

**Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan
Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain**



**The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council**

Minutes of proceedings of MD monthly meeting held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Tuesday 30th April 2019 at 4.00pm.

Present : Cathaoirleach Colm Carthy.

Cllrs. Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Aidan Campbell, PJ O’Hanlon.

In Attendance: Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Gareth McMahon, District Co-ordinator, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, Craig Connolly, Graduate Engineer, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer, Julieann O’Reilly, Clerical Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. Pdraig McNally

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the March meeting were unanimously agreed.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Campbell asked for an update on the Market House.

Cllr. Crowe stated that the people on the ground are asking what is being done? Cllr.

Campbell commented that the quicker the site works begin the better. Cllr. Crowe queried what is happening with Irish Water and works around the Market House?

Reply - It is a public safety issue. Mr. Clifford stated that the integrity of the building needed to be established prior to the commencement of works.

Cllr. Keelan asked if there is any indication as to when the roads will re-open around the Market House?

Reply – The target date is June 2019.

Cllr. O’Hanlon acknowledges the difficulties the local traders currently face, and he hopes that the target date is realistic.

Cllr. Keelan requests that the possibility of doing small works on Deery’s Tce is re-examined.

Reply – Works on Deery’s Tce have an associated costing of €25,000. The MD have other priorities. It will be reviewed re: patching.

Cllr. O’Hanlon acknowledges the work of the MD and asks if there is any update on the Ardee/Shercock Road? Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that Minister Ross has no interest in funding the roads in rural areas. The roads are in the state they are in because of a lack of funding.

Reply – an update will be given during the presentation of the Traffic Calming Report.

3.0 Consideration of Report on Steadfast Junction Proposals

A study on speed limit violations show significant speed violations on the Dundalk road. The MD proposed providing a pedestrian crossing on the Dundalk road and restricting the area to pedestrian access only. Cllr. Carthy queried if there would be any changes in the area re: parking in relation to traders in the area.

Reply – there will be no changes.

Cllr. O’Hanlon pointed out that the speed sign does not work properly on the Dundalk Road due to trees covering the solar panel etc.

Reply – this will be investigated.

Cllr. O’Hanlon proposed the adoption of the works proposed and acknowledged the work of Engineer Craig Connolly. Cllr. Carthy seconded the proposal and commended the work of the Councillors in relation to this matter.

Plans for the agreed works will be presented to the Board of St. Joseph’s N.S. for their information.

4.0 Traffic Calming Report

A report was circulated to the members concerning 5 roads: Ross Road CMX, Shercock Road CMX, Ardee Road CMX, Dublin Road CBY and Monaghan Road CBY. District Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon went through the report.

Cllr. Keelan queried if the Culloville/Donaghmoynne Road is included? He has concerns about speeding issues on this road.

Reply – This road is being dealt with separately.

Cllr. Carthy asked if the expense of Ross Road traffic calming measures affect other areas?

Reply – the MD will seek funding for this.

Cllr. Campbell stated that costs relating to the Dublin Road of €20,000 seems reasonable, taking into consideration the schools and businesses in the area. Cllr. Campbell proposed that the Dublin road is looked at. Cllr. Crowe seconded this.

Cllr. O’Hanlon welcomed the traffic calming measures and thanked District Engineer Matthew Lambe for the work on the report. Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that he wants the Shercock Road to be looked at and the road out to Foxfield needs to be looked at also.

Cllr. Carthy reminded the members’ that at the last meeting it was agreed to apportion any remaining monies from the 2019 Roads Programme on addressing issues with potholes. He stated that low cost safety measures need to be looked at.

Reply – Under the Restoration Improvement Grant, speed cushions could be incorporated into surfacing works on the Shercock Road. There is a small pot of money in Regional Discretionary Maintenance and Signing and Lining which could possibly be used for the Ardee Road and Dublin Road.

Cllr. Carthy stated that if Ross Road is supported next year, he is happy to support the Dublin Road.

5.0 Correspondence

- Letter from Monaghan County Council Roads Department acknowledging receipt of letter sent 28th March 2019 re: Speed Limit Review Request.
- Letters from Bus Eireann re: Airport Bus stopping and from the NTA re: Wheelchair accessible Vehicles.
- Response from Minister Shane Ross re: new penalties for unaccompanied learner drivers.

