hoped to receive confirmation within the coming weeks.

**14. What was the outcome of the road safety assessment that was requested at Coolreagh cottages some time ago for the purpose of putting in place traffic calming measures at this location?**

**Response:**

A speed survey at Coolreagh cottages is currently underway. Once complete and the data analysed, the executive will share the findings with the members. Subject to the outcome of this assessment, the executive shall seek to identify appropriate road safety measures for this location and explore all potential sources of funding to implement same.

**15. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the proposed works and upgrading of the Corcrin Bridge on the L-4640?**

**Response:**

Design work for the Corcrin Bridge on the L-4640 has been completed; construction is scheduled for Q3 2026.

**Questions raised by Cllr. Peter Conlon for the April 2026 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:**

**16. Can we review the lighting on Farney Street and O'Neill Street with a view to upgrading this the same as Main Street?**

**Response:**

There is currently no plan for the wholesale review of public lighting along other streets in Carrickmacross Town. Reported areas of concern will be included for consideration under this Municipal District's 2026 Public Lighting Programme.

**8.0 Director of Service Orders**

Noted.

**9.0 VOS/VOC**

*Votes of sympathy* were extended to Teresa O'Hanlon on the death of Dr. Rory O'Hanlon (RIP); The family of Eamonn Prenter on the death of Eamonn Prenter (RIP); Geraldine Meegan on the death of Malachy Meegan (RIP); The family of Sally Mayes on the death of Sally Mayes (RIP); Rosaleen Kearney & family on the death of Pat Kearney (RIP); Patsy Boylan & family on the death of Mary Boylan (RIP); The Martin family on the death of Eddie Martin (RIP); and Louise McGivney & family on the death of Eddie Lee (RIP).

*Votes of Congratulations* were extended to The Northeast Musical Society on the success of their recent production "Dear Evan Hansen" and to all involved with the Carrickmacross Panto "Lala's Circus".

## **10.0 A.O.B**

### Cllr. Gibbons:

Spoke about the recent incident in Tullycorbett, where members of AGS were injured in the line of duty. It was proposed that a letter be issued to the Superintendent conveying best wishes for a full and speedy recovery to those affected. All elected members unanimously supported this proposal, jointly condemning the incident and extending their sincere well wishes to the injured personnel.

### Cllr. Carthy:

Sought an update on the basketball hoops/nets at Cloughvalley.

Remarked that the bags at the dog foul bins not being replenished, noting this matter was raised at County level. Stated if Environment section does not have funding, the matter needs to be looked at, at a local level, as the intervention was working.

Advised that the top of the Ross Road is in an awful state. Lorries are cutting the footpath to avoid potholes.

Welcomed the recent TIC of Lough Na Glack and the active resident's association in place. Suggested that high fencing at the playground, similar to Cloughvalley, may help deal with anti-social behaviour. Also, traffic calming is needed in the area.

### Cllr. Campbell:

Complimented all involved in the recent Monaghan Business and Tourism Awards in the Nuremore Hotel.

### Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Commended MCC and The Anglo Celt for supporting the event. Noted the importance of it being held in Carrickmacross, thanking Robert Burns and Cathal Flynn for their support.

Concurred with Cllr. Carthy's comments regarding the dog fouling bags.

Asked who pays for the TIC estates, querying if there is funding from the department for this or is it our own resources. On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was unanimously agreed *"that a letter be sent to Minister James Browne TD in relation to estates being Taken in Charge. That the Department provide funding for all estates Taken in Charge so that the Council does not take this money out of its own resources"*.

### Cllr. Conlon:

Acknowledged the recent Business and Tourism Awards.

Acknowledged the upcoming Country Fest in Inniskeen and requested that the area is checked for potholes.

Advised of lighting issues on O'Neill Street and Farney Street.

Concurred with previous comments regarding dog fouling bags.

The Director of Services, Cathal Flynn, advised that he will bring the dog fouling bags issue to the attention of the Environment section.

Cllr. Keelan:

Concurred with previous comments regarding The Anglo Celt.

Concurred with comments made about the dog fouling bags.

Remarked that the Government need to address funding for TIC estates.

Advised that the Rassan Road, off the N2, needs repair.

Advised of speeding issues on the Donaghmoynne straight (around Longfield Cross).

Cllr. Carthy:

Took on board comments made about TIC estates however noted that there will be the occasional outlier, such as Lough Na Glack, and that MCC do need to take on the responsibility in certain cases.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Complimented all involved with the recent Carrick Panto in aid of Cystic Fibrosis, in memory of Emma Keenan (RIP), and proposed sending a letter of congratulations to the organisers. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Carthy and unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Carthy:

Expressed congratulations to the Northeast Musical Society for their recent production of "Dear Evan Hansen".

Cllr. Conlon:

Wished to be associated with previous comments.

The meeting concluded at 12:40pm.

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Cathaoirleach

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Date

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Meeting Administrator