

Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile na Lorgan
Comharile Cantae Mhúineachain



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of April 2015 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Office, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Monaghan on Monday 27th April 2015 @ 10.00am.

Present: - Mayor Jackie Crowe, Cllrs Aidan Campbell, Noel Keelan, PJ O Hanlon, Padraic McNally, Colm Carthy

Also in attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Cathal Flynn, Co-ordinator, John Lennon, Amanda Murray, Teresa McGuirk.

Press: - Michael Fisher, Northern Standard; Joe McCabe, Carrick Gazette; Tessa Fleming, Northern Sound Radio; Martin Shannon, Anglo Celt

Apologies: - None

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of March 2015 meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy and seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2015 were adopted.

2. Matters arising

In reply to a queries members were informed that

- Currently there is a delay of 6 to 8 weeks to deal with general complaints; resources are deployed as quickly and efficiently as possible
- Works to commence in June on a number of roads on the Roads Programme
- Works at the Barford Meats Junction to move on in the coming weeks
- There was no further development in the extension of the speed limit on the Castleblayney Road
- District Engineer had met with representatives from Louth County Council regarding the upgrading of the Dundalk Road. Louth County Council has agreed to review bend easements and revert back. The Footpath Programme list is currently being put together

With regard to the Barford Meats Junction, Cllr McNally asked that staff review possibility of purchasing the corner of the former Bose factory carpark to allow for better sight lines on exiting.

3. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from

- Office of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation – acknowledge receipt of letter re Bose Factory
- Minister Heather Humphreys – re private members club.
 - Following a query members were informed that no further update had been received regarding the Private Members Clubs.
- Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD – forward initial reply from Minister for Environment re private members club
- Minister Heather Humphreys – regarding Minister Alan Kelly’s reply re R179
- Minister Heather Humphreys – regarding Minister Frances Fitzgerald’s reply re private members club
- Department of Transport letter to Roads Section – re additional funds for R179
- Department of Transport reply re funds for R179
- Minister Alex White, TD – acknowledge receipt of letter
- Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine – re slurry spreading within specified distances of drinking water
- Office of Public Works – re flooding issue at LS8150 near Nelsons Quarry
 - Cllr O’Hanlon expressed his disappointment at the reply received stating that at the last meeting he had requested an application be made regarding the flooding and asked if application had been made. In reply Mr Flynn stated that there had been a request to write to OPW only asking if anything could be done to alleviate the flooding. This had been done.
- Department of Environment, Community and Local Government – acknowledge receipt of letter re library services
- Kilcock Canoe Polo Club – request permission to set up club at Lough Na Glack, Carrickmacross.
 - Mr Flynn explained that he had met with the group; this was a preliminary indication of the group’s intentions, a number of issues needed to be discussed including ownership of the site and insurance. Members agreed to await the outcome of same but were positive on the idea
- Inniskeen Enterprise Development Group – request for financial support.
- Adopt a World War One Soldier Committee – request for support

The following issues were also addressed

Members voiced their concerns and disappointment that none of the elected members had been invited to attend the Action Plan for Jobs meeting organised by the IDA and attended by Minister Richard Bruton held in the Nuremore Hotel recently. Furthermore at the very least the Chair of the County Council and the chair of the Municipal District should have been invited.

The following Motion was then proposed by Cllr McNally and seconded by Cllr Crowe and agreed by all.

“That this council writes to Minister Richard Bruton TD expressing our disappointment that neither the Municipal District Chairman nor the County Council Chairman were invited to the jobs meeting held in the Nuremore Hotel recently.”

During a detailed discussion regarding the state of some of our roads and the lack of funding and support forthcoming the following notices of motion were put forward:-

Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all.

“That the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht would come to the next meeting to discuss the proposal for Bus Eireann to take school buses off the road and leave parents to take their children to school after paying for the service.”

Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all.
“That this council write to the Minister for Transport, Paschal Donohue TD, and the Minister for Public Expenditure, Brendan Howlin TD that funding for local and regional roads in Monaghan is €7.1 million, a decrease of over €4m in the four years since 2011. As a result of the cutbacks some of our roads are impassable and having a serious negative impact on the local economy. I invite you both to please come and visit our roads.”

Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all.
“That Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District asks the Minister for Arts, Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys TD, Mr Sean Conlon TD and Mr Joe O’Reilly TD are they happy with the Roads funding of €7.1m for the local and regional roads funding for 2015; a decrease of over €4m since 2011? If you are happy please state so, if not what are you doing about it? We request all three representatives to come to the next meeting and after the meeting take them on a visit to our local roads that are in total disrepair.”

Additional Correspondence received from

- Office of the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport – reply re N2 from Castleblayney to Ardee. Copy of email forwarding letter to the Chief Executive of the NRA
- Office of the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport – acknowledge receipt of letter re extra funding for roads
- Office of the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport – acknowledge receipt of letter re school transport.

4. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

Coordinators reply to issues raised

- Hedge cutting tender has been awarded to carry out works on a number of junctions. Expect to cut all areas during July or August for maximum return.
- Works on the MUGA at Cloughvalley is complete
- Litter picking will be carried out on the Castleblayney Bypass in conjunction with a number of youth groups on 9th May. A media event will be organised for that day; all the bags on the N2 will then be collected, added to those collected on the Bypass and photo taken.

5. Notices of Motion

None

6. Questions

The following questions were asked by Cllr Keelan

1. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the upgrading and repair of the Carrickmacross to Culloville Road, Regional Route R179, which is in a deplorable state?

Response – A Specific Improvement Grant application was made to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for the R179. The Department replied ‘While Councils could apply in the past for grant funding for certain road improvement projects, budgetary constraints mean the Specific Improvement Grants Scheme has been curtailed in order to maximise the funding available for repair and strengthening work on the road network. While funding for 2015 has now been allocated it is important to reiterate that the role of the Exchequer grants for regional and local roads is to supplement Councils like Monaghan County Council in their own resources spending in this area’. The Municipal District Office will carry out reinstatement estimated to cost c. €50,000 on the R179. The sections identified for road restoration will be completed in June/July 2015.

2. When is it hoped to carry out improvement works to Essexford Junction as discussed some months ago, given how dangerous this junction is on the busy Carrickmacross to Dundalk Regional Route R178?

Response: Minor road safety improvement works will commence in the coming weeks on the one way system between the junctions of the R178 and the LP4620, Inniskeen Village Road. The minor improvements will provide for improved warning signage and kerbing at the junction.

3. Given that some funding has been set aside for the upgrading of the Blackstaff Road in Inniskeen (LP4603), will this Municipal District agree at Executive level to use a small amount of this funding to carry out some improvement works at Blackstaff school, including the upgrading of the sign lines as discussed on site with school management and also will the provision of driver feedback signs be considered in the interest of road safety?

Response: The Blackstaff Road received funding from the Restoration Improvement Grant Programme. Funding from this programme can only be used on surface restoration and road reconstruction, within existing fence lines. Consideration will be given to some signage upgrades subject to funding being available.

4. In relation to the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen and the promotion of tourism in the area, what is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of 'Bus Pull-in' at the various sites of interest as discussed in 2014?

Response: In the interest and promotion of the Patrick Kavanagh tourism product the Municipal District will complete the bus parking areas referred to above.

5. Why is there such a delay in getting roads prepared and potholes filled across the area given that residents, the farming community and the business sector in rural areas may have to wait months to have works carried out; surely this is not acceptable given the huge taxes citizens are paying at present i.e. motor tax, property tax and commercial rates.

Response: The District Office is nearing completion of preparation and drainage works on 9 of the 12 roads agreed in the Restoration Improvement programme. The roads in question will be included in the first round of road pavement construction contracts currently being prepared by Monaghan County Council.

