

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



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

Minutes of proceedings of March 2018 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 26th March 2018 at 10.50 a.m.

Present: - Cathaoirleach McNally

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

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Crowe the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 22nd February 2018 were adopted.

2. Matters arising

Replies to queries:

- Cllr. Carthy asked when the Traffic Policy for the Council would be passed as a study for the Ross Road was put on hold pending the policy.
Gareth Mc Mahon Coordinator replied that Roads section was currently working on the policy and he would enquire with Roads regarding publication date.
- Cllr. Crowe asked for an update on fencing for the Drumillard Playpark
Brian Annon Engineer said due to School Easter Holidays the commencement will be after Easter.
- Cllr. O'Hanlon said that he was aware that no correspondence had been received from Minister Ring concerning the Dundalk road junction. Cllr O Hanlon requested another letter to be sent to Minister Ring requesting a meeting otherwise he would be proposing that funds are taken from own resources.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked that the pathway from the Social Welfare office to the Library is kept clear Of debris following on from the request from Steadfast House group from the February Municipal meeting.
- Cllr. Carthy requested that TII change the colour of the bollards on the N2 as drivers with photosensitive vision were experiencing migraine as result of flashing coming off the bollards when passing.
- Cllr. Keelan enquired about CCTV for the town
- Paul Clifford Director of Services said a moratorium had been placed on all installation of CCTV in areas due to the new Data Protection Act which will be introduced in May 2018.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally requested a meeting to be arranged with Superintendent at Carrickmacross Garda Station.

- Cllr. Campbell enquired about funding for Annaghdrummond Bridge
- Gareth Mc Mahon Coordinator said the MD had applied for Part 8 and all details would be ready for application.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked for MD to arrange photo opportunity when new signs for the Linear Park and Convent Avenue are in place.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked for a start date for the Drumconrath road works.
- Gareth Mc Mahon Coordinator said contractor was ready to commence waiting on landowners to complete the necessary paperwork.
- Cllr. Carthy asked for tree cutting to take place on the Drumconrath Road.
- Cllr. Carthy said Carrickmacross Chamber had completed a lighting survey which indicated that street lighting in the town was not adequate.
- Gareth Mc Mahon Coordinator said extra lighting columns had been installed since the survey and a night survey was taking place 26th March 2018.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked for Vincent Mc Kenna to do a comparisons report between lights at Main street, Castleblayney and Main Street, Carrickmacross also new lights at the Cul de Sac in Cloughvalley and along Oriel Road.
- Cllr. Crowe asked for the flooding problem at Ard na Lorgan on the Oram road to be addressed.
- Cllr. Crowe requested for road maintenance for Main Street, Castleblayney.
- Gareth Mc Mahon replied the details were on the list
- Cllr. Crowe asked for a speed evaluation for the Monaghan Road, Castleblayney at the Glencarn Hotel, at turn for Drumillard and at turn for Lidl store.
- Gareth Mc Mahon said capacity issues at junctions happen at peak times but a traffic counter will be installed.
- Cllr. Crowe asked for an update regarding one hundred cattle crossing on the Monaghan Road road twice daily.
- Gareth Mc Mahon said the matter was presently with Roads Section in Monaghan.
- Cllr. Crowe enquired about the traffic lights in York Street.
- Cllr. Carthy enquired about the Footpath and lighting programme
- Gareth Mc Mahon said the Footpath and lighting programme will be addressed at the April meeting.
- Cllr. O'Hanlon voiced his dismay at not having received a response from Minister Humphries office Concerning the safety issues at the Dundalk road junction.

“It was proposed by Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Mc Nally for a letter to be re-submitted to Minister Humphries in relation to the Dundalk Road junction”.

Cllr. O’Hanlon requested a second letter to go to Minister Shane Ross regarding the lack of funding under the LCSi Scheme for the Steadfast / Dundalk road junction and also a letter to go to the Department of Transport.

- Cllr. O’Hanlon asked for costings and a report on the LCSi works at the Steadfast Junction
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally said the complaints system needed updating as he was aware pothole complaints submitted in January still pending with major roads such as the Kingscourt road should take priority and be dealt with within 24 hours.
Gareth Mc Mahon said a number of adjustments had been made on resources with Engineers and GSS’s working very hard with two teams and further plans to procure a contractor. Mr Mc Mahon added that the Municipal District was working on damage from a wet winter which was not conducive to repairs using a velocity patcher.

3. Correspondence

- **Correspondence received from Minister Niamh Smith TD** regarding the proposal concerning Eir Broadband
- **Correspondence received from An Post GPO O'Connell Street, Dublin** in relation to request for Post Box at the back of Super Value Carrickmacross.
- **Correspondence received from Minister Niamh Smith TD** acknowledgement of letter concerning request for increase in Funding for Roads.
- **Correspondence received from Senator Robbie Gallagher** in relation to response from Minister Shane Ross concerning request due to poor state of roads and also for increase in funding LCSI scheme and the pedestrian crossing on the Dundalk Road, Carrickmacross.

