

Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile na Lorgan
Comharile Cantae Mhúineachain



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of September 2015 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Office, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Monaghan on Monday 28th September 2015 @ 2pm.

Present: - Mayor PJ O'Hanlon

Clrs Aidan Campbell, Colm Carthy, Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Padraic McNally

In attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Frances Matthews, Coordinator, John Lennon, Engineer, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer and Teresa McGuirk, Assistant Staff Officer.

Also in Attendance: Sergeant Freda McCague, John McKernan, A/SEO Roads Section

Apologies:- Paul L'Estrange A/Chief Fire Officer;

At the outset apologies were given for the changes to meeting time. It was agreed that going forward meetings will be held according to time and date set in Standing Orders except in the case of an emergency.

Road Safety on N2 -

Mayor O'Hanlon welcomed Sgt McCague and Mr McKernan to the meeting to discuss road safety on the N2. An apology was received from Mr Paul L'Strange, A/Chief Fire Officer.

Topics raised by members included the lack of shadow lanes; the difficulty of making a right hand turn at a number of junctions; the number of accidents and fatalities in recent years; the need to establish the main cause of accidents; the need to upgrade all the junctions; the need for extra signage and lighting.

In reply Mr McKernan informed members that an application had been made to the NRA for a pilot scheme for the relining of a section of the N2 outside Carrickmacross. If approved works should take place prior to Christmas – members will be kept informed. Mr McKernan stressed that signing and other issues are constantly being raised by the Roads Sections with the NRA and will continue to be raised with them.

Sgt McCague reported that 10 fatalities had occurred in the Carrickmacross Division since 2012 – 5 of which had occurred on the N2, mainly in daylight hours and 3 of these on this main stretch of road in question. In reply to a query Sgt McCague stated that she could not state at present how many of the aforementioned fatalities were down to driver error, illness or bad road design but would compile a report for the next meeting.

Following a detailed discussion Cllr O’Hanlon proposed the following which was seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all

“That this Council calls on all the stake holders i.e Gardai, Fire Service, Road Section of Monaghan County Council, Safety Officer with the National Roads Authority to discuss the serious issues of Road Safety on the N2.”

The issue of speed limits was also briefly discussed. The following was proposed by Cllr Crowe and seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all

“That Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District writes to Monaghan County Council requesting that they arrange a meeting of the Speed Limits Committee as soon as possible to discuss issues of concern that were raised at a meeting of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD which safety concerns on the N2 were discussed.”

Sergeant McCague and Mr McKernan then left the meeting.

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of July 2015 monthly meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan and seconded by Cllr Crowe the minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 2015 were adopted.

2. Matters arising

None

3. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from

- Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine – re the GLAS Application process
- Office of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation – regarding the Stakeholder Forum for the Border Region Action Plan for jobs which took place recently in Carrickmacross
 - The following was proposed by Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Campbell and agreed by all
“That Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District writes back to Minister Richard Bruton requesting that a representative of each Municipal District be invited to any future meeting regarding job creation in County Monaghan. That this Notice be circulated to other MD’s in the county”
- Muckno Mania Festival – A thank you letter for support received from the Municipal District for the festival.
- Nuala Woods, SEO, Housing email – reply regarding the provision of a representative of the Housing Section for at least one day a week in Carrickmacross
 - The following Notice was proposed by Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all

“That Carrickmacross – Castleblayney call again on Monaghan County Council to provide a representative from the Housing Section on one day a week in Castleblayney and Carrickmacross at the earliest convenience.”

Cllr Keelan, in his role as Mayor of the County, undertook to discuss this issue with the new Chief Executive.

- Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality – requesting the enacting of the Gambling Control Bill.
- Carrickmacross Festival Committee – regarding a proposal for the running of future festivals and Council investment in capital items to support all festivals
 - The following was proposed by Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Carthy and agreed by all
“That this Municipal District agrees with the proposal of the Carrickmacross Festival Committee received in September 2015.”
- John Beattie – thank you letter for erecting speed warning signs adjacent to his home
- Minister Heather Humphreys TD – forwarding a reply from Minister Damien English on School Bus Services.
- Minister Heather Humphreys TD – forwarding a reply from Minister Paschal Donohoe TD regarding a request to visit regional and local roads in the district
 - The following was proposed by Cllr O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all
“That this Council calls on the 5 local TD’s including the Minister for Arts be invited to the next meeting in relation to the condition of our local and regional roads. This is a serious situation and we need to have this issue addressed immediately.”
- Carrickmacross-Carhaix Twinning Association – seeking a subvention from the Municipal District for proposed twinning trip to Carhaix
 - It was agreed that this item be discussed at the upcoming Finance Committee meeting.

