

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 20th of July 2026 at 10:25pm.

Present: Cathaoirleach Noel Keelan,

Cllrs. Paul Gibbons, 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 AGM Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Gibbons, the minutes of the June 2026 AGM, held on Monday the 22nd of June 2026, were adopted.

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Gibbons, the minutes of the June 2026 monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 22nd of June 2026, were adopted.

Cllr. Keelan acknowledged the work of the Tidy Towns groups of Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Inniskeen and Oram, also including the outdoor staff of Monaghan County Council. He also congratulated the organisers of Kitchenfest which was held over the weekend in Carrickmacross.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Campbell:

Sought an update on the possibility of removing the green palisade fencing at Hope Castle.

Congratulated the Muckno Mania Festival Committee on the successful festival and thanked Aoife Kelly, Senior Staff Officer, for organising the civic reception for the Spanish dancers.

Reply – The fencing will be reviewed the near future. There will be a need to consult with IPB regarding this.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Congratulated the Muckno Mania Festival Committee.

Sought an update on potholes repairs for Bree and Rosevale.

Reply – these should be completed within the next 2 weeks.

Sought an update on the lighting at Crescent Hill.

Reply – this MD are actively trying to progress the transfer of the MPRN. We have indicated to the resident's group that assistance will be provided.

Cllr. Carthy:

Concurred with comments regarding Muckno Mania and commended Cllr. Campbell for his role.

Commended Carrickmacross Chamber for the recent Kitchenfest event and the organisers of Murty's Mates for their event.

Commended Monaghan County Council for the recent demolition works on the Kingscourt Road.

Asked if safety improvement measures are hoped to be presented at the next meeting.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Concurred with previous comments regarding the Kingscourt Road. Wanted it placed on record that at the during the making of the Development Plan process he raised this junction with the Senior Planner and that he was very concerned about the safety at that junction. At the time there was a suggestion that the land would be rezoned from commercial to housing. Cllr O'Hanlon opposed this and said there should never be housing built on that corner and because of this the zoning remains the same i.e. commercial and no material contravention ever took place.

Advised that he hopes that the location will continue to be zoned as commercial.

Congratulated the Muckno Mania Festival Committee and the organisers of Kitchenfest.

Acknowledged the great work of Carrickmacross LACE.

Queried why the meeting with Olga McConnon, Director of Service, did not happen today.

Reply -this is rescheduled for September's meeting.

Cllr. Conlon:

Offered congratulations to the organisers of Muckno Mania and Kitchenfest.

Asked that a letter of thanks is issued to the organisers of Murty's Mates.

Commended recent works at the Kingscourt Road junction.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commended the executive for the Kingscourt Road junction works.

3.0 Correspondence

Cllr. Keelan queried how the €900,000 storm damage funding will be allocated.

Cllr. Carthy remarked that the outgoing letter shown was a follow up letter regarding the issue of basing funding on road ratings.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon, and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, it was unanimously agreed to invite local TDs and Senators to meet with the elected members of the Carrickmacross–Castleblayney Municipal District to discuss the current roads situation within the Municipal District. Should they be unable to facilitate such a meeting locally, it was further agreed that a delegation comprising a representative from each political group, together with members of the executive, namely Cathal Flynn and Damien Thornton, would travel to Dublin to meet with them.

4.0 Carrickmacross CCTV Update

Cllr. O'Hanlon noted the closing date for submission of tenders is the 10th of August 2026.

Damien Thornton, Municipal District Co-Ordinator advised that an update will be provided at the September meeting.

5.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

Cllr. Campbell:

Queried who the designated liaison contact is for members of the public in relation to the ongoing works at The Market House, Castleblayney.

Reply – Stephen Cross, Felix O'Hare & Co Ltd, is the go-to person. Initial consultation with residents took place on the 2nd of July 2026. A leaflet drop will also be carried out.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Asked for an update on the timeline for lighting works at Ard Na Lurgan.

Reply – It is anticipated that works will be carried out in late Q3.

Sought an update on the location for outdoor exercise equipment in Oram.

Reply – there are ongoing discussions with the community.

Requested the grass cutting list and queried Knocktornagh.

Reply – Knocktornagh is not TIC. It was previously done as a one-off only. A list will be provided of areas Monaghan County Council maintain.

