

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



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

Minutes of proceedings of June 2017 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 26th June 2017 at 10.30am

Present: - Cathaoirleach McNally

Cllrs. Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Colm Carthy, Aidan Campbell, P J O'Hanlon.

In attendance: - Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator; John Lennon, District Engineer, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer, Caitriona Lazdauskas, Clerical Officer, Caroline Gauley, Northern Sound, Veronica Corr, Northern Standard.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. McNally the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 22nd May 2017 were adopted.

2. Matters arising

Replies to queries:

- Cllr. Carthy requested an update on the Magheross Estate. Coordinator Gareth McMahon stated that a report will be given at the next monthly meeting and an update on the Lough Na Glack Estate will also be given.
- Cllr. Keelan requested a report regarding the poor condition of the roads in the town centres and their outskirts. District Engineer John Lennon circulated a report on the roads that require improvement works and the costs involved in restoring these roads. Cllr. Keelan proposed *“that this council write to the Department and Minister seeking special funding to upgrade the roadways in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney Town Areas, given the poor condition and in light of the Co-ordinators report”*.
Cllr. Carthy seconded the proposal and stated that it is important to seek extra funding rather than taking from the Municipals Districts own budget.
- Cllr. McNally asked if it is possible to pursue the contractors whose works resulted in the deterioration of the roads. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that this will be investigated.

- Cllr. McNally proposed that this Municipal District seek a meeting with Minister Michael Ring for Community and Local Affairs, Michael Ring TD to discuss what rural development means to him and also to discuss his brief. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Carthy. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that he will consult with Monaghan County Councils Finance Section regarding the future allocation of funding and will also request a meeting with Minister Michael Ring.
- Cllr. Carthy thanked the Municipal District staff for their work during the festival weekend.
- Cllr. McNally commended the festival committee and Cllr. Carthy on the success of the festival.
- Cllr. Keelan commended the Engineering staff on the improvement works carried out at the schools and asked that speed ramps be put in place in Inniskeen village. He requested the ramps be put in place before the next monthly meeting. Cllr. McNally requested that a ramp is needed close to the old football pitch in the town. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that the data from the traffic counters that were in place in Inniskeen will be analysed and if warranted traffic calming measures will be proposed for the village.
- Cllr. Crowe enquired if there has been a response from IPB in relation to the Municipals Districts responsibility in regards to trees along main streets and thoroughfares in our towns where the roots of such trees have burst piping in homes. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that no response has been received from IPB and he will make further contact with them regarding the query.
- Cllr. Carthy asked for an update on his request for the Municipal District to address the problem of overgrown hedges on the R179. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that he will follow up on this.
- Cllr. Campbell requested an update on the works to repair the road LT76111 in the townland of Tullynamalra. District Engineer stated that the works will be completed in the coming weeks.

3. Correspondence

- **Correspondence form Donal McElwain, Monaghan Municipal District Co-ordinator** stating that at a recent meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan, the elected members support Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD's proposal regarding the terms of reference in relation to the North-South Interconnector.
- **Correspondence from Seamus McEneaney, Vanity Nightclub, Carrickmacross** requesting permission to run a Country Music Festival in the car park at the rear of the Fiddlers on the August Bank holiday weekend, Friday 4th August to Monday 7th August 2017.

Cllr. McNally agreed to give permission. This was seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon. All members unanimously agreed to give permission.

Cllr. McNally asked that the event organisers consult with the residents of Beech Drive regarding their concerns.

Cllr. Carthy requested that the organisers police the parking of vehicles during the festival weekend.

Cllr. O'Hanlon requested that the organisers adhere to the finishing times each night.

- **Letter from Brian Shevlin, Shevlins Central Bar, Carrickmacross** seeking permission to host a mini-festival on the street outside Shevlins Central Bar on the evenings of Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd of July 2017.

Cllr. McNally agreed to give permission. This was seconded by Cllr. Keelan. All members unanimously agreed to give permission.

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Cllr. McNally asked that the organisers ensure that the footpath outside the premises is kept clear for pedestrians.

Cllr. Keelan requested that the executive meet with the organisers to ensure that the event is finished in a timely manner.

