

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 22nd of June 2026 at 12:30pm.

Present: Cathaoirleach Noel Keelan,

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

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

Press: Veronica Corr, The Anglo Celt

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr. Gibbons requested that a name correction be made at the beginning of the May minutes. On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, the amended minutes of the May 2026 monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 25th of May 2026, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Campbell:

Requested that the executive investigate the tidying up and removal of the green fencing at Hope Castle.

Reply – The executive will revert with a proposal regarding the tidying up of the façade of Hope Castle.

Reminded all that the Lough Muckno Master Plan survey remains online until the 10th of July 2026.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Queried funding and borrowing amounts for the various projects within the MD – seeking an outlay of MD money and requested that the executive revert regarding this.

Reply – There is an extensive Capital Programme in place. Olga McConnon, Finance Director of Service, is scheduled to attend the July MD meeting. It will be requested that she provide clarity on match funding for the various projects.

Cllr. Carthy:

Requested an update on the signage at the Civic Offices.

Reply – A service provider has been engaged, and the signage should be replaced within 2-3 weeks.

Sought an update on the road leading to the water treatment plant and the proposal to install a link road.

Reply – We are awaiting a response from the Roads Section regarding the LIS.

Cllr. Keelan:

Advised that he has received a lot of reps regarding concerns about Phase II of the Dundalk Road - Killanny junction Active Travel Scheme and sought a timeline for the project.

Reply – There is currently no definitive timeline for Phase II.

3.0 Correspondence

i. Response from DOS, Carmel O'Hare re: Staffing arrangements

Cllr. O'Hanlon acknowledged the response and remarked on the quick uptake of the Executive Engineer position. Cllr. Keelan concurred with these comments.

ii. Response from Louth County Council re: L-4623-0

Cllr. Keelan expressed disappointment that it took so long to receive a response. Requested that the matter remain on the agenda and sought a report for the next meeting.

Cllr. Conlon seconded this request and noted that attention is needed for the winter salting programme and minor works on this road.

iii. Response from Minister O'Brien re: Roads Funding

Cllr. Carthy acknowledged the response and noted the last paragraph advising that funding is based upon the length of the road. On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Gibbons, the following motion was unanimously agreed:

"That this MD writes to Minister for Transport, Darragh O'Brien TD, requesting that roads funding be increased to Monaghan County Council and that areas like Carrickmacross and Castleblayney are considered for funding based on their road ratings".

Cllr. Conlon remarked that roads deteriorate for different reasons, for example, having different foundations. Cllr. Conlon stated that he believes that Monaghan County Council should do a body of work on this matter to seek additional funding, remarking that, geographically, we do not have good ground structure.

Cllr. Keelan remarked that perhaps this work has already been done using the rating system. Cllr. Conlon clarified that it was the sub ground that he was referring to.

Cllr. O'Hanlon queried the differences in roads funding allocations between the three MDs, where Carrickmacross – Castleblayney have the worst roads ratings, stating he believes we are subsidising Monaghan MD. Cllr. O'Hanlon remarked on the funding application submitted regarding storm damage - there was an expectation of €1.4m, but we are still waiting.

Cllr. Keelan advised that there is a need to have a full council meeting with the Minister, along with the executive.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated he is hopeful that perhaps the MD Chairs, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council and executive will meet with the Minister.

Cllr. Conlon wondered could the criteria / model not be the same as for the LIS.

Cathal Flynn, Director of Services, advised that the decision of distribution is amongst the 18 elected members. He remarked that there is no question about the need for attention to Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD, but it is how to achieve this with the endorsement of all 18 elected members.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated it was Roads Department who made the decision.

Cllr. Keelan voiced support for Cllr. O'Hanlon and asked that the matter be revisited at CPG level, if not for this year, then certainly for next year.

4.0 Carrickmacross CCTV Update

Damien Thornton, Municipal District Co-ordinator, provided the following update:

A Request for Tender (RFT) for civil and electrical enabling works and a separate RFT for the CCTV equipment are due to issue within the coming weeks.

5.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

Cllr. Conlon:

Excited to see progress on Creevy Lough.

Clarified that the BFES deadline was extended.

Queried the status of funding for the water feature and lighting.

Reply – Funding is in place for both.