Additional Correspondence received from

- Castleblayney Drama Festival – requesting support for the hosting of the All Ireland Confined Drama Festival Finals 2016. Following a discussion Cllr McNally proposed that the Drama Festival Committee be invited to meet with the Finance Committee to outline their plans. This was seconded by Cllr Campbell and agreed by all.

The following issues arose on foot of discussion on the correspondence:

Cllr. McNally

- The following was proposed by Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon and agreed by all
“That the Municipal District establish why there is no uptake on the Bose facility. Is the building up to standard or is rent being asked too expensive?”
- Regarding the Coalpit Road, he acknowledged the efforts of the engineers to get works done which had transformed the road.
- In relation to meeting with IDA, he stated that only one person had been brought to see the Bose plant. Cllr. McNally pointed out that while it was reported that out of 1300 jobs being created none of those had been in Monaghan.

Cllr. O'Hanlon

- Charged that the Local Minister was not reading correspondence from the Council. He stated that there was a drop of 40% in the last 4 years on road spending, while there was an increase of 15% on motor tax. He requested a letter be sent to the three Fine Gael TD's in the area to come to next meeting to discuss this issue.
- Thank County Mayor for facilitating meeting with IDA. He stated that there was land in Knockaconny that has not been used for 40 years and uses should be investigated.

4. Set Date for Special Meeting to discuss General Municipal Allocation Funding + Date for next month's meeting

- As the scheduled date for the October monthly meeting is falling on a bank holiday Monday it was agreed to hold the monthly meeting of the MD on 19th October 2015 in the Civic Office immediately after the Budget Meeting.
- A meeting of the Finance Committee was agreed for 4pm on Friday 16th October 2015 in the Civic Offices in order to discuss GMA allocations and additional applications for funding from Local Groups. It was also agreed to invite representatives from the Castleblayney Drama Festival for 4pm (see item in Additional Correspondence above)

5. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

Review of works – issues raised by members

Cllr Carthy

- Thanked all involved in getting MUGA up and running. It is a great addition to town being used by both children and adults alike.
- Welcomed works on Barford junction – thanked all involved.
- Welcomed PV panels that are being fitted on Civic Building in Carrickmacross.

Cllr Campbell

- Welcomed contract for Hope Castle gate lodge.
- Complimented the massive job done by volunteers in painting Castleblayney Courthouse and looked forward to future plans for this building.
- Commended Muckno Community Partnership on all their hard work.
- Asked that a request to relocate the Men's Shed be accommodated.
- Thanked the Coordinator for works with Castleblayney Regeneration and Tidy Towns Committees.

Cllr McNally

- Asked where additional money was being sourced for the Gate Lodge contract
- Asked with regard to Barford Junction why lands had not gone through the CPO process

O'Hanlon

- That following recent comments asked that is be put on the record that both himself, Cllr McNally and other councillors of the day were involved in getting the issues at the Barford junction addressed

McNally

- Asked for details regarding sale of lands to Carrick Rovers
- Asked what scope had been given to consultants for the development of a Cycling Strategy - what areas are being covered
- Footpath in need of repair at entrance to Farney Foods?

Crowe

- Thanked the volunteers who painted the Market House and acknowledged the good community spirit
- Acknowledged the success of the Country Music Festival in Castleblayney

Keelan

- Asked for current status on the Walking Strategy
- Footpath in need of repairs at top of Lisanisk Hill kerb to be dropped at back of entrance

In reply to questions raised above members were informed that

- Cycle Strategy - Preparations were ongoing to have a Walking/Cycling strategy developed for the area – members were invited to make suggestions for inclusion in same. Suggestions mentioned included the development of walkways to link the Donaghmoyn Road and the Ballybay flyover; liaison with the schools regarding their ‘cycle to school’ days. Funding is focused on the development of sustainable transport and getting people out of cars – generally would not cover projects developed for recreational purposes only. The provision of walkways adjacent to roads like that provided on the N2 north of Monaghan town will be considered in any future works proposed for the District.
- Barford Junction – Discussions had taken place regarding the various options available for the development of the Barford Junction - decision on how to proceed with the works was based on high cost to purchase required lands.
- Carrick Rovers – Section 183 will be brought to the members of the Council next month
- Gate Lodge at Lough Muckno – €40k has been allocated by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; tenders for the works have been received in excess of that; the source of additional funds will be discussed with the Finance Committee. An extension to the end date has been received.