- **Letter from Sean Haughey TD**, thanking the members, management and staff for the message of condolence received on the passing of his mother Maureen Haughey.

4. Consideration of Co-ordinators monthly report

Issues Raised Discussed

- Cllr. Crowe asked that this Municipal District investigate funding options available to assist with the commissioning of the Big Tom statue proposed for Castleblayney. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that all funding options will be explored.
- Cllr. Crowe welcomed the appointment of consultants to develop an Options Appraisal Report for the reuse of Hope Castle and annex buildings.
- Cllr. Crowe welcomed the application for funding for Black Island Paths under the 2017 Outdoor Recreational Grant.
- Cllr. Crowe also welcomed the work completed on the Knocktornagh-Rosevale Footpath. Cllr. Crowe requested an update on the issue of getting the ESB to put in a connection. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that the Engineering staff are in contact with the ESB to put in the connection and are hoping to make progress on this soon.
- Cllr. Crowe requested that signs taken down during works are put back in place at the Roundabout, Main Street, Castleblayney. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that the signs taken down during the works will be put back in place.
- Cllr. Keelan welcomed the preliminary design for the provision of a new footbridge over the River Fane in Inniskeen. He also stated that a number of events are taking place in the village in the coming weeks and asked if the roads in the village will be resurfaced before the 15th and 16th July. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that the MD will try and get the works completed before the July festival.
- Cllr. Keelan asked that provisions be made for a small carpark and access to the lake for anglers in Carrickmacross.
- Cllr. Campbell requested a date for the ESB connection on the new public lights in Castleblayney.
- Cllr. Campbell asked for a schedule of works date on the known locations of noxious weeds. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that the works to eradicate the noxic weeds will begin in October-November time.
- Cllr. Carthy welcomed the contractor's tidy works after the ducting installation in Carrickmacross and stated that a number of bins had been removed during the works and if these bins are being replaced. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that the bins will be reinstalled.
- Cllr. Carthy welcomed the funding application made for Donaghmoyne Playground access under the 2017 Outdoor Recreational Grant.
- Cllr. Carthy also welcomed the funding application made for "The Hilly Way" Cycle Route, Carrickmacross.
- Cllr. Carthy welcomed the work on the unfinished estates and stated that the residents of Ros Cluain Estate are eager to get the road surfacing works completed.

- Cllr. Carthy commended the Tidy Towns and Municipal District on the picnic area on the Castleblayney road and asked if a bin will be put in place.
- Cllr. O’Hanlon voiced his dismay on the lack of funding available for road improvement works.
- Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that support must be given to the anglers group in Carrickmacross as this will benefit the economic development of Carrickmacross.
- Cllr. McNally requested an update on the extent of the Public Realm and Economic Plans for Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and Oram and if there will be public consultation involved. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan stated that public consultation will be involved and if future funding becomes available the plans will assist the Municipal District with the application for funding.
- Cllr. McNally requested information on the plan for Linear Park, Carrickmacross, will it link up with the Convent Lands and will it be for cycling and walking. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan stated that a copy of the plan will be circulated to members.
- Cllr. McNally asked is it precedence for Monaghan County Council to take over Donaghmoynne Park. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan stated that this will be investigated.
- Cllr. McNally requested information on the route of “The Hilly Way” Cycle Route, Carrickmacross. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan stated that a copy of the plan will be circulated to members. Cllr. McNally enquired what the funding will be spent on. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan stated that the money will be spent on the resurfacing of roads to ensure they are suitable for cycling and also the addition of signs.
- Cllr. McNally asked if the road in Inniskeen will remain open during the works scheduled for the village under the Roads Maintenance Programme.
- Cllr. McNally asked the extent of the works on the Convent Wall. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan stated it is envisaged that the wall will be knocked down and rebuilt.
- Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan stated that he met with representatives from Ulster Bank. Ulster Bank proposes to have a mobile bank for half a day in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney. In Castleblayney it is proposed to place the mobile bank in the Market Stall on Main Street and to place the mobile bank in Pitch 20 and 21, Main Street, Carrickmacross. Rates for trading bays will be applied to Ulster Bank. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan stated that it is proposed for the mobile unit to be in Carrickmacross on a Thursday. Cllr. McNally asked that the mobile unit be in place on the second half of the day and also requested, if possible, Ulster Bank extend the opening hours of the mobile unit until 6pm. Cllr. McNally asked that a report be requested on the sale of the Ulster Bank building in Carrickmacross. After much discussion Cllr. Carthy proposed that Ulster Bank mobile unit be given permission on a temporary basis. This was seconded by Cllr. McNally. This proposal was unanimously agreed by all members.
- Cllr. McNally requested that this Municipal District arrange a meeting with AIB and Bank of Ireland to ascertain their plans for the future in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney.
- It was agreed by all members to discuss the draft Carrickmacross Walking and Cycling Strategy and associated costs at the next Municipal District meeting. Cllr. Carthy requested if it would be possible to have a route to Cloughvalley Playpark and the schools within this area.

