

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



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

Minutes of proceedings of July 2017 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 24th July 2017 at 4.00pm

Present: - Cathaoirleach Padraig McNally
Cllrs .Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Colm Carthy, Aidan Campbell, P J O’Hanlon.

In attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services; Gareth Mc Mahon , Co-ordinator; John Lennon, District Engineer, John Fox Assistant Engineer, Amanda Murray Staff Officer, Deirdre Power, A/ Assistant Staff Officer. Veronica Corr Northern Standard, Pauric Clerkin Northern Sound

1. Confirmation of Minutes

AGM June 2017

On the proposal of Cllr. Campbell and seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon the minutes of the Annual General meeting held on 26th June 2017 were adopted .

Municipal District June Meeting 2017

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy and seconded by Cllr Crowe the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 26th June 2017 were adopted .

2. Matters arising

Replies to queries:

Vote of sympathy was passed by all present to the families of all involved in the tragic accident on the N2 on Friday 21st July 2017.

It was proposed by Cllr. P J O’Hanlon and seconded by Cathaoirleach McNally

“ that a meeting be organised with the Minister for Transport Shane Ross and the Municipal District Members of the Carrickmacross Castleblayney District along with the Chief Executive of the TII in relation to the stretch of road between Castleblayney and Ardee and also to notify the members of Louth County Council in the Ardee area. This meeting is to address this dangerous stretch of road and for serious investment to be made to help make this a lot safer”

- Cllr Carthy asked for an update on the Magheross Estate
Co-ordinator Gareth Mc Mahon said a report would be available at the September meeting.
- Cathaoirleach McNally requested that overgrown hedges at the Shirley Estate are addressed.
Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon replied letters had been issued to Phillip Shirley with details forwarded to Roads Section.
- Cllr.Crowe enquired if the proposed “Big Tom Statue” could benefit from the “Per Cent for Art scheme.
Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon replied that €30,000 euro was available under the scheme.
- Cllr. Crowe enquired if the Linear park was available for cyclists
Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon replied that it was a shared surface and is suitable for both uses.
- Cathaoirleach McNally asked for a start date on the convent wall
Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon said that the consultant’s report has been received and the contract will be awarded in due course with a start date in September.
- Cllr. Crowe asked for road safety measures for pedestrians at the ramp at the entrance to the Mc Grath Road at the Glencarn Hotel.
Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon agreed to do a review of the road.
- Cllr. Carthy asked for consideration for an increase on Traffic Ramps in Cluain Aláin Estate
Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon will discuss with Engineers.
- Cllr. Keelan asked for pothole maintenance on the N2 from Broomfield to Castleross to Carrickmacross as soon as possible.
Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon replied that roads section will be made aware of the issue.
- Cllr. Keelan requested that the speed limit is changed from the bus stop at Dundalk Road
Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon replied that it was a matter for the council Bye laws regarding speed limits.
- Cllr. Keelan said that the Spring Lake Anglers had made an application for funding
Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon said that no decision had been made to date.
- Cathaoirleach McNally asked that the Hedge at Treacy’s Hotel is cut right back to the fence.
District Engineer John Lennon said that there was a large amount of Hedge and that the autumn is the season when the Hedge can be cut.
- Cllr. McNally asked for speed measures at Cul Rea.
Gareth Mc Mahon replied that the survey is excessive speed at 80km on the road, average speed is below which is difficult for Municipal District when average is less.
- Cathaoirleach McNally asked for lights on the Killanny road
- Cathaoirleach McNally asked for a ramp at Super Value
Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon agreed to review the area
- Cathaoirleach McNally requested that the owners of convent land clean up the area
- Cathaoirleach McNally asked about the Donaghmoynne playpark
Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon said that a report is currently being processed.
- Cathaoirleach McNally asked about footpaths on the Drumconrath road
Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon said the matter will be addressed at footpath meeting, as there was a design in place
- Cathaoirleach McNally asked the Municipal District to enquire about an extra Electric Car Service outlet.
- Cllr. O Hanlon welcomed five new gardai to Carrickmacross.

3. Correspondence

Correspondence received from Minister Simon Covney's office

Acknowledgment of receipt of letter regarding the restrictive laws regarding the use of Mobile Camera's with regard to fly tipping within the Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District.

Correspondence received from Denis Naughten TD and Niamh Smyth TD

All present voiced their dismay at response from Government regarding Eirgrid and the fact that the interconnector will go ahead with Pylons overground.