The following questions were asked by Cllr Carthy

1. What is the expected timeline for repair works to be carried out on the Corcrin Road Bridge (with the evenings getting longer the footfall on that road is steadily growing and the bridge wall is very dangerous at present)?

Response: Temporary safety measures have been put in place on Corcrin Bridge. The Municipal District Office has assigned a crew to repair a number of damaged bridges in 2015, including Corcrin Bridge.

2. Can the MD give us an update on its discussions with the OPW and ESB with a view to getting the River Lagan cleared where it crosses the main Carrickmacross / Kingscourt Road in Magheraclone? This part of the river has not been cleared in recent times due to power lines passing overhead.

Response: The District Engineer, Cllr Carthy and the landowner in question have agreed to meet in the coming days to inspect the River Lagan.

3. Would the council consider extending the steel hand railing at the bottom of St Macartan's Villas to allow for those who struggle to mount the steep incline (elderly, injured etc)?

Response: The Municipal District Office will extend the hand-rail, as requested, at the bottom of St Macartan's Villas.

4. How did the previous Carrickmacross Swimming Pool subcommittee finish up during the last term of the council:

- a. Was there any decisions made regarding land being set aside?
- b. Was there any funding set aside for a feasibility study?

Response: Carrickmacross Town Council were not members of the committee referred to above and the Municipal District is not in a position to provide further clarity on the question posed. No land

was 'ring fenced' for the proposal. There was no provision for the preparation of a feasibility study in the past. The Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme Grant aid from the Exchequer was made available to local authorities and bodies supported by the local authorities, towards the cost of providing new swimming pools or refurbishing of existing pools. The last closing date for receipt of applications under this programme was 31 July 2000 and since then some 57 applications have been or are being dealt with. The current programme is closed to new applicants. There is no indication from Government to reopen this scheme.

The following questions were asked by Cllr McNally

1. Regarding the foot bridge across the river Fane in Inniskeen Village, does this authority expect to get funding in the short term as to allow work to take place this year?

Response: Plans detailing the footpath links and footbridge on the River Fane will be prepared in 2015 to allow future applications for necessary grant aid to be made.

2. Has the NRA inspected the Carrickmacross / Culloville Road R179 to ascertain for themselves the deplorable state of the road is in both surface and inadequate width?

Response: A Specific Improvement Grant application was made to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for the R179. The Department replied 'While Councils could apply in the past for grant funding for certain road improvement projects, budgetary constraints mean the Specific Improvement Grants Scheme has been curtailed in order to maximise the funding available for repair and strengthening work on the road network. While funding for 2015 has now been allocated it is important to reiterate that the role of the Exchequer grants for regional and local roads is to supplement Councils like Monaghan County Council in their own resources spending in this area'. The Municipal District Office will carry out reinstatement estimated to cost c. €50,000 on the R179. The sections identified for road restoration will be completed in June / July 2015.

7. Director of Services Orders

<u>18/2015</u>	NC Plant Hire, PSDP – Urgent Restoration Works to R180-3
<u>19/2015</u>	NC Plant Hire, PSCS – Repair to Steel Railing
<u>20/2015</u>	JC Environmental, PSDP – Jet Wash and Drain Survey
<u>21/2015</u>	JC Environmental, PSCS – Jet Wash and Drain Survey
<u>22/2015</u>	NC Plant Hire – Essexford Junction Alteration Works
<u>23/2015</u>	Appoint Wells & Carroll - Purchase of lands at Lurgans / Mullanarry
<u>24/2015</u>	Appoint Wilkie & Flanagan – Purchase of Lands at Tullynaskeagh East
<u>25/2015</u>	Sign Contracts – MUGA Development, Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross
<u>26/2015</u>	Sign Contracts – Skate park, Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross
<u>27/2015</u>	Commence Works – MUGA Development - Cloughvalley
<u>28/2015</u>	Commence Works – Skate Park Development, Cloughvalley
<u>29/2015</u>	NC Plant Hire – PSCS – LP04602 Magoney & Colgagh, Inniskeen

8. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

The following votes of sympathy were passed. A minutes silence was observed with all present standing.