Cllr. Conlon:

Queried how long the design process of the swimming pool will take.

Reply- design consultants should be appointed in the coming weeks. They should be in place by the September meeting.

Sought an update on the water feature.

Reply – 3 alternatives will be shared with members and the Town Team in the coming weeks.
Queried whether there are any concrete plans for public lighting in relation to the Public Realm.

Reply – There is currently no definite timeline.

Commented that the Creevy Lough plan is fantastic.

Cllr. Carthy:

Asked that maintenance of the Gallows Hill area is continued.

Remarked on the need to ensure that progression continues with the swimming pool project.

Advised that complaints have been received that the Oriel Road ramp is too high.

Reply – this will be rechecked.

Advised that the surface water issue at Rockdaniel Road – Alderwood needs to be resolved.

Reply – this will be progressed.

Cllr. Keelan:

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

Reply – there is no update presently.

6.0 Q&A

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

- 1. Can the MD executive confirm when the basketball hoops will be installed in the Convent Lands MUGA pitch as previously discussed?**

Response:

It is anticipated that the installation of basketball hoops in the Convent Lands MUGA pitch will be completed in late Q3 2026.

- 2. Has the Executive found any suitable lands to provide additional allotment space and/or community gardens for Carrickmacross?**

Response:

The executive continues to explore potential allotment and community garden sites in Carrickmacross.

- 3. How many roads are currently on our repairs list within the Municipal District?**

Response:

There are currently 190 road surface defects listed on this Municipal District's essential repairs and maintenance schedule.

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

- 4. 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 seeking to transfer the assignment of the MPRNs for both Crescent Hill and Bramley Crescent estates to Monaghan County Council, with a view to taking in charge the public lighting at these locations. Costings have been secured to carry out the necessary enhancements to the public lighting in both estates, and the executive is exploring potential sources of funding to implement these works.

In the interim, and specifically in the case of Crescent Hill, where the Residents' Association has secured funding towards the upgrade of streetlighting, the executive will facilitate the Association's engagement of a suitable works contractor. Subject to funding availability, the executive will endeavour to resolve any residual lighting issues in Crescent Hill once the public lighting has been taken in charge.

Separately, the developer of Killycard Manor has advised that the streetlighting issues have been resolved.

- 5. Can an overview be given on how the executive decide on what traffic calming measures are to be progressed, what steps must be taken in making a traffic calming application and to who it is submitted to, and the number and location of traffic calming measures both applied for and granted in this MD since June 2024?**

Response:

The adopted *Non-National Urban Public Roads Traffic Calming Policy 2024* sets out the procedure for initiating, assessing, prioritising and implementing traffic calming measures on the non-national urban road network. Generally, depending on scale, traffic calming measures are either incorporated into proposed Active Travel schemes or funding is sought under the *Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads* programme for standalone traffic calming schemes/measures. Active Travel funding applications are submitted to the National Transport Authority, whereas proposals under the *Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads* programme are submitted directly to the Department of Transport. Since 2024, the Municipal District executive has sought funding for the following traffic calming schemes and measures to aid speed reduction:

Road No.	Location	Description of Proposed Scheme	Cost €
2024			
R927-4	Oriel Road, Carrickmacross	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing.	£50,000
R180	Laragh	Install Road signs and High Friction Surfacing.	£30,000
R179	Kilmactrasna/Mullinarry - Kingscourt Road	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing.	£50,000
R181-3	Muckno Steet (R181-3)	Traffic Calming to reduce vehicular speed.	£20,000
R179-4	Donaghmoyne Road (GAA Pitch)	Provide driver feedback signs to alert drivers to heavily used concealed entrances.	£10,000
2025			
R179	Kilmactrasna/Mullinarry - Kingscourt Road	Improve overall junction layout, improving sight distance and provide a controlled pedestrian crossing.	£100,000
R1812-2	Oram Village	Installation of controlled pedestrian crossing.	£25,000
R181-3	Muckno Steet (R181-3)	Traffic Calming to reduce vehicular speed.	£25,000
L-78051	Thorndale Castleblayney	Installation of speed cushions.	£10,000
L-7800	Conabury Hill Castleblayney	Installation of speed cushions.	£8,000
R178-4	Donaghmoyne Road (GAA Pitch)	Provide driver feedback signs to alert drivers to heavily used concealed entrance.	£10,000
R178-7	Drummond Otra	Install HFS on approach to the roundabout. Cut and trim vegetation to improve signage visibility.	£15,000
R178-2	Corvally	Install HFS 80m on both approaches to the junction, line marking at junction and trim/cut vegetation.	£40,000
R178-3	Greaghdrumit/Rakeeragh	Installation of advance warning signage and trim/cut vegetation to ensure signage is clearly visible.	£20,000