Email regarding Castleblayney News Facebook Page

Cllr. Campbell informed the meeting that an email had been received commending the work of Mary Byrne who set up the on the Castleblayney News Facebook page. It was proposed by Cllr. Campbell and seconded by Cllr. Crowe for a presentation to take place to acknowledge Mary Byrne for her efforts. The presentation will take place in the gatehouse Castleblayney in December. All present were in agreement.

4. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

Issues Raised Discussed

- Cllr. Campbell informed the meeting that the Hope Castle Public Consultation was a huge success with approximately 80 people having attended the event.
- Cllr. Campbell asked that the road by the lay by at Inniskeen is included in the works.
- Cllr. Carthy requested bins at the picnic area on the Castleblayney road
- Cllr. Crowe asked for an update on the N53 overlay.
- Cllr. Crowe enquired about the noxious weeds at the water treatment in Castleblayney. Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon said the process for eradicating of knotweed had been planned for August / September when the plant dies back.
- Cllr. Keelan asked that the small area in Dunard Estate Inniskeen is included in the overlay. John Fox Engineer confirmed that the Inniskeen road works starts at Inniskeen Patrick Kavanagh Centre with works on the other side commencing at the pedestrian crossing.

5. Consideration of draft Walking & Cycling Strategy for Carrickmacross

Coordinator Gareth McMahon informed the meeting that the publication was available and that discussions could take place with landowners with a view to expansion when extra funding becomes available.

It was proposed by Cathaoirleach McNally and seconded by Cllr. Carthy to adopt the strategy.

Cathaoirleach McNally requested a review on expanding the strategy from the Donaghmoyne road to the Castleblayney roundabout. Cathaoirleach McNally requested a more detailed survey on that section. Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon said that he would hope to have a report by September

Cllr. Campbell enquired about a cycling strategy for Castleblayney Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon said he was aware that a strategy had previously been developed but would discuss it at the September meeting.

6. Consideration of proposals for junction at Inver College

Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon gave a report on the Meeting held on 5th July and explained that a total of 33 submissions had been received 31 were in favor of Option 3, the two way traffic flow. There were also a number of submissions advocating that Design Option 3 be modified so that the entry and exit lanes would be brought together. A further meeting was held on the 19th July where Design Option 4 was introduced which advocated a minor change to Design Option 3. A vote was taken to decide on a one way system or two-way system where the majority voted two-way system.

A second vote took place to determine the preference between Option 3 and Option 4. Of the 23 members of the public present 12 voted for Design Option 3, 10 voted for Design Option 4 and 1 vote abstained. At the end of the meeting the public requested additional speed calming measures to be implemented in the preferred Design Option 3 with a view to providing ramps where appropriate.

Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon asked members to look at the options from an engineering perspective.

Cllr. Keelan said there were a number of issues to investigate traffic calming to reduce speed, change of junction for schools and safety measures to deal with speed on Ballybay and Castleblayney roads. John Lennon stated that he had applied for €120,000 and only €80,000 had been granted.

After a lengthy debate Option 4 was proposed by Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan. Cathaoirleach McNally stated that Cllr. Carthy's proposal was unanimously agreed, with the provision that there would be a full examination of the Castleblayney and Ballybay roads into the new junction at Inver College.

Cllr. O'Hanlon said safety was paramount and ramps were needed for both roads but that it would be led by the engineer's expert judgement. Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon said that the proposal for ramps was technically difficult with no design available and that it would be necessary to carry out risk assessment. It was agreed taking into consideration the lack of funding available, to review road safety and traffic calming with costings at the September meeting.

7. Questions

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

1. Has this MD added provisions for ramps to be added to the Cluain Alainn & Woodvale housing estates, Carrickmacross in the near future due to safety concerns raised by residents?

Response

The Municipal District Office carried out an inspection of Cluain Alainn. The estate has five speed ramps and we do not intend to increase this number. A traffic counter has been installed in Woodvale to determine if speeding violations are occurring.

2. Has this MD put together a cost for remedial works to Drummond Etra green spaces (trimming/cutting of trees, resurfacing rear-access roads etc) and when will it be presented to the members?

Response

Yes, the Municipal District has costed the works requested by Cllr Carthy and it will be presented to the members at July's MD meeting. Cllr Carthy request is subject being available.