4. Consideration of Co-ordinators monthly report

Issues Raised Discussed

- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally enquired about the feedback from the Town Realm meetings
Gareth Mc Mahon said feedback was positive with the next step in April with two focus groups discussing with consultants how sketch plans will be drawn.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked about the expression of interest for the Market House
Director of Services Paul Clifford replied the closing date was 5th April 2018 with possible June opening.
- Cllr. Campbell enquired about road markings for various roads
John Fox Engineer replied the delay was due to bad weather but road markings would be addressed shortly
- Cllr. Crowe asked for the commencement date for the LCSI works at Our Ladys Secondary School, Castleblayney
- Gareth Mc Mahon said works would commence in the summer months.
- Cllr. Carthy enquired about funding assistance for all weather surface for Donaghmoynne playpark
Gareth Mc Mahon said Donaghmoynne playpark was in private ownership which won't qualify for Clár funding
playpark group can apply for leader funding.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked if an appeal could be made concerning the Dundalk junction
Gareth Mc Mahon said there was no appeals system as the Department is responsible for the scheme.
- Cllr. Carthy enquired if there had been an independent report would it make a difference to the application.
Gareth Mc Mahon Coordinator replied that the Municipal District had access to all road safety data and that
The District carried out traffic counts and speeding survey's without the need for an independent survey.
- Cathaoirleach McNally asked that this would be done before next meeting.
- Cllr. Keelan asked for funding for walking routes and a footbridge for Inniskeen village
Paul Clifford replied that Inniskeen village had acquired over half a million in funding for the Patrick Kavanagh
Centre, he added that Clár funding was available for walking routes..

5. Consideration of schedule of MD works

The Works Programme schedule for 2018 for the Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District was proposed by Cllr. Mc Nally and seconded by Cllr. Carthy and unanimously agreed by all present.

6. **Questions**

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for March 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. When will the process of moving the CCTV control system from the old Council Office in Castleblayney to the Gardai station in Castleblayney be complete? Now with the availability of funding of up to 60% from the community-based CCTV grant aid scheme to help Community groups under the Department of Justice run by Pobal.

Response:

Following a meeting with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, a letter has been issued by the CCMA to the Department of Justice and Equality asking them to pause the CCTV programme until Data Protection issues has been reviewed.

2. Can Monaghan County council now look at applying for funding under CCTV scheme to have the system in Castleblayney extended to areas which are not covered?

Response:

Following a meeting with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, a letter has been issued by the CCMA to the Department of Justice and Equality asking them to pause the CCTV programme until Data Protection issues have been reviewed.

Questions raised by Cllr. Padraig McNally for March 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

3. How much money would this MD need per annum to get all our local roads up to standard over a five year period?

Response: Based on current road pavement ratings, the District Office estimates that approximately €3,500,000 annually, over five years will be required to address the pavement deficiencies in the local and regional road networks within the Municipal District.

4. Has this Council received the long awaited report into traffic calming on both the Ballybay road and Castleblayney road as promised last August?

Response: Roadplan Consulting Engineers is currently carrying out a road safety assessment on the Ballybay and Castleblayney roads. Roadplan will have a draft safety assessment report by the middle of April 2018 for review by the District Office.

- 5 (a) Does this MD accept that despite adjustments to our main street lighting in Carrickmacross, that the new lights are totally inadequate to meet health and safety. (b) When can these lamp heads are replaced with proper lights that will give adequate light.

Response: The installation of the last of the lighting columns was completed on 16/03/18. Night-time surveys will commence on the 26/03/18 to determine actual horizontal lighting uniformity. A commissioning report will be provided to the Municipal District Office in the coming weeks for appraisal.

6. Has this MD received a response from Mr. Michael Ring regarding a proper meeting to discuss local roads?

Response:

A letter has been received from Deputy Ring stating that he will revert back to the Municipal District Council with details for a meeting with the members (discuss under correspondence).

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for March 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

7. As per response to Question I asked in April 2015, Can the council confirm if the issue of an extension to railings at the bottom of St Macerates Villas is still on the list of works required in Carrickmacross? Could the executive give the members an update on when it believes this steel railing will be extended to assist vulnerable people getting access to housing and Public Health Unit on the hill?

Response: The railing will be extended in the second quarter of 2018.

8. Has the MD carried out a traffic/speed count on the Inver Park housing estate, Carrickmacross?

Response:

A traffic count was carried out between the 4-11/01/18. 2% speed violations record. No further action is required.

9. When is it envisaged that work on the Drumcondrath Rd and Kingscourt Rd footpaths (Carrickmacross) will be completed?

Response: Subject to final agreements with landowners, works will be take approximately 4 weeks for completion. Works on Kingscourt Road have been completed.

10. Has the Executive contacted LIDL, Carrickmacross, to request that lighting be added to their access road?

Response: Having reviewed the planning file on the site, there was no undertaking from LIDL to provide public lighting along the private road entering the supermarket and no planning condition from Monaghan Co. Council's planning department stipulating that they do so.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for March 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

11. In relation to the very poor condition of a number approach roads into Carrickmacross town including for example, the Shercock, Kingscourt, and Castleblayney roads and also given the poor condition of a number of roads in the town itself including the Main Street, what action will this council take to bring these roads up to an acceptable standard; how much funding is needed to have these roadways upgraded; how much funding is available at present?