Cllr. Carthy:

Remarked on the number of projects due to be presented to the elected members and queried if this will happen at the MD meeting or in a separate meeting.

Welcomed the Part 8 for Gallows Hill.

Requested that a mechanism be included to include areas outside Main Street, if possible, for the BFES.

Advised that the surface of the MUGA pitch is getting tired and queried what a box unit is.

Reply – This is essentially a secure but accessible outdoor storage unit for various equipment.

Queried if the height of the pedestrian crossing on the Oriel Road has been checked.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Sought an update on patching for the Castleblayney area – Bree, Rosevale, Oram, Mullyash, Broomfield.

Reply – these areas are on the repairs and maintenance list.

Asked for an update on a potential site for a 3x3 basketball court.

Reply -Monaghan Sports Partnership have advised they do not currently have a suitable location. The funding status will be checked.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Advised that projects such as the Peace Campus and Bio Connect should be included in the Finance Director of Service report at the next meeting – a full breakdown of what contribution this MD makes.

Reply – The focus of the report will be the General Municipal Allocation. The comments made from today regarding wider concerns will be relayed to the DOS.

6.0 Q&A

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

- 1. Can the MD Executive confirm when resurfacing works will commence on the Mullinary Road and will they endeavour to contact households and businesses that will be affected again (similar to letter sent earlier this year)?**

Response:

It is anticipated that resurfacing works to the Mullinary Road will commence in mid-Q3 2026. The executive shall endeavour to notify affected households and businesses well in advance.

- 2. Works were due to commence on upgrading the MUGA pitches in Cloughvalley this month; is that still on target? Can Executive confirm when it expects works to be completed?**

Response:

Following an initial request for tenders to engage a suitably qualified works contractor, no bids were received. Consequently, a second request for tenders was issued to the market. The closing date for submissions is Monday, the 22nd of June 2026. Pending the outcome of this procurement process, works are expected to commence in August 2026. The final works programme will be confirmed upon the appointment of a contractor.

- 3. Consultation works are currently taking place on the new Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Carrickmacross; will the Executive ensure that queries raised by councillors over the last 12 months be included in that plan?**

Response:

The Active Travel Unit has provided the appointed consultant with a copy of Councillors' questions covering the period 2025–YTD 2026. The issues raised will be fully considered in the development of the Local Transport Plan for Carrickmacross.

- 4. When is it expected that works will commence on the resurfacing of the R927 Castleblayney Road, Carrickmacross, and what measures will be added/included to reduce speed along this road?**

Response:

It is anticipated that resurfacing works to the R927 Castleblayney Road, Carrickmacross will commence in mid-Q3 2026. The proposed Active Travel Scheme, MN/21/0010, incorporating the Castleblayney Road, the Ballybay Road and Ross Road approaches to Carrickmacross Town, includes for road safety measures along these routes. The project is currently at design stage.

- 5. When is it expected works will commence on the Kingscourt Road Safety Improvement Works and what measures are being introduced to increase safety for pedestrians and motorists in this scheme?**

Response:

A contractor has been appointed to demolish the derelict building located on the western edge of the R179 Kingscourt/Magheraboy Road Junction. The executive is currently liaising with ESB networks to arrange a temporary switch-out of the existing overhead power lines to enable the commencement of demolition and site clearance works. It is anticipated that these works will commence within the coming weeks, after which a design survey will be undertaken.

It is expected that the detailed design of the proposed road safety measures will be shared with elected members in mid-Q3 2026.

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

- 6. I have raised on numerous occasions the deplorable levels of lighting in Crescent Hill, Killycard Manor and Bramley Crescent. Can the Executive provide an update on taking the lighting in these Castleblayney estates in charge and carrying out essential repair work in these residential areas?**

Response:

The executive is actively exploring the feasibility of taking in charge the street lighting in Crescent Hill and Bramley Crescent. Costings have been secured to carry out necessary repairs to the street lighting in these estates. Mindful of this Municipal District's adopted Public Lighting Programme 2026, the executive is exploring potential sources of funding to implement these works.

Separately, the developer has advised that the street light issues in Killycard Manor have been resolved.