3. Has this MD received confirmation on whether or not it can use the annual IPB refund to install Drumcondrath road footpath in Carrickmacross?

Response

There is no restriction on use of the dividend from IPBMI, however following advice received from our insurers, Monaghan County Council at Corporate Policy Group level, discussed the matter and has agreed to prioritise risk improvement works to reduce both the incidence and cost of future insurance claims. It was agreed that the dividend would be used in the main to address areas which have been the subject of insurance claims, e.g. trips in urban footpaths/roads.

4. When is it expected that work will commence on making safe the Convent Wall, Carrickmacross and have the owners been encouraged to carry out the work before the school starts in September to avoid unnecessary congestion for students/traffic?

Response

The Municipal District Office has spoken to the Consulting Engineer's appointed by the Bermingham Trust and they have informed us that they plan to commence works on the Convent Wall in September and works will continue until the end of 2017.

5. When is it expected that work will commence on the Ballybay Rd Junction, Carrickmacross (in front of Inver College)?

Response:

The Municipal District has completed the public consultation process and will be presenting its findings to the elected members at July's Municipal meeting. It is planned to commence the low cost safety improvement works on the 31/8/17.

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

6. With regard to the recent vandalism to the toilets at Lough Muckno Park, will the MD extend the CCTV coverage to include the car park and toilet area?

Response

The Municipal District Office has forwarded Cllr Crowe's request to the IT section of Monaghan County Council to determine if the current CCTV can be extended to include the car park in Lough Muckno.

7. In relation to the recent closure of the Castleblayney By Pass , has the data taken by the traffic counter which was placed on the old N2 been processed?

Response

A traffic counter was placed on the Old N2, Castleblayney to Annayalla between the 18/06/17 – 03/07/17. The duration of the counter covered the Castleblayney bypass being open and closed. The results have been collated and are as follows.

- 18/06/17 -23/06/16
Single lane closure on the bypass, the average daily traffic during this period was 4845 vehicles.
- 26/06/16 – 03/07/17
Bypass open, the average daily traffic during this period was 2962 vehicles.

Will this MD carry out smoke tests to the manholes in the Park Road area of Drumillard Castleblayney in order to ascertain if gasses are escaping through the system which are causing an obnoxious smell to residents in that area?

Response

The Municipal District Office has forwarded Cllr Crowe's request to Irish Water for a response.

8. Would this MD carry out repairs to the damaged roads and footpaths in the Park Road estate in Drumillard?

Response:

The District Office has carried out an inspection of Park Road and a number of areas needing repair were indentified. These areas will be added to our footpath maintenance programme.

9. Now that it has been clarified that the open drain adjacent to Saint Joseph's church Oram is Council owned, will this MD look for a flood prevention solution to the flooding that has occurred in the cemetery on a number of occasions?

Response:

The Municipal District has reviewed the open drain and we propose to install a headwall with grating at the entry to the underground storm pipe. The grating will prevent debris from entering the storm pipe, resolving the flooding issue.

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

14. Will this Council consider putting in place extra traffic calming measures including a pedestrian crossing at the junction of the Donaghmoyne road (R179) and Lisanisk (LT46401) given the increase in traffic and pedestrian activity including those using the new GAA grounds & also given the poor design of the bridge which impedes traffic coming from Lisanisk turning right in particular, will the Council ensure that the trees at this bridge are cut back in the interim?

Response:

The Municipal District Office will undertake an assessment of the junction to determine if there is a requirement for a pedestrian crossing. The vegetation on the bridge will be cut back if it will improve the visibility splay at the junction.

15. In welcoming the upgrading and resurfacing of the roads in Inniskeen village will the Council ensure the small area in Dunard estate will be resurfaced as requested by the residents association & raised by myself over a number of years?

Response

Consideration will be given to Cllr Keelan's request following a budget review in late August 2017. In relation to Inniskeen village what is the up to date position regarding the provision of footpath/walking routes linking up all the areas throughout the village, including the provision of a footbridge across the river fane in the interest of road safety?

Response

The District Office is currently investigating the possibility of providing a new footpath over the River Fane. The Municipal will present a draft walking plan for Inniskeen Village at September's meeting.

16. In relation to the introduction of new speed limits throughout the county, when will these new limits come into force including the introduction of a 50km speed limit at Lisanisk and also what is the up to date position in relation to the introduction of a 60km speed limit on the off ramps/slip roads coming off the N2 as discussed and agreed by the members?

Response:

The new speed limits were adopted at a meeting of Monaghan County Council on the 12th June. All signs are to be in place by the 1st September 2017. There will be no change to the speed limit on the N2 until a review has been completed by Monaghan County Council. Cllr Keelan's request has been forwarded to the Road Section of Monaghan County Council for consideration.

17. Will all the roadways included on the roads reconstruction programme for 2017 be completed by August & also given the poor condition of many of the roads in the area including our regional roads has there been any indication from the department of additional funding to address this serious situation?

Response

The Local and Regional Restoration Road Programme for 2017 will be completed by August. There has been no indication from Department of Transport Sport and Tourism regarding additional road funding for 2017.

10. Notice of Motions

Issues Raised Discussed

Motion by Cllr. Colm Carthy for July 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

“The members of this Municipal District calls on the engineering section to keep under review redesign options for the junctions at (a) the south end of Carrickmacross town (old Ardee rd /Kingscourt rd junction) and (b) the Dundalk/Cullaville road junction at the Steadfast Industrial Estate, owing to the fact that the current layouts lead to constant congestion at peak times and safety concerns for motorists/pedestrians”.

11. Directors Orders

The Directors orders 63/2017 to 68/2017 attached to the Agenda were noted.

12. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:

- Mundy, Mc Gonagle & O’Neill family’s on the death of of Mairead Mundy
- Martin Battles on the death of his wife Rachael Battles
- Mc Gonagle Family on the death of their mother Margaret
- O’Reilly Family on the death of Mel O’ Reilly
- Mc Mahon Family on the death of Margaret Mc Mahon nee Byrne

13. Any Other Business

- Cathaoirleach McNally asked if it was possible to install a right turning box at Mullinarry
- Cathaoirleach McNally asked that the access point on the steadfast junction be addressed
- Cathaoirleach McNally asked for the establishment of the situation with the Old Railway Building
Director Paul Clifford said that representatives from the Planning Section are currently in consultation with the owner.
- Cathaoirleach McNally asked that the steadfast junction is kept under review.
- Cathaoirleach McNally requested that due to the increase of traffic on the Donaghmoyne road that an appeal should be made to parents to have their children use O’Neill Street, to avail of lollypop man’s assistance.
- Cllr. Keelan highlighted the fact that anti-social behaviour has been taking place at the building at the Donaghmoyne junction. Cllr Keelan requested that the owner is contacted to secure the building.
- Cllr. Keelan asked that a speed limit is placed at Séan Carraig
- Cllr. Keelan requested that the diversion route at Inniskeen to be changed
Graduate Engineer John Fox confirmed the route had already been changed
- Cllr. Carthy asked when the ramps would be fitted at Foxfield Estate
- Cllr .Carthy requested that a new fence needs to be erected at Corrán Fionn Barra as the current fence has been damaged due to Anti-social behaviour.
- Cllr. Carthy asked that a sign is needed to alert road narrowing on the Shercock road as HGV’s keep hitting off an ESB on the road.
- Cllr. O Hanlon congratulated the arrival of five Gardaí to Carrickmacross.
- Cllr. Campbell congratulated the Muckno Mania on another successful festival which is now in its 19th year and thanked all the outdoor staff for their hard work.

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- Cllr .Crowe asked for an update on the fence at Drumillard Play Park
- Cathaoirleach McNally highlighted the suitability of Steadfast House for housing and requested that contact be made with Housing Section with a view to acquiring the property for housing.
- Cathaoirleach McNally requested that quotations are sought for the removal of a hedge at Cloughvalley where there have been reports of continuous antisocial behaviour.
- Cathaoirleach.McNally commended Garda Bobby Ogle on his service to the community and wished him well in his future endeavours
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked for the Essexford junction to be reviewed
Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon verified that the area is currently being accessed
- Cathaoirleach.McNally requested that the problem with outstanding pothole complaints are addressed and requested that details regarding “Fix my Street” are better publicised.
Director Paul Clifford informed the meeting that the app is available to download
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally conveyed good luck to all involved with the Tidy Towns as judging commences on Tuesday 25th July and Wednesday 26th July in Carrickmacross.

Meeting concluded at 7.10p.m.

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: 25th September 2017.