6. Questions

The following questions were asked by Cllr Carthy

1. Can the Council confirm when road markings will be carried out to the Kingscourt Road housing estate to allow for cars to enter and leave safely?

Response – Minor adjustments to the existing road markings on the Kingscourt Road will be completed in the coming weeks.

2. Has there been any update on the plan to extend the steel railings at the bottom of St Macartans Villas (Farney Street crossroads) which the MD council confirmed would be carried out (through response to question in April 2015)?

Response: - The Municipal District office has no provision in the 2015 budget to extend the steel railings at the bottom of St Macartan’s Villas. Procurement and the installation of a safety handrail, subject to elected members approval, will be included into the works programme for 2016

3. Are there any further developments on getting funding for a pedestrian crossing for the Donaghmoyn Road leaving the town adjacent to the Cluainn Alainn Housing Estate ?

Response: - A Low Cost Safety Scheme application has been made to the Department of Transport, tourism and Sport. No decision on the application has been received by the District Office.

4. What is the updated position on the proposed cycle lane for Carrickmacross?

Response: - the Municipal District Office is currently seeking consulting engineers to prepare a walking/cycling strategy for Carrickmacross Town. When the strategy is completed it will allow applications for necessary grant aid to be made.

5. Can the MD update the council members on the proposed safety review to the N2 Carrickmacross/Ardee (regarding meetings with relevant authorities this year)?

Response – a proposed lining pilot scheme has been developed by Roughan O’Donovan on behalf of Monaghan County Council in consultation with the NRA’s Road Safety Inspector. The

pilot scheme is for a 4km section of road south of Carrickmacross and has been sent to the NRA's Lining Division for their approval and permission to implement.

The following questions were asked by Cllr Campbell

1. Castleblayney Town Council spent a lot of money in installing CCTV system to help with the security of Castleblayney. The system was housed and controlled in the Town Council office which is now closed. Is this system still being maintained and are there any plans to have this system moved to a building which is occupied?

Response: - The Council is currently in negotiations with An Garda Síochána regarding the relocation of the CCTV equipment which is currently housed in the former Town Council offices in Castleblayney.

2. When will the work start on the renovations to the Gate House leading into the Castle in Castleblayney and how long will this take?

Response: - The Municipal District Office has prepared tender documents for the renovations of the Gate House. Tender submissions were received on the 21st September 2015. A contractor will be appointed following current detailed tender assessment and analysis has been completed.

The following questions were asked by Cllr Crowe

1. In the interest of safety measures would the MD consider installing two ramps on the road known as the Old Coach Road behind St Mary's Church, Castleblayney? There are concerns about the safety of children in that area.

Response: - The District Engineer, Cllr Crowe and a resident from the Old Coach Road met regarding the installation of speed ramps. Two new 'children at play' signs have been erected on the road. Consideration will be given to Cllr Crowe's proposal to install new speed ramps in 2016

2. When is it envisaged that works to install a railing along the footpath on the Shercock Road out of Castleblayney? The footpath is lower than the road and an accident with a car overturning on to the footpath last year could have resulted in tragedy.

Response: - The Municipal District Office will include the installation of a new safety rail on the Shercock Road as part of the Low Cost Safety Improvement System planned for the junction of Main Street, Monaghan Road and New Street.

3. Would the MD consider applying for funding to extend the footpath on the Shercock Road to Black Hill football grounds in the interest of the safety of people having to walk on this very busy road?

Response: - The District Office has no provision in the 2015 budget to extend the footpaths on the Shercock Road. Consideration will be given to Cllr Crowe's proposal in 2016.

4. Would consideration be given to extending the footpath on the Tullynacrunnat Road to join the Upper Bree Road and the installing of two lights at the junction between Knocktornagh and the end of Upper Bree where it is hazardous to people walking there?

Response: - The District Office has no provision in the 2015 budget to extend the footpaths on the Tullynacrunnet Road. Consideration will be given to Cllr Crowe's proposal in 2016

The following questions were asked by Cllr Keelan

1. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of much needed traffic calming measures for Inniskeen Village, as requested by local residents associations, school management and concerned parents of young children some time ago in the interest of road

safety especially adjacent to the school and as agreed by the members of this Municipal District?