Of the above, the following traffic calming/speed reduction measures received funding:

2025 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads

R927-4	Oriel Road, Carrickmacross	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing.	£50,000
R180	Laragh	Install Road signs and High Friction Surfacing.	£30,000

2026 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads

R179	Kilmactrasna/Mullinarry - Kingscourt Road	Improve overall junction layout, improving sight distance and provide a controlled pedestrian crossing.	£100,000
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6. Can the provision of lighting be considered at the entrance to Castle Park, Castleblayney? This is an ever-growing estate with additional pedestrian and traffic volumes.

Response:

This development has not been taken in charge by Monaghan County Council.

7. Can a list of areas being provided with grass cutting services by the MD in our area be provided?

Response:

A list of areas currently being provided with grass cutting services by this Municipal District will be shared with elected members within the coming week.

8. Can an overview of delinquency in the payment of rates in our MD be provided? Are there any types of business that are overrepresented in this cohort and if so, what are they?

Response:

An analysis of the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Commercial Rates arrears indicates that:

- The Retail, Hospitality and Industrial sectors are all represented in this cohort.
- Some high-value arrears accounts are long-standing arrears. These include retail and industrial businesses.

- The number of retail businesses with delinquent payments is high, although their commercial rates charge tends to be smaller than the larger industrial accounts.

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

- 9. What plans have the council to upgrade and improve the facilities at the Playpark in Inniskeen village in advance of the village and community plan been adopted which includes the possibility of a new destination playground?**

Response:

The executive, in partnership with Inniskeen Enterprise & Development Group, has submitted a funding application under the CLÁR 2026 investment programme to provide for the enhancement of the existing playground in Inniskeen Village. The proposal is aimed at improving accessibility, safety, biodiversity, and creating an inclusive community facility.

The proposed scheme seeks to enhance a key community recreational resource by improving accessibility to the facility itself and enhancing amenities within the facility to maximise inclusivity. The proposal includes:

- The installation of new, inclusive play equipment and new safety surfacing
- The enhancement of the playground's existing green space with informal pathways, amenity seating, and native planting to create a dynamic, inclusive environment that fosters community wellbeing and local biodiversity
- The enhancement of the existing pedestrian crossing

- 10. Will the council carry out repairs and replacement where necessary to the footpath network in the Inniskeen village area and other improvement works requested by the award winning Inniskeen Tidy Towns Committee?**

Response:

Subject to funding, the Municipal District Executive will endeavour to complete necessary repairs to the footways in Inniskeen Village and support the Inniskeen Tidy Towns Committee in their wider efforts.

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

Response:

Carrickmacross:

Separate Calls for Tender (CFT) have been issued to the market: one for the provision of civil and electrical enabling works, and the other for the supply and installation of CCTV equipment. The closing date for both campaigns is Monday the 10th of August 2026.

Castleblayney:

The executive has been informally advised that the Garda Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) has deemed the security enhancements to the storage facility in Lough Muckno Park acceptable. Consequently, the ratification process for the scheme has resumed, and official confirmation is expected within the coming weeks.

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

Response:

It is intended that the Part 8 planning pack for the proposed flood mitigation plan will be circulated to internal stakeholders for review and comment this coming week. It is further

envisaged that the Part 8 planning application for the scheme will be submitted in August 2026.

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

Response:

A number of alternative design layouts have been developed for the junction in the village centre, and it is intended to initiate engagement with community stakeholders in the coming week. 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

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

14. Is there a defined timeline on the start of the realignment works on the Kingscourt Road at the junction for Magheraboy?

Response:

Demolition and site clearance works commenced on Friday last, the 17th of July. It is expected that these works will be fully completed within the coming days, after which a design survey will be undertaken. It is expected that the detailed design will be completed within the coming weeks and that the proposed road safety enhancement works will commence in early September 2026. The final works programme will be confirmed in due course.