6.0 Municipal District Co-ordinators Report.

Cllr. Carthy:

Requested a run down on works at the Carrickmacross – Dundalk Greenway at the next meeting.

Queried the Aghalile Road re: flood risk assessment.

Reply – District Engineer Matthew Lambe is meeting with an OPW inspector with a view to looking into re-submitting the application.

Requested the Council look at the state of repair of the footpaths at the Castleblayney Road. There is a tarred footpath with dips – can this be investigated?

Reply – the footpath will be inspected.

Is there any follow up on the issues raised by the Tidy Towns, specifically the dog park?

Reply – The MD have met with Carrickmacross Tidy Towns and are currently investigating this matter.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

In relation to the Greenway, have we linked in with the East Border Region?

Reply – yes we have links with the EBR.

Cllr. Crowe:

Welcomed the announcement of new Tidy Towns Committee in Oram.

Regarding footpaths/lighting on Main Street Castleblayney, have Irish Water finished in Castleblayney?

Reply – Works are not completed yet because of restrictions due to The Market House. There are no other specific details.

Cllr. Campbell:

Welcomed the works completed at Lough Muckno. Is there any update on a tenant?

Reply – Proposals are currently being evaluated. The hope is to have an operator in place in the next few weeks.

Cllr. Keelan:

Is there any update on Ivy Lane Car Park?

Reply – Director of Services Paul Clifford stated that there is no clarification on funding.

There are 20 areas outstanding in need of patching. When will they be done? Cllr. Keelan stated that repairs should be done in a timely fashion.

Reply – Priority is given to regional roads. The MD try to deal with outstanding areas asap. They are dealt with as they come to our attention. Cllr. Keelan suggested that the MD have a more robust approach when using contractors. He suggested that MD engineers should check the work.

9.0 Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. Pdraig McNally for April 2019 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. Can this MD examine the feasibility of widening the footpath adjacent to the new junction at Inver College along the wall on the west side of the road?

Response:

The Council have no plans to carry out footpath widening at this location. We will include same on the list of works in 2020 for consideration.

2. Has this MD received any further correspondence from the O.P.W. regarding flooding at Drumgossatt and Drumganny?

Response:

The Council has been advised by the OPW that flooding works proposed at Drumgossatt and Drumganny do not fall under the Minor Works Programme. OPW officials will meet with the Council's engineering staff to discuss remedial works required.

3. Has this M.D. finalised its final uses for the side building of Market House, Carrickmacross and what are these proposed uses?

Response:

The works proposed will incorporate 2 no. craft studios at this location.

4. In light of Monaghan Co. Council's regional roads being the worst in Ireland, have we spoken to the Department regarding getting funding to improve the R178 between Essexford and Shercock?

Response:

This question has been forwarded to the Roads Section for a response.

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for April 2019 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

5. Has this Municipal District considered my previous requests to add ramps to Ross road (adjacent to the Old Barford Meats site), Cluain Alainn (lower part of the estate) & Woodvale estate – Carrickmacross, and, if so, when does the executive envisage works will be able to begin?

Response:

Traffic calming designs have been completed in these areas and will be added to the list of submission to the Department for Low Cost Safety Works in 2020.

6. When is it expected that existing signage on the Convent Avenue, Carrickmacross, will be changed from 'Bath' to 'Convent' and can this be done during the current upgrade works?

Response:

The MD is currently in the process of amending the signs.

7. When is it expected that work will begin on the extension to the Car Park at Shirley House Lane, and will the Council consider repair works to existing boundary wall of this car park where stones have been breaking away in recent years?

Response:

Preliminary work on preparing reports as conditioned in the Part 8 approval will be commissioned in the coming weeks. Where repairs are required to the existing wall they will be carried out.

8. Will this executive consider adding visibility mirrors across from the entrances to St Patrick's Church (Rockchapel), Drumconrath Road, Magheracloone, to help the congregation safely exit in their vehicles?

Response:

The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD will investigate the matter.

Questions raised by Cllr. Jackie Crowe for April 2019 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

9. Would this MD carry out repairs on the L37420 road to Toome as soon as possible. The road is sinking and a danger to motorists. Cars have also been damaged.