- Helen Agnew on the death of her brother Eugene Mulholland
- The Bishop Family on the death of Seamus Bishop
- Seamus and Siobhan McMahan on the death of his mother Mary McMahan
- Breege Martin & Family on the death of her sister Rose Daly
- Philomena & Robert Chambers on the death of her brother Peter Gollogly
- The extended family of the late Peter Gollogly
- Suzanne Kerley & Family on the death of her husband Pat Kerley
- John Kerley & Family on the death of Pat Owen Kerley (brother)
- Brendan Kerley & Family on the death of Pat Owen Kerley (brother)

The following votes of congratulations were extended to:

- All those who took part in the recent 5k fun run/walk to raise vitally needed funds for the 'Laura Crossan Trust Fund'.

9. **Any Other Business**

Cllr McNally

- Requested copies of relevant sections of the final Preliminary Design Drawings undertaken for the R178 Dundalk to Cavan Road be sought for the next meeting – in particular the section relevant to the Municipal District.
- Asked that whatever body was responsible for the project (Monaghan Co Council or the NRA) be asked to do so and to clarify if funding could be sought for 2016 – in particular for the Ballymackney to Essexford Junction section. In reply Mr Clifford stated that the onus was with the NRA, copies of final preliminary designs would be sought.
- Asked that the footpath outside courthouse which was in very bad condition be repaired
- Sought details on proposal for repairing the road in Killanny (which had been closed due to burst water pipe) and an update on what the Council intended doing pending successful talks with the relevant land owner. In reply Cathal Flynn reported that the Council were currently taking legal action against the landowner while also liaising with landowner to restore the road.
- Complimented Lithuanian Community on event held yesterday which was attended by the Lithuanian Ambassador

Cllr Keelan

- Asked if the County Council would carry out works on the Killanny Road if the responsible person doesn't carry out the works. In Reply Mr Flynn stated that the council would carry out the works and seek recoupment of costs thereafter from the landowner.

Cllr O'Hanlon

- Sought clarification regarding progress to secure the site off the bypass which had recently been illegally entered by a Traveller group.
- Asked there were any proposals to continue the pathway in Cloughvalley and if so when would works be done
- Asked that the District invite a representative from Irish Water to the next meeting to update members on water quality and procedures that are in place since the new plant opened in Carrickmacross. Members were informed that Irish Water had set up Councillor Clinics as a means of updating members and dealing with issues. During a discussion the following Motion was proposed by Cllr O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all.

"That this council calls on Irish Water to send a representative to the next meeting, preferably the Plant Manager."

Also, the following Motion was proposed by Cllr Keelan and seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon and agreed by all.

"That this Municipal District requests that a representative from Irish Water come to the next meeting of the Municipal District in order to deal with issues of water quality etc."

The following Motion was proposed by Cllr O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all.

Cllr Carthy

- Acknowledged the response to his written question regarding swimming pool committee and asked for certainty at the former Town Council level that there was no subcommittee, no land identified or no feasibility study done. In reply Mr Flynn replied that he had checked with the former Town Clerk; she was not aware of any land set aside or the existence of a committee.

Cllr Campbell

- Sought an update on the provision of barriers on the bypass. In reply Mr Flynn reported that three barriers had been ordered. Delivery was expected in the coming weeks.

Cllr McNally

- Stated that he had been informed by a member of the public that he had contacted Irish Water's call centre to report a leak at the new well in Donaghmoynne and that he would not be reporting any such leaks in the future due to the 'aggressive interrogation' he received at the hands of the call centre staff.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 11.45am.

Next month's meeting – Monday 25th May 2015 @ 10am

Cathaoirleach.

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____