15. What is the latest update on the Creevy lough masterplan?

Response:

The executive is actively pursuing the submission of outstanding environmental reports for the revised layout. The appointed consultants have assured the executive that the Part 8 planning pack will be completed within the coming weeks, whereupon it will be circulated to internal stakeholders for review and comment. It is anticipated that a Part 8 planning application for the scheme will be submitted in late August/early September 2026.

16. Do we have a commencement date for the upgrade of the MUGA pitches in Cloughvalley playpark?

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. Unfortunately, once again, no bids were received. The executive has now entered into negotiations with potential contractors. Pending the outcome of these discussions, works are expected to commence in August 2026. The final works programme will be confirmed upon the appointment of a contractor.

17. Can the council review traffic calming measures for the Carrickashedge Community Centre?

Response:

The executive shall arrange for a site assessment to determine the need for additional traffic calming measures along the LP4801 Drumconrath Road, in the vicinity of Carrickashedge Community Centre. Thereafter, the executive shall explore all potential sources of funding to facilitate the design and implementation of any required road safety measures identified.

Questions raised by Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon for the July 2026 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

18. Is there any update on the completion of a feasibility study for the provision of a food hub in Carrickmacross Town?

Response:

The LEO has engaged with the Regional Development Manager in *Enterprise Ireland* to determine the best way forward. The Regional Manager has advised that the *Smart Regions Fund* offers between €25,000 and €50,000 for feasibility studies, but that this is well above what a study of this scale would cost, so it is not a suitable option.

The Regional Manager raised an important point: if Monaghan County Council is already satisfied that a Food Hub is required, then a feasibility study may not be necessary. Instead, the focus could move straight to the design and implementation phase.

The Regional Development Manager is to confirm if a Priming Grant could be used for the design process. If that is possible, there could be an opportunity for Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District to apply.

In tandem, the LEO is exploring alternative funding options to support the project. Once this research is completed and the most prudent approach identified, the LEO will provide a detailed update.

19. What is the current position with the provision of a footpath link from the Dundalk Road roundabout to the LP4700 Killanny/Nuremore Hotel Road?

Response:

A contractor has been appointed, and it is intended that works will commence in the first week of August 2026. The works programme will be confirmed within the coming weeks.

20. What is the update on reopening Breffni House?

Response:

Breffni House, O'Neill Street, Carrickmacross is not in the ownership of Monaghan County Council. This property was entered into the Derelict Site register on the 7th of February 2019. In 2024, the owner of the property undertook prescribed works to allow for the removal of the property from the Derelict Sites register. As this building remains unoccupied, the Council will shortly recommence the Derelict Sites process and seek to have the building brought back into use.

21. What is the up-to-date position with the Convent Lands Masterplan and the provision of a pedestrian link from Convent Avenue to Carrickmacross Main Street?

Response:

Monaghan County Council appointed *The Paul Hogarth Company* to prepare a concept landscape masterplan for the Convent Lands area to the south of Carrickmacross Town Centre. The terms of reference of the proposed Masterplan are centred on the provision of improved foot and cycle linkages to the town centre, the accommodation of the potential expansion of the St. Louis Secondary School and the consolidation of recent investments in sports facilities.

Following consideration of a number of options to improve pedestrian and cycle linkages to the town centre, a preferred solution has been identified. Discussions with key stakeholders to facilitate this element of the masterplan are nearing resolution. It is proposed to swap

lands owned by Monaghan County Council and St. Macartan's Diocesan Trust, to allow for the existing Convent Avenue to be extended to the Main Street. A draft Section 183 Notice will shortly be presented to the elected members to consider this proposal.

22. With the construction of the new pedestrian crossing in Magheracloone, when will the speed ramp be relocated and the new footpath connecting the community centre to the village shop be completed?

Response:

It is anticipated that these works will be completed immediately following the completion of the footway link from the Dundalk Road roundabout to the LP4700 Killanny/Nuremore Hotel Road. The works programme will be confirmed within the coming weeks.

7.0 Motion

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Conlon, the following motion was unanimously agreed:

‘This Municipal District Council requests that the Irish Wheelchair Association carry out a survey on all public footpaths, parking and overall infrastructure in Carrickmacross town with a view to outlining deficiencies in accessibility for wheelchair users and those with limited mobility. We ask that this be carried out as quickly as possible to coincide with the current design enhancement scheme being carried out by consultants on the Main Street.’