Response: Based on current road pavement ratings, the District Office estimates that approximately €3,500,000 annually, over five years will be required to address the pavement deficiencies in the local and regional road networks within the Municipal District. The restoration improvement allocation for 2018 is €1,500,000

12. How many applications for funding was made to the Department for the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme in the Carrickmacross / Castleblayney MD area including the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the Donaghmoyn road/Lisanisk junction and also the provision of walking/footpath links throughout the village of Inniskeen; how many of these applications were successful?

Response: 7 Low Cost Safety Improvement applications were submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for 2018. The R181 Shercock Road out of Castleblayney Town received an allocation of €85,000 for road safety improvement measures. The other applications were unsuccessful.

13. What actions will this District Council take in relation to the very poor condition of a number of roadways approaching our villages and within the villages, including the villages of Inniskeen and Lisdoonan for example; will there be a possibility of accessing funding through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme in order to improve our towns and villages?

Response: The road programme for 2018 has been agreed with the Members. There are significant issues across the entire road network which the M.D. is endeavouring to manage. All avenues of funding to assist in this regard will be explored

14. How many complaints are currently logged in relation to poor road conditions in this MD area; how long will it take to have these repairs carried out and on average how long does it take for a repair to be carried out once received?

Response: At present there are 65 roads logged for pothole repair. 3/5 weeks is the average time between receiving a complaint and having the complaint dealt with.

15 In relation to the Carrickmacross/Shercock regional road R178 which is in a dangerous state of repair what funding is available at present to have this important economic link brought up to an acceptable standard?

Response: As agreed with the elected members the R178, Shercock Road is to receive € 120,000 from the restoration improvement programme. At present this is only funding avenue available to the District Office.

7. Notice of Motions

Motion by Cllr. McNally for March 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

Proposed by Cllr Mc Nally and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon and agreed by all present

“That this Council examines the feasibility of developing a park and ride facility, as to free up space in our town centre car parks for daily shoppers as well as providing a safe access for those who are commuting to work outside of town. “

Cllr. O Hanlon asked for a commuter parking investigation in conjunction with the Economic Development Plans.

8. Director of Services Orders

The Directors orders 07 /2018 to 36/2018 attached to the agenda were noted.

9. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:

- The Freeman family on the death of Pat Freeman
- Norah Mc Bride on the death of her sister Kathleen Woods
- John and Claire Marron on the death of Paddy Marron
- Teresa Marron and Family on the death of Paddy Marron
- Colette Mc Cann on the death of her husband Charlie
- Brendan Hughes on the death of his sister Marcella Whelan
- Mary Mc Enaney on the death of her husband Peter Mc Enaney
- Brendan and Francis Sherry on the death of their father Mr Peter Sherry
- Philomena Carroll on the death of her mother Agnes Carroll

10. Any Other Business

- Cllr. Carthy requested that tree's at the back of Drummond Etra Estate from Number's 1 to Number 10 are cut.
- Cllr. Keelan asked for upgrading of the Public Convenience in the town
Director of Services Paul Clifford said there may be a possibility with the next stage of the Market House
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked for speed cushions to be put installed at Cloughvalley similar to the Mall road in Monaghan Town,
Gareth Mc Mahon agreed to include it in the road safety audit
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally enquired about litter picking as a lot of rubbish had been dumped on the roads
Gareth Mc Mahon replied that litter picking was included in Grass Cutting and also the Annual Spring clean takes place within the next month through the Environment Section.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked for a letter go to Carrickmacross Chamber to enquire their suggestions regarding the lack of foreign exchange facilities in the town on Wednesdays when the Credit Union is closed.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked for the raising of the flag to take place at the Courthouse on St. Patricks Day next year and he also reminded the meeting that the flag will be raised at the Garden of Remembrance at the Civic offices , Carrickmacross on Easter Sunday.
- Cllr. Carthy enquired about signs with" **No HGV parking** "for Foxfield .
- Cllr. Carthy asked if the river running through Foxfield could be checked.
- Cllr. Carthy asked for Gardai to be notified of drinking taking place at the rear of Pearse Avenue
- Cllr. Carthy asked for anti- litter signs to be erected at Capragh Lake and at the rear of Pease Avenue
- Cllr. Carthy informed the meeting that new residents at Lough Na Glac were crossing the main road instead of using the underpass which was leaking and had no lights .
Gareth Mc Mahon said road crossing is subject to funding but he would investigate the matter.
- Cllr O'Hanlon asked for traffic calming measures to be introduced at Highfield junction
- Cllr. Keelan asked for costings for new footpaths at the Dundalk road side and Ardee road side of the Nuremore Hotel.
Gareth Mc Mahon Coordinator agreed to include it in survey.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally enquired about the date for the Ballybay Road underpass
- John Fox Engineer replied the date was set for September 2018.

Meeting concluded at 1.15 p.m.

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: 23rd April 2018