Response:

This road is on the Minor Repairs list for 2019.

10. What progress has been made on the appointment of a consultant to prepare tender documents, to provide a pedestrian crossing and an accessible bus stop at York Street, Castleblayney?

Response:

The closing date for submission of tenders for Consultants for these works is 01/05/2019. It is envisaged that works will commence over the Summer.

11. Have consultants made preparations to an overall traffic calming and streetscaping plan for the Monaghan Road. Starting at the Ballybay Road and ending at McGrath Road, Castleblayney?

Response:

A preliminary design has been completed and will be added to the Council's application for Low Cost Safety Works in 2020.

12. Is there a planned date and time for the delivery and installation of the proposed goalposts for Drumillard play park?

Response:-

The providers have advised that delivery of the goal posts will be made by the end of April, 2019.

13. Have contractors completed works on the previously proposed footpath repairs on Park Road, Castleblayney?

Response:

Following completion of works by Irish Water in this area, the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD will engage a contractor to carry out repair works on footpaths in Castleblayney.

14. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of a CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross town and its environs given that the Monaghan town CCTV scheme is now progressing and also given the alarming number of robberies that have occurred in the Carrickmacross area recently?

Response

The provision of CCTV camera systems has been suspended across Monaghan County Council until the full ramifications of the Data Protection Regulations are assessed and a policy put in place.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for April 2019 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

15. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of proper safe walking routes/footpath links throughout Inniskeen Village and in particular from the school out to Magee's Corner and linking into the Monaghan Way given the obvious road safety issues for pedestrians at this location?

Response:

All funding options will be explored in relation to works at Inniskeen. The MD will continue to liaise and support the works of the Inniskeen Tidy Town's Committee.

16. Will this Council examine the possibility of adding to the annual Verge Trimming Programme the grass verge along the Dundalk Road R179 at Annacroff / Trostan which would help local residents walk this very busy regional roadway in relative safety?

Response:

The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD has allocated resources to maintain verges at the junctions of regional roads. There is no funding in place to carry out additional works.

17. What progress, if any, has been made by this MD in conjunction with the County Council's Broadband Officer in relation to the provision of WiFi facilities throughout our villages including for example Lisdoonan, Donaghmoynne, Corduff and Inniskeen?

Response:

The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD will continue to liaise with the County Council's Broadband Officer in order to progress the possibility of putting in place WiFi facilities throughout the District.

18. In relation to the very poor state of some of the approach roads to our village areas including Inniskeen and Lisdoonan for example, and given that our local road funding is totally inadequate to address these roadways, will this Council examine the possibility of drawing down funding from the Clár programme, Town and Village Renewal Scheme etc?

Response:

Clár funding is not designated to Local Authorities in order to carry out road repair works.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for April 2019 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

19. Regarding the Market House building in Castleblayney,

(a) Monaghan County Council has committed to procuring specialist contractors to remove the unstable roof structure and clear out the debris from the internal walls, under the direction of a Conservation Architect. What stage is this process now at given the building is now cordoned off since the end of January and causing serious issues for the local residents and traders in terms of access and parking?

(b) With the Market House being a protected structure, of regional status, What responsibilities has Monaghan County Council under the Planning Acts, in terms of Architectural Heritage and Conservation for the Market House?

When will Monaghan County Council be in a position to carry out the Structural Survey and Assessment of the Building to ascertain the integrity of the walls and inside of the building?

(c) Has Monaghan County Council a time frame for this work to be completed in?

Response:

In November 2018, Monaghan County Council issued a tender for consultants, to complete a Structural Survey and Assessment of the Market House in Castleblayney. The purpose of the survey and report was to ascertain the structural integrity of the

building. Alan Clarke & Associates was appointed to compete the work and they conducted an initial site viewing in December 2018.

On 25 January 2019, the structural engineer was unable to gain access to the Market House, following the collapse of an internal load bearing wall. The building was declared a public safety risk and a safety cordon was erected immediately to prevent access to the building and safeguard the public.

