

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



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

Minutes of proceedings of February 2017 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 27th February 2017 at 10.30pm

Present: - Mayor Campbell

Cllrs Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Colm Carthy, Pdraig McNally, P J O'Hanlon.

In attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services; Frances Matthews, Co-ordinator; John Lennon, District Engineer; Amanda Murray, Staff Officer; Caitriona Lazdauskas Clerical Officer, Deirdre Power A/Assistant Staff Officer, Michael Fisher Northern Standard, Pauric Clerkin Northern Sound

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the January 2017 monthly meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Nally and seconded by Cllr Crowe the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 23rd January 2017 were adopted.

2. Matters arising

Replies to queries:

- The members commended Frances Matthews on her work and commitment to the post of Co-ordinator and wished her every success in her new post.
- Cllr Mc Nally enquired on the finish date for the Toilet at Cloughvalley, John Lennon District Engineer informed the meeting opening date will be two weeks.
- Cllr Carthy queried about the Per Cent for Art Scheme, Director of Services Paul Clifford said the scheme was no longer available but would investigate if Monaghan Co Council had an allocation.

3. Correspondence

- All members' present were dismayed at the response from Government regarding the emergency motion passed at the January meeting regarding the Abolition of ground rent. The following proposal was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Cllr. O Hanlon seconded by Cllr. Carthy:

"That Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District requests from the four Local TD's their stance on the motion from Cllr. Carthy in relation to Ground Rents which was unanimously adopted by the Municipal Authority."

Cllr Mc Nally requested that a letter should be forwarded to Corporate Affairs Monaghan County Council to seek legal opinion regarding the Shirley Ground Rents.

- Correspondence was received from Niamh Smyth TD regarding funding available under the **Clar Programme**.
- Correspondence was received from **Castleblayney Drama Festival** invite to festival from March 3rd – 11th March 2017

4. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

Issues Raised/ Discussed

- All Councillors praised the work involved with the €188,000 allocation for the works needed for the Patrick Kavanagh Centre
Phase 1 will include physical buildings such as the Market House and Workhouse
Phase 2 will include the actual exhibit and development of the village
- Cllr Crowe requested works to be finished at Sruth Na Luir in Oram.
- Cllr Mc Nally asked for works to be carried out at the layby in Inniskeen also contact to be made with Eir regarding damage to the grass verge on the Ballybay road.
- John Lennon informed the meeting that works will commence on the Convent Wall at the end of June with issues concerning the residents at Shirley House Lane taken into consideration.
- Cllr Mc Nally asked for details on the walking strategy for the town as more walks off road are needed.
- Cllr Carthy requested that the Schools contributions are considered with the walking strategy
- Cllr O'Hanlon welcomed the funding of €80,000 regarding the junction at the two schools and requested that the Engineer liaise with both schools.
- Cllr. O'Hanlon welcomed the revitalisation of Angling in the town and made the following Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mc Nally

"That a committee be set up that is the Angling Development Committee including Reps of Inland Fishery and the IADA, local tackle shops and Dympna Condra Tourism Officer Monaghan County Council".

The following proposals was made by Cllr. O'Hanlon seconded by Cllr. Mc Nally and agreed by all

"That a letter be sent to the Minister for Transport Shane Ross , Minister for Arts, Rural Affairs Heather Humphries Taoiseach Enda Kenny highlighting the situation regarding the lack of

funding for roads. We received €1.2 million for 2017, it will take €15 million to bring our roads to a proper standard considering the challenges facing us with Brexit this is totally unacceptable”.

The following proposal was made by Cllr O’Hanlon seconded by Cllr. Mc Nally and agreed by all.

“That Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District request Transport Infrastructure Ireland To put average speed camera’s between Aclint to Castleblayney”

- Cllr. Keelan requested for the Kednaminsha road problems to be resolved and also that proper walking provision is provided at the footbridge from the Patrick Kavanagh Centre to Mc Gee’s in Inniskeen.
- Director Paul Clifford requested members to submit small projects to be considered under various project funding.
- District Engineer John Lennon presented a sketch with options regarding the junction at Inver College when decided could commence at the end of June 2017.

Off Street Car-parking spaces in Carrickmacross

Cllr Mc Nally suggested that identification of long stay car parking in the periphery of the town was needed with further consultation regarding four hour car parking.

Cllr O’Hanlon asked that through the Chamber of Commerce Business owners request their employees to park further from the town centre.

5. Consideration of schedule of MD works

Cllr Mc Nally proposed to approve the Road allocation programme seconded by Cllr Carthy and agreed by all.

Cllr Mc Nally made the following proposal, seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon

“That Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District calls on Monaghan County Council to urgently seek a meeting with the Chief Executive of the Transport Infrastructure Ireland to establish the position regarding County Monaghan’s major projects”.

6. Set date for Budget Committee Meeting

Budget Meeting 10th March at 9.00am

7. Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. Pdraig McNally for January 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. **In welcoming the €80k funding for the upgrade and safety measures at the junctions of Ballybay and Castleblayney roads into Carrickmacross, what type of measures does this MD intend putting in place and when will work be carried out.**

Response:

We are currently reviewing the all aspects of the Castleblayney road, from reducing the number of entry and exit points onto the Castleblayney Road, realignment of the Ballybay junction, new road markings, new splitter islands, reduction in lane widths, the introduction of a pedestrian crossing and new

periodical speed limits. There will be a period of consolidation prior to the finalisation of drawings.

2. Will this MD examine ways of reducing speed on the Magheraboy road i.e. can we reduce the present 80kph on the section beyond Foxfied Estate.

Response:

The Municipal District will install a traffic counter at this location in the coming weeks to determine the actual vehicle type and speeds. Any proposal to reduce the speed limit on the Magheraboy road will have to be forwarded to Monaghan County Council for consideration by the speed limit committee.

3. In light of this MD prioritising the Drumconrath road for the development of footpath and lights, will work on phase 1 of this start in 2017?

Response:

The District Office will prepare a footpath and lighting programme in 2017, which will be presented to the elected members for approval. The priority for this Municipal District is to repair and upgrade existing footpaths and public lighting.

4. In this MD satisfied that the newly installed feedback signs have been value for money as it appears that they are often out of order.

Response:

We have 15 units within the MD. We have received 6 reports of faults within the last 18 months. Three faults were covered under the maintenance period after installation. One of the older units has a display fault and may need to be replaced. Yes, this Municipal District is satisfied that the feedback signs are a benefit both financially and as method of reducing speeding on the approach road into the towns and villages.

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for February 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

5. Will this MD consider carrying out upgrade works to the rear access lanes (including a light resurface) to both upper and lower Drummond Etra housing estates, Carrickmacross?

Response:

Yes the Municipal District will consider resurfacing of the lanes, subject to funding and approval from the elected members.

6. When is it envisaged the Municipal District office will have a safety assessment carried out on the short stretch of the Aghaille road where flood relief works were carried out in late 2016?

Response:

The road was raised by approximately 400mm at the request of the residents and elected members to resolve an ongoing flooding problem. The Municipal District has assessed this section of road and is happy there is no unusual safety risk to road users. The section is on a local road with excellent forward stopping distance sight lines. Verge build-up has commenced.

7. Will the MD consider reducing the width of an elongated ramp on Chapel Lane, Carrickmacross, to ensure it forces reduced speed (at present it is too long to serve its purpose)?

Response:

A contractor was procured by the Municipal District in late 2016 to reduce the size of the ramps on Chapel Lane. This work will be completed by mid March.

8. What is the up-to-date position on the 2no. unfinished housing developments in Carrickmacross (Lough na Glack and the Old Ardee Road complex)?

Response:

A decision to grant planning permission for retention of 33 dwellings at Magheross (old Ardee Road) issued on the 19th of February. If no objections are received the actual Grant of Planning Permission will issue in the week ending 24 March 2017. This MD is currently waiting for a response from the Housing Section in relation to an update on the Lough Na Glack development.

Questions raised by Cllr. Jackie Crowe for February 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

9. In relation to Oram village, will this Municipal District Council pipe the open drain which encompasses St Patricks Church resulting in its graveyard flooding?

Response:

The Municipal District will inspect this section of open channel to determine ownership and costing. Consideration will be given to Cllr Crowe's proposal subject to funding and approval from the elected members.

10. In the interests of pedestrian safety, what is the situation regarding the provision of a footpath from Kinnagin Junction to Blackhill GAA grounds on the R181 Castleblayney/Shercock road in Castleblayney. This road is used on a constant basis by Heavy Goods Lorries going to Lough Egish and Bailieboro? It poses a threat to the many people walking this busy road to football training and games.

Response:

The District Office will prepare a footpath and lighting programme in 2017, which will be presented to the elected members for approval.

11. Will this MD replace the paint on the yellow boxes at junctions in Castleblayney and also the white lines on the pedestrian crossings that need it?

Response:

The Municipal District will review the road markings in Castleblayney Town, those areas consider high priority will have the markings renewed.

12. Would this Municipal District Council do a survey of all pedestrian crossings in Castleblayney and Carrickmacross in relation to the lighting at them? If there are cases where crossings have inadequate illumination will this Council install LED lighting?

Response:

Yes, the Municipal District will review the pedestrian crossings within the Municipal District. Any upgrading will be subject to public lighting funding and agreement with the elected members. The total county public lighting funding for 2016 was approximately €42,000.

13. Regarding the new footpath from Rosevale to Knocktornagh, what plans have the Municipal District Council to provide public lighting at this location?

Response:

New public lighting is included in the project and will be installed in the coming weeks.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for February 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

14. When will the new improved pedestrian lights be installed at St. Marys Church as this is a very busy crossing?

Response:

The Municipal District has procured new upgraded pedestrian lighting for the crossing at St Mary's Church. This upgrade will be completed in the coming weeks.

15. As a result of very heavy traffic on the road outside Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney particularly when the pupils are being dropped off and picked up coupled with this the primary schools are on the same busy road and also the very busy junction going over to Iontas. Also the heavy traffic coming in from the Shercock road at speed. Will the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross MD undertake a road Safety audit to investigate the best possible solutions to this dangerous stretch of road for all road users?

Response:

The Municipal District has appointed McMahon & Associates to undertake a road safety audit. The recommendation in the audit will form a low cost safety improvement application to the Department of Transport, Tourism, and Sport.

16. Can the MD of Castleblayney/Carrickmacross investigate into the upgrading of the road signs which welcome people to Castleblayney as the photos on these signs have faded considerable?

Response:

A review of these signs will be carried out by this Municipal District.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for February 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

17. In Relation to Inniskeen Village what is the up to date position regarding the provision of extra footpaths/walking routes, linking up all the areas throughout the village as discussed some time ago with community organisations and elected members on site?

Response:

The Municipal District has begun to review the possibility of a new footpath linking the village to The Monaghan Way. The review includes a new footbridge over the River Fane.

18. Will this Council confirm that the small area at Dunard in Inniskeen will be resurfaced this year as requested by the residents association some time ago?

Response:

It is proposed to resurface Dunard when the main street in Inniskeen Village is being overlaid, but it is subject to funding being available.

19. Will this Council confirm that the footpath link at Lisanisk will be resurfaced this year as requested by the residents association & given that it is also dangerous?

Response:

The District Office will prepare a footpath programme in 2017, which will be presented to the elected members for approval. The priority for this Municipal District is to repair the existing footpaths.

20. What is the up to date position in relation to works at Corduff Cross on the Shercock road given the safety concerns at this junction?

Response:

A contractor has been procured to relocate the existing fence. This work will be completed shortly.

8. Notice of Motions

Motion put forward by Cllrs. Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan and Jackie Crowe

“This Municipal District Council calls on the HSE to carry out a review of the GP Services in Carrickmacross to ensure that an adequate level of funding and staff are allocated to deal with the high demand it has been dealing with for a long period of time. We note that the surgery has been unable to accept new patients who have moved to the town in recent years and the fact that a high volume of clients making contact with the surgery have not been successful in getting an appointment and have been told to go to Doctor –on-call or their Hospital Emergency Department.”

Motion put forward by Cllr. Colm Carthy

“The Carrickmacross- Castleblayney Municipal District fully supports the “Campaign for Grace” Set up by the Parents of Grace Cogan (Laragh, Castleblayney) in their quest to have the drug “Vimizim” administered to their 9 year old daughter who suffers from the extremely rare condition “Morquio”.

- We also call on the Minister for Health Simon Harris TD and the HSE Management to roll out the use of this drug to treat all those in the state suffering from the condition “Marquis” (approx. 10 people)
- We ask that these individuals be treated the same as those north of the border and 2 others in this state (part of the original clinical trial) who are receiving this drug.
- We ask that this motion be sent to all City and County Councils for their support.

The following motions were proposed by Cllr Keelan and adopted but it was agreed that the Senior Engineer would report back to the meeting on both issues:

“That this Municipal District Council calls on Monaghan County Council & TII to put in place a 60 Km speed limit on the on/off ramps (N2) approach to Carrickmacross town & that this council notes the safety concerns for those who use the bus stop adjacent to the Dundalk road where a 100km speed limit exists.”

“That this municipal District council of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney supports the requests by the residents of Inniskeen to have Extra speed ramps put in place on the carrickmacross approach road, adjacent to St Daighs Tce & Dunard estate given the speed that some Vehicles travel on entering the Village.”

9. Directors of Service Orders

The Directors orders 07/2017 to 16/2017 attached to the Agenda were noted.

10. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:-

- John Kellett on the death of mother Mary Kellett
- Ann Nolan on the death of her husband Harry Nolan
- Marion Mc Nally on the death of her husband Austin Mc Nally
- Paul and Linda Brereton on the passing of their mother Betty Brereton
- Niamh Mc Golderick on death of her husband Paul Mc Golderick

11. Any other Business

- Cllr Mc Nally asked for details of the deadline date for land concerning the soccer pitch
- Cllr Mc Nally enquired about a proposed meeting which was to be arranged with Louth Co Council
- Cllr Mc Nally queried about outstanding works at Dunard and also the road at the Aughnafarcán junction.
- Cllr Crowe requested a new sign for the Shercock road and also a manhole cover has sunk at the Castleblayney roundabout which needs work
- Cllr Carthy requested an update on the pedestrian crossing on the Dundalk road and also the problem with overgrown Hedges on the R179 must be addressed.
- Cllr Keelan said that the problems with the Allotment group bins remains unresolved

Meeting concluded at 1.25pm

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: 27th March 2017.