Response: - A Low Cost Safety Scheme application has been made to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. No decision on the application has been received by the District Office

2. In commending the Municipal District office for the works carried out to date at Drumgossat National School, particularly the putting in place of a safety railing adjacent to the school, when it is hoped to carry out the further works planned including the provision of a number of speed ramps, and new road surface etc?

Response: - The Municipal District Office will complete the Low Cost Safety Improvement Works at Drumgossat National School when the new water main has been laid in the local road, LP04901 which passes Drumgossat School.

3. What progress has been made in relation to the provision of enhanced traffic calming measures at Blackstaff National School, as requested by the Parents Association and School Management some time ago, given that this busy road is also being used as a transit link for large H.G.V's hauling goods from Greenore Port?

Response: - The Municipal District Office has no provision in the 2015 budget to enhance existing traffic safety measures at Blackstaff National School. Consideration will be given, subject to funding being available.

4. As agreed some time ago when will extra road drainage be put in place adjacent to Ascaill Dubh estate on the Donaghmoyn Road?

Response: - The drainage in question will be completed before year end.

5. In relation to Inniskeen Village, when is it hoped to complete the public lighting programme from the village out to the Inniskeen Grattans GAA grounds and also will this Council put in place a public light at the area known as Magee's Corner?

Response: - The Municipal District proposes to install four new LED public lights between Inniskeen Village and Grattan's GFC football grounds before year end. Consideration will be given to Cllr Keelan's proposal to install a new public light at Magee's Corner, subject to funding and the approval of the elected members.

The following questions were asked by Cllr McNally

1. In light of the additional funding coming for roads, can we allocate some of this money to resurface part of the road at St. Macartans Villas ad Culloville Road R179?

Response: - At the Road District meeting on the 6th August 2015, it was agreed by the elected members to allocate additional monies to the R179. The District Office has no provision in the 2015 budget to resurface the pavement on St Macartan's Road. Consideration will be given to Cllr McNally's proposal in 2016

2. Has Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District any land available for the construction of badly needed residential units to deal with the huge numbers from this area presently waiting on a house?

Response: - The question has been forwarded to Monaghan County Council for their consideration

3. Does this Municipal District have any further update from the consultants regarding the upgrading of the Cavan-Dundalk Road R178?

Response: - The consultants working on the project are currently carrying out a review of the preliminary design report which will be issued to the council in the coming weeks

4. Will this MD give a commitment to immediately repair Derrylavin Bridge on grounds of health and safety?

Response: - The Municipal District Office will give a commitment to inspect the Derrylavin Bridge in the coming weeks to determine the extent of damage to the bridge. Is feasible, the District Office will deploy own resources to undertake the repairs to the bridge in the coming months.

5. When will the proposed zip line be installed at Cloughvalley Play Park as proposed by the former Carrickmacross Town Council?

Response: - The Council are currently preparing documents to place on tenders for the extension of the existing Cloughvalley Play Park.

7. Notices of Motion

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr McNally and seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon and agreed by all.

"That this Municipal Authority extends the bin network to reflect the amount of runners, walkers and cyclists on our approach roads as well as our various sports facilities i.e. GAA on the Donaghmoyne Road, Athletic Track on the Convent Lands and the soccer and GAA on the Ballybay Road and the Equestrian Centre on the Drumcondrath Road".

In proposing the motion Cllr McNally requested that at least two more bins be installed on each approach road. Also current bins are adapted to cater for the extinguishment of cigarette butts. Following a discussion it was agreed that costings would be done for the next meeting. The Council to ensure that local businesses are made aware of any procurement process in the interests of supporting local enterprise.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr Campbell and seconded by Cllr Crowe.
"That the Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney introduce a bye-law under the Local Government Act 2001 in relation to the control and regulation of street collections and begging on the McGrath Road in Castleblayney".

A detailed discussion took place regarding the restrictions any bye law would put on local groups and charities undertaking fundraising. It was agreed to seek a copy of recent bye laws introduced in Monaghan Municipal District and circulate to members. Cllr Campbell agreed to postpone this motion until further discussion took place.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllrs Carthy and seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all.

"That the Municipal District supports 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 – this council will seek costing on proposed works".