5. **Questions**

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

1. Will this MD consider adding footpath and lighting to Mullinary Road, Carrickmacross (from Sean Carraig to the Shercock Road junction) to its list of work to be carried out in the coming years?

Response:

The District Office has prepared a footpath and lighting programme for 2017, which will be presented to the elected members for approval. Consideration will be given to Cllr Carthy's proposal, but subject to funding and approval from the elected members. The priority for this Municipal District is to repair and upgrade existing footpaths and public lighting.

2. What is the up-to-date position on the stretch of the Kingscourt road, from the Red Door to Ex-Cel production plant, where it was deemed necessary to add extra signage to help reduce the level of speeding and over-taking?

Response:

Consideration will be given to Cllr Carthy proposal following a review by the District Office.

3. When is it envisaged that the Market Square Lace Gallery and Information centre development, Carrickmacross, will commence?

Response:

It is envisaged that works will commence on site in September.

4. Can this MD put together a list of available public lands that may be suitable for housing developments and present it to the members in the coming months?

Response:

Monaghan Co. Council's housing and planning section have carried out extensive works on identifying lands in local authority and private ownership. It would be necessary to bring this matter to the attention of the full county council meeting.

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

5. In the interests of public safety" will this Municipal Council improve the crossing at Mc Grath road in Castleblayney so that pedestrians can cross safely?

Response:

The District Office installed a flat top speed ramp at the junction of McGrath Road and Monaghan Road in 2016. This ramp has reduced the speed of vehicles entering and exiting McGrath Road and increased the safety for pedestrians crossing. There are no plans to carry out any additional works at this location.

6. The pedestrian crossings at the roundabout are very badly lit. Will the Council look at installing led lights to improve safe crossing?

Response:

The District Office is currently speaking to Airtricity regarding installing new public street lighting from York Street to the Monaghan Road in Castleblayney Town. The newly realigned junction will also be incorporated into the lighting design.

7. Has any progress been made in regards to establishing ownership of the land in Oram that is adjacent to St Josephs church and has an open drain that floods the graveyard in wet weather?

Response:

The land adjacent to St. Joseph's belongs to Monaghan County Council.

8. The Council play park in Drumillard is the only park in Castleblayney that has no fencing around it. Will this MD seek funding to rectify this and install other improvements that are needed?

Response:

The Municipal District is seeking quotations to erect a new fence around the play park in Drumillard, but the completion of this work will be subject to funding being available.

9. Has plans been made to place Traffic Counters on the old N2 road at Moneyvolan in preparations for the forthcoming closure of the Castleblayney By Pass?

Response:

The Municipal District Engineers installed a traffic counter on the Old N2 on the 16/06/17.

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

10. Regarding R178 and given that it appears unlikely that major funding will be forthcoming in the short to medium term to upgrade this road between Cavan and Dundalk, has this MD, in conjunction with our county Council road design office, any shovel ready plans to upgrade the section of road between Reillys cross and Corvalley i.e. 178-2 and 178-3 given that it is in a treacherous condition.

Response:

The Municipal District does not have a shovel ready plan to upgrade sections of the R178. In the past councils could apply for grant funding for certain road improvement projects, but due to budgetary constraints the Specific Improvement Grants Scheme has been curtailed in order to maximise the funding available for repair and strengthening work of the road network. Therefore any future works on the R178 would have to be funded from Discretionary Grant or Restoration Improvement Grant.

11. Has this MD made any progress with:

(a) Securing funding for a new culvert under the road at Cloughvalley Lower/Creevoliver on R180 Ballybay.

(b) Road LT46011 Drunaganny which floods on an annual basis.

Response:

A Non-coastal Minor Work application for funding for the R180 and LT 46011 is presently being prepared by the Municipal District and will be forwarded to the Office of Public Works for consideration in 2017.

12. When will this MD be putting in place the new speed limits as decided by our special limit Committee, in particular the old Castleblayney road LS08150.

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.

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

13. In relation to Donaghmoyne Village and road safety will this council consider putting in place a number of speed ramps adjacent to St Michaels national school and St Michaels little scholars crèche facilities as requested by School management and concerned parents, and also will this council upgrade the signs and road markings including the lining out off the area across from the school for car parking?

Response:

New speed ramps were installed on the approach roads to Donaghmoyne at the start of June 2017 following discussion with the Principle of the Donaghmoyne National School. Consideration will be given to Cllr Keelan's other requests, but will be subject to funding.

14. Will this council put in place extra traffic calming measures at Essexfort junction given vehicles, in particular large Lorries / buses etc, cannot access the Dundalk Regional road R178 from the Inniskeen road safely?

Response:

The Municipal District Office is currently assessing the LP 4620 junction at Essexford. As part of this assessment we will review the Regional junction.

15. In relation to Blackstaff national school and the recent road safety audit which was commissioned by this council when will the 11 recommendations be acted upon including the provision of a new 50 Km speed limit, and designated drop off / pick up area within the school grounds etc.?

Response:

New 50km/h periodical speed limits will be introduced on the approach roads to Blackstaff National School. The drop off/pickup area is an issue for the Board of Management of the school as the area required is on school property.

16. In welcoming the improvements works carried out at Corduff cross on the Shercock regional road R178 will the Council agree that some extra work is needed at this junction to improve road safety. How much money was spent recently on improving this junction?

Response:

The Municipal District has no plans to carry out any additional works at this location. The cost of the works at Corduff junction was €800.

17. In welcoming the works been carried out in Lisdoonan village to date will the council put in place extra public lighting along the footpath adjacent to the old Hibernian hall and at Lios housing development, given it is policy to put in place public lighting where there is a footpath for obvious safety reasons?

Response:

A public lighting programme is currently being prepared by the Municipal District for 2017 and will be presented to the elected members shortly. Consideration will be given to Cllr Keelan's proposals, subject to funding and approval from the elected members.

6. Notice of Motions

- Motion put forward by Cllr. Keelan, Cllr. Carthy and Cllr. Crowe;

"This MD calls on the Oireachtas members for Cavan/Monaghan to a meeting with the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Councillors and representatives of the STAG (Shirley Tenants Action Group) to discuss Ground Rents and JES lease-holds in Carrickmacross and how we can collectively work for their abolition"

The motion was unanimously agreed by all members.

It was agreed by all members that the meeting be scheduled for 10am, 24th July 2017 at Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD, Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.

Cllr. Keelan commended Pat Byrne on his recent documentary 'Whats next for Carrickmacross' – A Story of Tenant and Landlord, which highlights the issues surrounding Ground Rents in Carrickmacross.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that he has scheduled to meet with Jim O'Callaghan, Fianna Fáils spokesperson for Justice on the issue of Ground Rents.

7. Directors Orders

The Directors orders 51/2017 to 62/2017 attached to the agenda were noted.

8. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:

- Jacinta Crosby and family on the death of her husband Patsy Crosby
- Mary McSkeane and family on the death of her husband Pat McSkeane
- The family of the late Sean Woods
- Oliver McSkeane and family on the death of Pat McSkeane
- Bernadette Connolly on the death of her sister Maura McCloone

Votes of Congratulations were passed to the following:

- The Local Gaelic Football Clubs for successfully running the Féile Competition on the weekend 24th to 26th July 2017

9. Any Other Business

- Cllr. Keelan requested that the potholes be fixed on the N2 between Castleross Junction and Carrickmacross. District Engineer John Lennon stated that an assessment will be carried out and he will contact the Roads Section on this matter.
- Cllr. Keelan requested a follow up to his motion from the February 2017 meeting when he asked that this Municipal District Council call on Monaghan County Council & TII to investigate if a 60Km speed limit can be put in place on the on/off ramps (N2) approach to Carrickmacross town adjacent to the Dundalk road where a 100km speed limit exists. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that he will follow up on this.
- Cllr. O'Hanlon voiced his dismay at the closing of the Castleblayney Bypass on Friday the 23rd June 2017 during peak hours and requested that if future works are carried out during the day, the Bypass is to open at 1pm on a Friday. All members agreed that the works caused major disruption to commuters and the people of Castleblayney. Cllr. McNally suggested that signs put in place during works, notifying commuters of the bypass closure, will allow them to seek alternative routes rather than being diverted through Castleblayney town. Cllr. McNally also suggested that night time works should be part of tender documents. Cllr. McNally proposed that a letter is sent to the Roads Section of Monaghan County Council. This was seconded by Cllr. Keelan. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that he will write a letter to the Roads Section and request a more appropriate timing of work to avoid the closure of the N2 Castleblayney Bypass during peak hours on a Friday evening and will also request a report from the Roads Section to clarify why the Bypass was closed on the evening of Friday, 23rd June 2017. This report will be circulated to members.
- Cllr. Carthy requested a follow up on the review of LED lighting that was due to take place in the Foxfield Housing Estate. District Engineer John Lennon stated that there is no update at this time in relation to this.
- Cllr. Carthy requested that ramps be put in place in the Cluainn Alainn and Woodvale Estates.
- Cllr. Carthy stated that a motion was past at the September 2015 Municipal District meeting in relation to this Municipal District supporting the residents of both Ardross Avenue and Cloughvalley in seeking improvement works to the rear of houses that run alongside both estates. These works include the provision of a retaining wall and other associated works and this council to seek costing on proposed works. Cllr. Carthy asked for an update of future works. District Engineer John Lennon stated that there is no update at this time in relation to this.

- Cllr. Carthy requested that this Municipal District invite the clients of Steadfast House to give a presentation to the members. It was proposed that the presentation be scheduled for the October or November meeting.
- Cllr. Crowe requested that works to mitigate flooding be carried out on lands adjacent to St. Josephs Church in Oram. District Engineer John Lennon stated that design works will have to be carried out.
- Cllr. Crowe asked that the Municipal District contact the Planning Section of Monaghan County Council to prepare a Local Area Action Plan for Muckno Street, Market Square Castleblayney and the general area.
- Cllr. Keelan stated that 14 signposts are in place around Inniskeen with no signs. He stated that the Tidy Towns Committee would like these removed if no signs are being placed on them.
- Cllr. Keelan stated that a sign opposite the football field in Inniskeen has been removed. This sign alerted that Children are at play in the area. District Engineer John Lennon stated that a sign will be put in place.
- Cllr. Keelan requested that this Municipal District design low cost safety measures at Magees corner in Inniskeen.
- Cllr. McNally stated that hedge cutting at Traceys, Lossetts is required.
- Cllr. McNally asked if speed measures can be put in place at Coolreagh, Killanny. District Engineer John Lennon stated that an assessment of a traffic counter will take place and will indicate if a traffic calming measures are warranted.
- Cllr. McNally asked for an update on the lights at Killanny Church. District Engineer John Lennon stated that he met with Louth County Council and requested three additional lights for the area. A follow up will be made in relation to his request.
- Cllr. McNally asked the Municipal District to use IPB refund money for works on the Drumconrath Road Footpath.
- Cllr. McNally requested the Municipal District to look at the possibility of placing speed ramps at the rear of O’Gormans as there have been a number of incidents in the area.
- Cllr. McNally asked that this Municipal District in conjunction with Planning Section make contact with owners of land in the Convent Lands area in relation to the development of the lands.

Meeting concluded at 1.40pm

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: 24th July 2017