The Structural Survey and Assessment of the building cannot be completed as it is unsafe to enter the site at present, due to the potential collapse of the remaining roof and debris from the collapsed internal wall. The approach adopted by the Council, in consultation with all interested parties, is to remove the unstable roof structure and clear out the debris from the internal walls, under the direction of its Conservation Architect. Once the risk of further collapse has been removed, it is proposed to complete the survey and assessment on the building. No decision in relation to the future of the Market House can be made until this assessment is completed.

Monaghan County Council has issued a notice of intent to procure a specialist contractor to secure the walls, remove the roof and make the building safe, under the supervision of a Conservation Architect. Works are planned to commence in mid-May for completion by end of June. Following the completion of these works Alan Clarke & Associates will be in a position to complete the Structural Survey and Assessment of the Market House. The Council's responsibilities, as owner of the Market House, are detailed in Part IV, Chapter 1 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

20. When will the works on the Main Street in Castleblayney by Irish Water be finished?

Response:

Works on the Main Street will be substantially completed by the end of May 2019.

21. With the recent announcement of funding of over €117,000 for works at Lough Muckno for the retrofit of the clubhouse building and the provision of a new walking route out to the Dundalk Road and also the provision of a new open water swimming facility. What stages is these works on and when do we expect these works to be fully complete?

Response:

The Council advertised for expressions of interest for use of the area and received 5 submissions. The Council has subsequently written to each person requesting a more detailed submission, which will then be assessed by the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD. The Open Water swimming and new path elements of the project are currently being designed for delivery in Q3 of 2019

22. Can the MD look at some resurfacing work to be carried out on the approach road into Castleblayney from the Monaghan road as this surface has become quite poor?

Response:

There are no plans in 2019 to carry out resurfacing works at this location; however, this section of road will continue to be monitored going forward.

10.0 Notice of Motions

The following notice of motion was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Carthy:-

“That this Municipal District in conjunction with the county Council, including the Planning Section examine the possibility of acquiring lands adjacent to Carrickmacross town centre, including the property at the rear of the Bank of Ireland as suggested by the Tidy Towns Committee, for the future recreational / car parking needs of the people.”

11.0 Director of Service Orders

Director Order 11/2019 was noted.

12.0 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Votes of sympathy were passed to the following:

June Ward, on the death of her husband Frank Ward;

The Michael Finnegan and family, on the death of Sheila Marron

Owen Joe McGahon and family on the death of Annie Nancy McGahon.

13.0 AOB

Cllr. Keelan – poor lighting at night time at the pedestrian crossing on the Donaghmoyne Road.

Reply - This will be put on the list.

Cllr. Keelan pointed out that Monaghan Town seem to be progressing with their CCTV and wondered why we are not doing the same.

Cllr. Crowe – Asked if the L374, Toome Road can be drained asap.

Cllr. Campbell – supports Cllr. Crowe in getting this done.

Cllr. Carthy – Has anything been done on Farney Street?

Reply – Subject to funding, the MD are proposing to re-assess the Traffic and Parking Byelaws across the whole town of Carrickmacross.

Cllr. Carthy spoke about complaint he has received about the Traffic Management System facilitating works on the Kingscourt Road – no actual work has been carried out. He asked that in future a plan is put in place for scheduled works before closing roads.

Cllr. O’Hanlon enquired when the lights would be removed.

Reply – There have been issues with the contractor. The traffic lights should be down by the end of the week.

The following proposal regarding rates was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Cllr.

O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Campbell:

“Rates and Rateable Valuation is causing serious problems for business owners, cash flow pressure at a time of uncertainty due to Brexit. Rates levied on business premises is not an appropriate way to raise revenues for local government – a changing world where business

is done over the internet. Not a sustainable model long term and needs to be reviewed so that local government funding can be made secure against a changing pattern of business. A study is required of local government funding models including models in other jurisdictions.”

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that it should be sent to Monaghan County Council and every MD in the country.

Cllr. Keelan clarified that the purpose of the motion is to do a study of how the process works.

Cllr. Carthy asked about the quality of materials used for patching?

Reply – The material the MD use is an accepted quality. Weather, time of year, current road material can all affect the patching.

Cllr. Keelan asked what is the annual cost of the patching programme?

Reply – That information is not available to hand.

Meeting concluded at 6pm.

Cathaoirleach

Meeting Administrator

Dated _____