- 7. The fabulous new Gaelscoil building is nearing completion. I have previously requested a traffic survey be carried out in the vicinity of The Willows/ Castle Park near the new**

school to assess traffic speed and volume arriving into Castleblayney from the direction of Lough Egish. Can the results be shared along with an overview of amendments to traffic management in this area having regard to the location of a new school with many young students.

Response:

It is intended that the results of the traffic and speed survey will be shared with elected members in the coming weeks.

As part of site development conditions for both the new Gaelscoil and the Castle Park estate, the respective developers are required to provide road safety measures along the R181, Shercock Road, Castleblayney, including the provision of a pedestrian crossing, adjacent to the new Gaelscoil site.

- 8. Have the CCTV cameras in Castleblayney been replaced or assessed for clarity recently? Have there been any issues with Gardai being unable to identify issues/individuals due to poor camera quality?**

Response:

A system service, including maintenance and testing, is carried out every six months by an appointed contractor. To date, An Garda Síochána have not reported any issues to this Municipal District concerning poor camera quality.

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

Response:

It is intended that a record of the repairs completed under this Municipal District's 2025 Footway Maintenance Programme will be shared with elected members in the coming weeks.

- 10. Are there plans to increase the number of dog fouling bins and/or signage on this issue in Castleblayney?**

Response:

At present there are no plans to increase the number of dog fouling bins and/or signage in the Castleblayney area.

Last year, Monaghan County Council launched the Green Dog Walkers initiative, a friendly, non-confrontational way of addressing dog fouling, and new signs were erected throughout the county. A further environmental awareness campaign to address this issue will be rolled out in the coming months.

Question (No.5) raised by Cllr. Paul Gibbons for the May 2026 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

- 5. Heavy rains in recent months led to extensive flooding in many parts of the MD. There were particular issues in the vicinity of Mindzenty Park and The Bog Road in the Lakeview area of Castleblayney with flooding seen in some areas where there had not been flooding in living memory. Has any examination of the area been undertaken with a view to assessing any contributing factors and possible actions that can be taken to minimise future impacts?**

Response:

Following Storm Chandra in January 2026, the roads that flooded were assessed and the findings quantified. Consequently, an application was submitted to the Department for Transport to secure funding for the required remediation works. It is expected that funding

will be provided to be in Q3 2026 to allow works to commence.

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

11. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the public realm plan for Inniskeen village?

Response:

A number of alternative layout design layouts have been developed for the junction in the village centre, and it is intended to renew engagement with community stakeholders in the coming weeks. Pending the outcome of these discussions, it is hoped to have the detailed design agreed and completed by mid-Q3 2026. Thereafter, the MD executive intends to apply for funding under Measures 2 and 3 of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme to implement the project.

12. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the flood mitigation plan for the Donaghmoyne village area?

Response:

The MD executive is currently reviewing the Part 8 planning pack in advance of circulating to internal stakeholders this coming week. It is envisaged that a Part 8 planning application for the scheme will be submitted in early August 2026.

13. When is it hoped to have the works completed at the old famine graveyard site (Bully's Acre) on the Donaghmoyne Road?

Response:

It is hoped that the remaining site clearance works will be completed within the coming weeks.

14. Given that many of the road markings and signs including stop signs / yellow box markings are faded or have disappeared completely. What plans have the council to address this important road safety issue?

Response:

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

15. Given the request by local residents for traffic calming measures at Coolreagh cottages in Killanny. What was the outcome of the speed survey at this location?

Response:

It is intended that the results of the traffic and speed survey will be shared with elected members within the coming week.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for the June 2026 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

16. When is expected to have the work completed on the new Sensory Garden at Lough Muckno?

Response:

It is anticipated that works on the new sensory space at Lough Muckno Park will be completed in late July 2026.

17. What is the update on the public consultation for Oram Community regarding the Recreational Exercise Equipment and when is expected to have this works commence?

Response:

The executive held an initial engagement with community stakeholders last week, with wider public consultation to commence within the coming week. Pending the outcome of this process, it is hoped to have the design layout agreed and completed by the end of July 2026, with works to commence in mid-late Q3 2026.

18. What is the update on the CIS roads programme for the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross MD and when is it envisaged these works to commence?

Response:

The executive is awaiting an updated work programme from the contractor. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by the end of September 2026.