Cllr. Carthy suggested that this could be viewed as a pilot project and rolled out to other areas. Cllr. Conlon commented this could feed into the Active Travel accessibility audit.

Cllr. O’Hanlon suggested if there is a cost incurred, that Monaghan County Council should be prepared to help by means of a contribution. Cllr. Carthy concurred.

Cllr. Keelan mentioned the late Francie Cassidy (RIP) and his contribution to making Carrickmacross businesses more accessible.

8.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to The Murphy and Duffy families on the death of Aisling Murphy (RIP); Tom McEntee & family on the death of Michael McEntee (RIP); Noeleen & Danny Quigley on the death of Angela Flanagan (RIP); the Treanor family on the death of Francie Treanor (RIP) and Kitty Conlon & family on the death of Noel Conlon (RIP).

Votes of Congratulations were extended to Masie Flanagan on the achievement of winning a silver medal representing the Ireland U17 team at the recent Four Nations Tournament; the Muckno Mania Committee on the achievement of the recent hugely successful Muckno Mania Festival; Tara Lavery of Carrickmacross Aces for representing Ireland in the European U18 Championships and breaking her own national U18 record in the women’s discus; the Murty’s Mates Committee on the achievement of their recent fundraiser for the Carrick Cancer Society and Inniskeen Festival Committee on the achievement of the recent successful Inniskeen Road July Evening Festival.

Cllr. Carthy requested that Votes of Congratulations are noted for the MD Sports awards.

9.0 A.O.B.

Cllr. Carthy:

Highlighted a road surface issue on the road leading to St. Macartan's Villas, noting that a number of wheelchair users are being adversely affected by its condition.

Raised concerns regarding dog fouling on the Kingscourt Road and requested that consideration be given to the installation of a dog waste bin, including the provision of dog waste bags, at the location.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Requested that a safety audit be carried out at the pop-up pool/running track location.

Noted that Olga McConnon, Director of Services, will be attending the September Municipal District meeting and advised that elected members require a list from the Municipal District outlining the costs associated with outstanding issues requiring resolution, commenting that expenditure relating to public lighting and footpaths is funded from the general allocation

Cllr. Gibbons:

Concurred with Cllr. O'Hanlon's comments.

Queried how many traffic calming applications were made, noting that 3 out of 14 were granted.

Proposed sending a letter of thanks to the Mayor of Marseillan following the recent successful twinning trip attended by himself, Cllr. Keelan and Cathal Flynn, Director of Services.

Commented that the French team voiced concerns about the communication chain and suggested that one contact detail should be provided.

Queried the policy on overgrown areas at developments which may pose a fire risk – for example Thorndale, Ard Na Lorgan and Blaeberry Walk.

Advised there is no signage on the N2, near Carvilles filling station, to indicate that the N2 is on the left.

Cllr. Campbell:

Requested an update on road safety in Castleblayney – speeding issues involving cars leaving Castleblayney for Dundalk. Suggested liaising with An Garda Síochána.

Sought an update on traffic calming on the Old Coach Road.

Cllr. Conlon:

Advised there is a section of footpath, heading in the direction of the Aces track, which is unfinished and noted he is uncertain whether this section falls under the responsibility of Monaghan County Council.

Cllr. Keelan:

Expressed concern regarding the slow rollout of Low-Cost Safety Measures.

Requested that the extension of the yellow box at Cloughvalley be investigated.

Also requested that the shark teeth road markings on the ramps be repainted.

Advised that some maintenance is required at the Old Famine Graveyard.

Queried if there is any clarification on the €900,000 allocation.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Sought an update on the bridge works planned on the LS8902 (Corlea).

Reply – Roads section advised that TRIUR Construction Ltd. hope to commence permanent works in August 2026.

Acknowledged it is a safety issue but asked that the works to be fast tracked, if possible, to alleviate the hassle being caused to the public.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan, seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon, it was unanimously agreed to request that the executive contact ESB Networks to seek clarification regarding the recent power outages affecting the Carrickmacross and Castleblayney areas.

The meeting concluded at 12:05pm.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator