

Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan

Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney

Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of September Monthly Meeting held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 24th September 2018 at 11:00am.

Present : Cathaoirleach Colm Carthy.

CLLrs. Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Aidan Campbell, PJ O’Hanlon, Padraig McNally.

In Attendance: Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Gareth McMahan, Co-ordinator, John Fox, Assistant Engineer, Craig Connolly, Graduate Engineer, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer, Stephanie McEaney, Assistant Staff Officer.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 23rd of July 2018 were adopted.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. O’Hanlon asked for an update of the Stedfast junction.

Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan informed the meeting that plans were ongoing.

Cllr. Keelan asked that the engineering staff revisit road works done at Donaghmoynne and Inniskeen in the past few weeks as he had a few issues raised by the public in relation to same.

Members congratulated all involved in the recent unveiling of “Big Tom” statue in Castleblayney. The weekend was a great success and a credit to the MD and Castleblayney Regeneration Committee.

Cllr. O Hanlon requested that the MD works in conjunction with other groups in the town to arrange an event for the St. Louis Sisters, Carrickmacross to recognise their role in the town over the years. He is to forward contact details of relevant groups to the office.

Cllr. Carthy asked why works were still ongoing on the Drumconrath Road.

District Engineer John Lennon replied that Collins Coaches had some larger vehicles and adjustments had to be made to allow for same.

Cllr. O Hanlon asked when was the Hedge Cutting in the area finished.

District engineer stated that it would be completed in the next few weeks.

Cllr. Carthy stated there were a lot of trees and branches down on rural roads after Storm Ali.

District Engineer replied that when MD receives complaint the landowner is contacted by letter.

Cllr. Crowe welcomed the works on the R181 in Castleblayney.

Cllr. Keelan asked that the 80km speed limit past Drumgossat school be reviewed.

Co-ordinator Gareth Mc Mahon stated there was a speed limit review process and that the policy for rural roads speed limit was 80km.

Cllr. O’Hanlon asked when ramps were going to be put in place at the Ardee Road / Riverside Road junction.

Cllr. McNally said that delay in works at the site known as McEneaney site, Riverside Road was due to legal delays. On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan it was requested that a letter be sent to Tuath, Housing Agency for an update.

The District Engineer informed the members that Flood Risk Assessment would be completed by the middle of October in relation to the Magheraboy Road.

Cllr. Carthy requested that the fence at Plas Fionn Barra, Convent Lands be repaired.

Cllr. O'Hanlon asked for an update on ramp at Highfield Estate.

District Engineer stated that a Traffic Management Report was in the process of completion.

3. Correspondence

- Letter received from Minister Shane Ross, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in reply to this MD's letter requesting additional roads funding.

Stating "As regards your request for additional funding for this year, the grant funding available to the Department for regional and local roads has already been allocated, including the recent announcement of the allocations for the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS). There is no additional funding available to my Department"

Cllr. Keelan proposed that Local Minister, Heather Humphreys be invited to meet with the members to discuss the roads funding crisis in the area and the lack of funding available. Cllr. O Hanlon seconded same.

- Letter from Dublin City Council noting the following motion adopted by Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District at the July meeting.

"In light of what has been one of the worst droughts ever, this MD now calls on the Minister for Agriculture to immediately make hardship funding available to assist the farming community given the severe shortage of fodder quantified by some as up to 5 million tonnes. This will not or cannot be made up now with at least 60% of the growing season already passed".

4. Consideration of Co-ordinators monthly report

Issues Raised and Discussed

Cllr. Campbell asked for an update of the Public Realms.

Co-ordination Gareth McMahon stated that he would ask the Consultants to a forthcoming meeting and the members could then sign off and adopt same.

Cllr. Campbell asked for an update on the Priests Cross safety works.

District Engineer stated that it will be looked at in the coming weeks.

Cllr. Mc Nally welcome the opening of the new Carrickmacross Lace Gallery. He enquired about having the double yellow lines outside the building removed and "Coach Parking" space be put in place in order that Tour Buses to conveniently park.

Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that a safety audit would be carried out.

Cllr. Carthy asked that a date for official opening of the new Lace Gallery be set.

Cllr. McNally asked for an update on Tullyvaragh Junction.

Coordinator Gareth McMahon stated that land need to be CPO'd or negotiations take place with owners. Presently trying to negotiate same which takes time. Once the project is on the books funding will remain available.

Cllr. Crowe requested that the Engineers assess the potholes on Main Street, Castleblayney.

Cllr O'Hanlon proposed that a letter be sent to Grant Thornton International thanking them for sponsorship the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Awards.

An Cathoirleach Colm Carthy requested a date be set for the official opening of the New Lace Gallery.

5. Questions

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

Has this MD quantified the number of empty/derelict houses and business premises in our district especially in the towns of Carrickmacross and Castleblayney, with a view to encouraging the redevelopment of same for the purposes of providing family homes for applications on our waiting list under the Rebuilding Ireland Initiative.

Response:

Number of vacant properties

According to CSO Census 2016 there are 2,449 vacant properties in County Monaghan. This is down 10% from the 2,731 reported by CSO in Census 2011.

13 vacant properties have been referred to Monaghan County Council via VacantHomes.ie

Number suitable for social housing

Monaghan County Council has not fully assessed the vacant properties in County Monaghan. 30% (738) of the vacant properties in County Monaghan have been examined/considered and 9.5% (232) have been or are currently being acquired through purchase and leasing arrangements.

It is estimated that 250 vacant properties in County Monaghan may have potential for use as social housing.

Number that have been considered for acquisition by Monaghan County Council

738* vacant properties have been considered for acquisition of which 232 have proceeded or are proceeding through purchase or leasing processes.

***The figure 738 above excludes Housing Agency acquisitions but includes the following:**

90 individual vacant houses acquired by Monaghan County Council from 2016 to 2018 inclusive

48 vacant properties inspected/considered under the Repair & Leasing Scheme

158 individual vacant houses inspected/considered for acquisition by Monaghan County Council from 2016 to 2018 inclusive

300+ estimated number of individual vacant houses that have been considered in desk top exercises examining vacant houses offered for sale from 2016 to 2018 inclusive (reviews of property sales websites and adverts)

20 individual vacant properties with potential for social housing were acquired through CPO process (includes 8 properties to be converted into 21 apartments in Clones)

4 vacant properties in Scotstown UHD acquired directly by Monaghan County Council through CPO

6 in North Monaghan, Monaghan County Council has expressed an interest in purchasing

17 at Latlorcan acquired directly by Monaghan County Council

33 at Magheross UHD Carrickmacross with Department approval in place to be brought into use by Tuath Housing Association

38 at Lough na Glack UHD acquired through Long Term Leasing arrangement involving North & East Housing Association and NARPS

24 at Lough na Glack UHD currently under consideration for Long Term Leasing involving North & East Housing Association and NARPS

Has there been any development land offered to this MD as a result of our public advertisement in our local newspapers over the Summer?

Response:

The process of acquiring property is commercially sensitive so detailed information cannot be provided in response to this question however the following information can be shared.

In response to the expression of interest advertisements for lands suitable for social housing purposes Monaghan County Council, several landowners and Developers have expressed an interest in selling land and/or completed houses to Monaghan County Council under turnkey proposals. Each proposal is considered on its own merits and assessed. Monaghan County Council expects to receive further proposals from interested

Developers in the coming months and, subject to Department funding, hopes to proceed with further new build projects if suitable and feasible.

What measures has been proposed as a result of the safety audit on the Ballybay and Castleblayney roads including the section in as far as Monaghan street and what is the estimated cost of these measures?

Response:

The District Office received the completed road safety report form Road plan. We have reviewed the document and will present its recommendations and costings to the Elected Members at September Road Area Meeting.

When will the stop line and stop sign be erected at the Corcrin junction, Carrickmacross and when is it expected to carry out the small extension to the footpath on the Ballybay road as agreed early in the Summer?

Response

Works at this location were completed on the 17/8/18.

Has the MD executive or consultants examined the possibility of a park and ride facility adjacent to the bus stop on the Dundalk road to free up parking spaces in the town centre presently being used by commuters to their employment in Dundalk and Dublin.?

What would this MD's attitude to someone offering land for the above?

Response:-

The issue of park and ride facilities on the Dundalk Road will be explored under funding provided by the Urban and Rural Regeneration Programme, Category 2 for Carrickmacross.

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

In the Interest of public safety what is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of CCTV cameras in Carrickmacross town and its environs ?

Response:

The provision of CCTV camera systems has been suspended across Monaghan County Council until the full ramifications of the Data Protection Regulations are assessed and a policy put in place.

What is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of a clay berm barrier to be put in place adjacent to the Ascail Dubh estate on the Donaghmoyn road as requested by the residents association following a recent accident ?

Response:

The District Office appointed McMahon Associates to carry out a road safety inspection of Ascail Dubh. The inspection has been completed and its recommendations are being reviewed by the District Office. Consultation will take place with residents as part of the review.

What is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of proper walking / footpath links throughout the village of Inniskeen including across the River Fane & also what is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of two extra speed ramps adjacent to St Daigh's Tce and the Kavanagh Centre as requested by local residents and community associations given that speeding traffic is still a big concern in the village?

Response:

Monaghan County Council will prepare a Community Plan in respect of Inniskeen Village to determine the needs and priorities of the village in Autumn 2018. The Community Plan involves consultation with residents and communities and will form the platform upon which funding can be accessed to deliver prioritised projects and initiatives to the village.

Monaghan County Council is currently drafting a Traffic Calming policy. Until this policy has been adopted by the elected members there is a suspension of the installation of traffic calming measures.

What is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the Donaghmoynne road / Lisanisk junction ?

Response:

A Low Cost Safety Improvement funding application was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in 2017. The application did not receive funding in 2018. The crossing will not be installed until funding becomes available.

Why is it taking, in some cases, months to have some minor road repairs and patching carried out following complaints from the general public; how many complaints in relation to poor road conditions have not yet been addressed to date by this Council?

Response:

To date the District Office has received 325 complaints, with 11 pothole repairs to be completed. The average response time is 2/3 weeks.

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

When is it envisaged that work will commence on the road markings (including parking spaces, loading bay, disabled parking bay etc) to Farney Street, Carrickmacross?

Response

As part of the public realm and economic plan for Carrickmacross Town a parking review is being undertaken by GVA and the review includes Farney Street. The District Office will consider new road markings on Farney Street, when the recommendations of the review are known.

When will work begin on the redesign of the Steadfast/Dundalk road junction, Carrickmacross?

Response:

The District Office prepared a preliminary design for the Steadfast/Dundalk junction which was forwarded to McMahon Associates to undertake a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit. McMahon Associates completed the Stage 1 and due to the complexity of the junction layout, several conflict points in design were identified. The original design has been amended to reflect McMahon Associates comments and has been returned to them for a second review. Once this Stage 1 Audit phase is completed, detail design and consultation will commence.

When is it expected that repair works will be carried out on footpaths throughout Carrickmacross and Castleblayney town centres?

Response:

The contractors programme indicates a completion date of mid-October 2018.

Has this MD received any update on when the Proules River (Carrickmacross) will be cleared of debris and tidied up by the OPW?

Response:

The Office of Public Works cleaned the Proules River in August 2018.

When is work expected to be completed on the clearing of the stream/shuck that runs through Foxfield, Carrickmacross, which was supposed to have taken place earlier this year?

Response:

The District Office was unable to gain access to the stream due to site clearance by the developer adjacent. A meeting was held with a representative of the developer and clearance will begin in the coming weeks.

Questions raised by Cllr. Jackie Crowe for September 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

Would this MD give an update on the progress for the proposed pedestrian crossing and traffic lights at the bus stops on York Street, Castleblayney?

Response:

The District Office has submitted a funding application to the National Transport Authority to appoint consultants to develop the preliminary design to detail design and construction stage.

Regarding talks with the community groups and tidy towns association in relation to the waste ground area from Drumillard to the McGrath Road, will this area which is totally overgrown and infested with rodents be cleaned up?

Response:

The area of waste ground at Drumillard is the subject of a Part VIII planning application by Monaghan Co. Council. The Council will make an application to the Urban & Rural Regeneration Programme for funding to provide an Enterprise Hub in Castleblayney at this location.

In the interest of safety to motorists would this MD install a skid path from Ballinacarry Bridge to the border which would compliment the works already carried out north and south?

Response from Roads:

Assessment of the requirement for High Friction Surfacing on the N53 at Connabuty to Ardkirk was carried out by the Road Section, Monaghan Co. Council and it was concluded that HFS is not required at this location.

Would this Council insist that works to install crash barriers at Coolskeagh on the N53 be completed. (ie unfinished verges)?

Response from Roads:

2No. crash barriers were installed in the townland Coolskeagh as part of the N53 Pavement Renewal Scheme in 2017. This project is still within the 12-month defect period, any outstanding works to the verge at this location will be addressed before the end of the year.

To ask our MD for an update on the works at Drumillard Play Goal Posts) and safety measures on the old Monaghan Road?

Response:

The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD is currently sourcing quotes for the provision of suitable goal posts for Drumillard Play Park under the RAPID funding programme.

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

RE the works at the South lodge fishing stands -when it this work due to complete and the work complete on the 40 new fishing stands along the shore of Lough Muckno?

Response: The contractor programme indicates that works will be completed by mid-November 2018.

With the recent passing of the Part VIII planning for the raising of the road at Annadromond to alleviate the dangerous flooding which occurs. What is the next phase and when to expect to hear for a further update on this?

Response: The District Office in the coming days will submitting application to the Office of Public Works seeking funding to develop the Part 8 to detail design and construction stage.

When will works commence on the new footpath for the old Coach Road in Castleblayney?

Response: Works will commence on the installation of the new footpath in the coming weeks.

When does the MD expect to have the completed Public Realm plans finalized for each town where there was public consultation workshops on earlier in the year?

Response: A copy of the draft plan has been presented by the Consultants and it is envisaged that the final draft will be completed by the end of September.

6. Notice of Motions

Motion by Cllrs. Colm Carthy and Noel Keelan deferred from May meeting to September 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross / Castleblayney Municipal District.

“The members of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District calls on the executive, in conjunction with the Carrickmacross Tidy Towns group, to apply to the arts office for funding, through the per-cent-per-arts scheme, to install a water feature in the town centre”

Coordinator Gareth McMahon stated that the water feature will be done and all details and design aspects of same would be looked at by the members. It will be incorporated into the Rural Renewal Plan which we should have word on funding by November.

Motion by Cllr. Noel Keelan for the September 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross / Castleblayney Municipal District.

“That Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District calls on the executive to contact An Post to request that a letter/post box be installed in Donaghmoyne village to facilitate business and residents in the area. We also request that they facilitate a daily collection at the new collection point, and also that this council commits to providing a suitable location and work with An Post to expediate its installation”.

An Cathaoirleach Colm Carthy seconded same. And the motion was unanimously passed by all members.

7. Directors Orders

Directors Orders 64/2018 to 72/2018 were duly noted by members

8. Vote of Sympathy

Vote of sympathy was passed to:

Seamus Murray on the death of his mother Kathleen.

Vote of congratulations was passed to:

Corduff Raferagh Community Centre on the successful re-launch of the Centre.

9. AOB

Coordinator Gareth McMahon informed the meeting that Carrickmacross Tidy Towns had today won a Gold Medal and Runners up medal in the small town category.

An Cathairleach added that this year was a longer year due to the weather. He commended the committee on their great work and commended Castleblayney and Inniskeen Tidy Towns on their achievement.

An Cathairleach Colm Carthy –

Traffic Count be put in place at Bothar Eanna, Convent Lands to assess the need for ramps to be put in place.

A Litter Bin be put in place at the Donaghmoyn Road preferably near the pedestrian crossing between Railway Court and Cluain Alainn entrances.

Woodvale Estate Residents committee have requested a litter bin in their estate – would the Council consider gifting one to them?

Drummond Otra / end of Drummond Heights 100 yards of that road is not taken in charge by the Council. Could this be looked at with a view to the Council taking same in charge.

Got a response from Cathal Hand, HSE in relation to new Primary Care Centre, Carrickmacross stating that the planning application is about to be made. Some delays but proceeding again.

Cllr. Noel Keelan

Cars are parking on the Island at the Drumconrath Road Junction. Can signage be put in place so that the pedestrian crossing isn't blocked.

Update on the lines and road markings at Creevy / Lisdoonan junction (Stop sign). Monagirr off N2 and Lisanisk hill.

Cllr. McNally

Incident happened on footpath on the Church Hill (old Scoil Rois building side). Leaves etc. Requested immediate clean up both sides of the road and contact be made with the land owners.

What was the update on the Junction passed Mac Fab in relation to removal of hedge?

What was the update on Breffni House?

Coordinator Gareth McMahon said that the Council had served a Section 11 notice to the new owner.

Was Wooden barrier been put in place between Cloughvalley Park and Church Car Park?

A number of residents of Drumconrath Road have welcomed the new footpath in the area

Corcrin Junction new Stop sign needed.

Anti-Social Behaviour in Foxfield estate in town. Try and assist.

Cllr. O'Hanlon

Proposed a letter be sent to the HSE asking for an update on the group home, Convent Lands, Carrickmacross.

Cllr. McNally seconded same.

Meeting concluded at 1pm.

Cathairleach

Meeting Administrator

Dated :