8. Director of Services Orders

- 41/2015 Casual Trading Licences – Carrickmacross Trading Area
- 42/2015 NC Plant Hire – Appointment at Barford Meats Junction - PSCS
- 43/2015 NC Plant Hire – Urgent Road Works, LT40031 - PSCS
- 44/2015 NC Plant Hire – Barford Junction – PSDP
- 45/2015 NC Plant Hire – Urgent Road Works, LT
- 46/2015 Casual Trading Licence – Castleblayney 400 Fair Day
- 47/2015 Casual Trading Licence – Seacatch

- 48/2015 Casual Trading Licence – Chip Van
- 49/2015 NC Plant – R182-3 Urgent Road Repair at Drumacrib
- 50/2015 Highway Markings – PSCS – Road Markings in MD
- 51/2015 Highway Markings – PSDP – Road Markings in MD
- 52/2015 NC Plant – PSDP – Footpath Renewal 2015
- 53/2015 NC Plant – PSCS – Lisnakelly Road Widening LT46111
- 54/2015 NC Plant – PSDP – Lisnakelly Road Widening LT46111
- 55/2015 John McGuinness – PSCS -Hedge Cutting, Urban Contract
- 56/2015 John McGuinness – PSDP – Hedge Cutting, Urban Contract

9. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

The following votes of sympathy were passed, a minutes silence was observed with all present standing:

- Oliver and Ann Woods and Family on the death of his mother Annie Woods.
- Barbara O’Gorman on the death of her father Bob Kiely.
- Michael Hoey and Family on the death of his father Patsy Hoey.
- Mary Rooney and Family on the death of her son Matthew Rooney.
- Peader O’Shea and Family on the death of his mother Margaret O’Shea.
- Rose McEaney and Stephanie McEaney on the death of Stephanie’s grandmother Essie Burns.

The following votes of congratulation were passed:

- Carrickmacross Tidy Towns on retaining their Gold Medal Award for 2015.
- Carrickmacross Emmets U-14 team on winning the Mason Cup.
- Carrickmacross Emmets on the success of their Strictly Come Dancing night held recently.
- The Courtney Family – Sinead, Karina and Emma – on being crowned World Line Dancing Champions in Blackpool recently.
- Rebecca Sweeney on winning her 4th World Line Dancing Championship in Blackpool
- Aughnamullen GAA U-15 team and management on winning Ulster Shield.

10. Any Other Business

Members all in turn extended their congratulations to Carrickmacross Tidy Towns on winning the National Tidy Towns Gold Medal Award for 2015 (results announced earlier in the day) and commended all the hard work of the committee. Their total score being only 4 points behind overall winner and only 1 behind County winners Glaslough.

Cllr Keelan

- Complimented the input of local Residents Associations, local shop owners and County Council staff for their part in keeping the town.
- Asked the District Engineer to prepare a report on roads that have not been returned to original standard by companies following Road Openings.

Cllr McNally

- Asked that the Council ascertain how Castleblayney had done in the National competition
- The following was proposed by Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Carthy and agreed by all
“In Congratulating Carrickmacross Tidy Towns Committee that we invite them to meet us to discuss what is needed to go on to win the overall award in 2016.”

Cllr Campbell

- Congratulated the efforts of the Castleblayney Tidy Towns Committee

- Asked that both committees could meet each other to discuss how they can benefit from each other's experience in the Competition
- Proposed the following Notice of Motion which was seconded by Cllr Crowe and agreed by all
 - *"Call on the Municipal District to meet up with Castleblayney Tidy Towns to see what the MD and Tidy Towns can do together to improve our marking."*
- Gave details of the forthcoming 'We Mean Business' exhibition to be held in the Enterprise Centre, Castleblayney

Cllr McNally

- Questioned the quality of works undertaken by the new company hired in this year to carry out the hedge cutting on the National and Regional Roads. In reply the District Engineer briefly outlined the works undertaken (eg number of junctions cut); that the Castleblayney Bypass was only closed for two days; that this was the first time the works had been contracted out and a large volume of works had been carried out in a relatively short time.
- Reported bad bumps on the Dundalk Road at Ballykelly in the vicinity of Connolly's Garage

Cllr Carthy

- Asked that the timing on the traffic lights on Main Street be reset
- Congratulated Matt Carthy MEP on bringing the European Parliamentary Group (GUENGL) to Carrickmacross

Cllr Crowe

- Asked for current status following recent Public Consultation regarding the development of the roundabout at the Monaghan Road in Castleblayney. In reply the District Engineer stated that the public consultation had taken place the previous week, all suggestions and comments were taken on board by McMahon & Associate consultants. A report was expected from the consultants in the coming weeks

This concluded the business of the meeting at 5.10pm

Next month's meeting – scheduled for 19th October 2015 at 10am in the Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

19th October, 2015

Date