Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan

Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain

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Monaghan County Council

The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney

Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of the Municipal District Meeting with local Oireachtas Members held in Carrickmacross Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday the 28th of September 2026 at 09:30am.

- Non-National Road Funding
  - Road Maintenance and Construction
  - Low-Cost Safety Measures and Traffic Calming

Present: Cathaoirleach Noel Keelan,
Cllrs. Paul Gibbons, Colm Carthy, PJ O'Hanlon, Peter Conlon, Aidan Campbell (via Teams)
Matt Carthy TD, Cathy Bennett TD, Brendan Smith TD, Senator Robbie Gallagher, Senator Sarah O'Reilly

Apologies: David Maxwell TD, Senator Joe O'Reilly

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 Angle Celt, Killian McGeough, Northern Sound

Cathaoirleach Keelan welcomed all to the meeting and asked the Oireachtas members present to use their influence to protect the Good Friday Agreement following recent events at the Garvaghy Road in Portadown.

He advised that Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District require a realistic Non-National Roads allocation to meet the needs of the area, indicating that an increase of at least 25 - 30% is needed. He also noted that there is no specific funding available for the Taking in Charge of housing estates. Cllr. Keelan wished to acknowledge the work of the executive and outdoor staff with limited resources.

Damien Thornton, District Co-ordinator provided a synopsis of current allocations and roads ratings and what would be required to rehabilitate the roads.

Cathal Flynn, Director of Service remarked that going by road length, we are currently doing less than 2% of the road network per year. At the current state, it would take 50 years to complete.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Expressed disappointment with the current allocation of roads funding.
Stated that he will make a proposal at the plenary Council meeting to increase the basic rate of the Local Property Tax (LPT) by 25% on the basis that 10% is solely for roads funding. He noted that this position may be reviewed if additional roads funding is provided from other sources.

Cllr. Carthy:
Commented that financial support is needed to drive the roads programme forward.
Asked Oireachtas members to do whatever they can to help with the matter.

Senator Sarah O'Reilly:
Remarked there is a similar situation in Cavan.
Stated she believes there is an argument for additional funding, as this area does not have ports or trains.
Noted that previous promises of increased funding were not kept and most Councillors in Cavan voted against LPT increases because of this.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Advised of the huge number of complaints being received from constituents regarding the poor state of the roads.
Commented that people in this area need to use cars as there is not much public transport.
Stated there is a lack of available resources for traffic calming measures, noting Castleblayney in particular.

Matt Carthy TD:
Remarked that meetings such as this one are vital.
Commented that in areas such as this MD, driving is not a luxury but a necessity.
Advised that the roads' funding issue is raised by himself and his colleague Cathy Bennett TD at every opportunity.

Cllr. Campbell:
Advised that the local Councillors ask is for further funding as roads are worsening as time progresses and there are increasing costs because of wars.

Cllr. Conlon:
Noted that South Monaghan roads are in a very poor state, and a Restoration Improvement Programme increase is required - full stop.

Senator Robbie Gallagher:
Advised he welcomes any funding for the county but will voice frustration that it is not enough.
Remarked that the poor state of the roads, particularly in South Monaghan, it does not seem to be as much of a problem in other counties.
Assured the local Councillors that the message will be taken back to the Government, no later than next Tuesday at the next parliamentary meeting.

Brendan Smith TD:
Queried what percentage of the road network in the area is non-national.
Reply – in the late 80%
Advised that he will continue to hammer home the need for increased funding.

Cathy Bennett TD:
Argued that LPT should not be used to pay for roads funding.

Cllr. Keelan stated that the ask is very clear:
There is a need to increase funding by 20 - 30% and there is a need for a separate fund for estates to be Taken in Charge.

The meeting concluded at 10:30am.

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Cathaoirleach Date

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Meeting Administrator