19. With recent Funding of €50,00 been allocated to prepare a restoration plan for the historic Walled Garden adjacent to Hope Castle and the Annexe buildings at Lough Muckno to guide future conservation and development of this important heritage asset. What is the update on this plan?

Response:

It is intended that a tender for the engagement of suitable consultancy services will issue to the market within the coming weeks.

20. With the significant increase in traffic on the Lough Egish Road out of Castleblayney and the imminent opening of a new school. What plans have the MD for traffic calming measures in this area?

Response:

As part of site development conditions for both the new Gaelscoil and the Castle Park estate, the respective developers are required to provide road safety measures along the R181, Shercock Road, Castleblayney, including the provision of a pedestrian crossing. adjacent to the new Gaelscoil site.

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

21. When will the lights from the Dundalk Road to the entrance to the Nuremore hotel begin?

Response:

It is hoped to commence works on this MD's adopted Public Lighting Programme 2026 by mid-Q3 2026.

22. Has the council determined an appropriate funding stream to develop a footbridge over the River Fane in Inniskeen village?

Response:

The executive continues to explore potential sources of funding to provide a "bolt on" bridge for pedestrians and cyclists alongside the existing River Fane bridge crossing on the LP4630 Inishkeen Glebe Road.

23. The Dundalk Road between the roundabout and the Kingspan plant was resurfaced last year. This has been partially resurfaced again due to sinking in the road with another portion of the road breaking up now again. Has the reason for this been investigated?

Response:

This matter has been referred to the Roads Section and in turn the contractor responsible for undertaking the works. The executive will investigate the underlying reasons for the localised pavement settlement along this section of the R178 Dundalk Road. The executive will advise the MD elected members in due course.

24. Have we a clear timeline on the installation of a footpath from the graveyard to the roundabout on the Dundalk Road?

Response:

A request for tenders to engage of a suitably qualified works contractor has been issued to the market. The closing date for submissions is Wednesday, the 1st of July 2026. Pending the outcome of this procurement process, works are expected to commence in August 2026. The final works programme will be confirmed upon the appointment of a contractor.

7.0 Director of Service Orders

Noted.

Cllr. Keelan queried how many patching teams are in place regarding the order.

Reply – this refers to one patcher.

Cllr. Keelan asked if having only crew in place can be revisited, querying if there are resources available for two.

Reply – We do not have the financial resources to have two patchers.

Cllr. Keelan voiced his concerns about this matter and asked that the executive take on board that having only one patcher is not enough.

Cllr. Carthy remarked on focusing patching during times of good weather, stating that now is the time to throw money at the patcher and to do as much as possible during favourable weather.

8.0 VOS/VOC

A Votes of sympathy was extended to Margaret Burns on the death of Patrick Burns (RIP).

Votes of Congratulations were extended to Bishop Larry Duffy on his Golden Jubilee; Fr. Michael Daly on his Golden Jubilee, and Fr. Michael Jordan on being 40 years ordained.

10.0 A.O.B.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Sought an update on the road from Magheracloone Community centre to the shop.

Reply – The safety improvement works are included in the contract for the construction of the footpath to the Nuremore Road junction.

Sought an update on spending the money which was received for the derelict building located on the western edge of the R179 Kingscourt/Magheraboy Road Junction.

Reply – A contractor has been engaged, and we await confirmation from the ESB to switch off overhead powerlines.

Cllr. Carthy:

Regarding the taking in charge of Alderwood which was spoken about previously, advised that the water connection needs to be done before the winter and asked the executive to relay this information.

Requested that the small stretch of footpath on the Industrial Estate off Oriel Road be investigated.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Asked that potential supports for commercial retailers who are maintaining spaces be investigated.

Reply – There is a rates waiver currently in place for new businesses, however the pressures retailers face is acknowledged. Concerns raised should be channelled to central government rather than at MD / Local Authority Level.

Cllr. Keelan:

Advised that road markings need attention.

It was unanimously agreed to move the scheduled July MD meeting to Monday, July 20th at 10am in Carrickmacross Civic Offices.

It was agreed that the elected members will meet in Dundalk on Friday, September 4th at 3pm to view a previous Public Realm project.

The meeting concluded at 13:35pm.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator