

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



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

Minutes of proceedings of January 2017 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 23rd January 2017 at 3.30pm

Present: - Mayor Campbell

Cllrs Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Colm Carthy, Padraig McNally, P J O'Hanlon.

In attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services; Frances Matthews, Co-ordinator; John Lennon, District Engineer, Deirdre Power, Assistant Staff Officer, Cianna Mc Nally Northern Standard

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the December 2016 monthly meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan and seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 20th December 2016 were adopted .

2. Matters arising

Replies to queries:

- Cllr. McNally requested that immediate attention is given to the imposition of ground rents on Shirley Estates.
- Cllr. Campbell commended the outdoor staff for their commitment to a call out on Christmas Eve in Castleblayney at an accident which damaged the Pelican Crossing adjacent the Church.

3. Correspondence

- Letter of request from **Hudson's Fun Fair** to come to Carrickmacross for 2017 St. Patricks Day Celebrations. All in agreement.

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- **Correspondence was received from Carrick across Arts Festival South Monaghan** requesting support for 2017 Festival. Cllr. O Hanlon proposed funding, no amount specified, which was seconded by Cllr. Crowe.

4. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

Issues Raised Discussed

- Cllr. Crowe requested additional street lighting at the pedestrian crossing on Main Street Castleblayney.
- Cllr. Crowe reported that there was a flooding issue at Struth an Lúir in Oram. Paul Clifford informed Cllr Crowe that the Council was not legally in a position to take it in charge but that the Council would maintain it.
- Cllr. Carthy requested road markings to be put in place at Annaghfarcan. Cllr. McNally said that remedial works are necessary before any line markings are put on the Annaghfarcan road.
- Cllr. Carthy reported that the lights at the pedestrian crossing on the Culloville /Crossmaglen road are out of order.
- Cllr. Mc Nally requested that a draft drawing should be made available of the junction at Inver College.
- Cllr. McNally reported that road surfaces were in disrepair at Drumgossat School
- Cllr. Carthy requested that flagstones at Birdy's Newsagents are replaced and that footpaths around town should to be fixed and maintained. John Lennon District Engineer informed the meeting that a footpath assessment is presently being carried out.
- Cllr. O 'Hanlon requested a reduction on speed limits for traffic coming into Carrickmacross as the 50 KM is too high especially at Inver College
- Cllr Carthy requested speed limit signs on the Drumconrath road

Cllr. O' Hanlon reported that the Clár Allocation of €22,000 for Corduff National School would not guarantee the roads would be maintained to a proper condition due to the shortage of funding.

On the proposal of Cllr. O Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Mc Nally, it was unanimously agreed to send a letter to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Deputy Shane Ross, Deputy Heather Humphries Minister for Arts, Rural Affairs and Heritage, Brendan Smith TD, Niamh Smyth TD and Caoimhghin O Caoláin TD. as follows:-

“That additional money for the Clár programme be provided for all roads outside all national schools in South Monaghan that are sub standard that money be provided to tar outside all the schools so that the money from Clár is spent wisely”

5. Questions

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

1. (a). Following on from my question in December regarding road number LT 64011 at Drumganny, will this MD make a case for funding under the heading of flooding as there are major works continuing all around the country to eliminate flooding being funded by the Department?

Response:

The Department has not announced severe weather damage funding for 2017. If funding becomes available this Municipal District will submit the LT 46011, Drumganny/Carrickavoley to Monaghan County Council for consideration.

- (b) What is the estimated cost of raising the road to avoid flooding in this case.

Response:

The Municipal District office estimate the cost to raise this section of road to be approximately € 25,000.

2. When will the new toilet be installed at the Cloughvalley playground?

Response:

The toilet is now on site and will be open to the public when water, sewerage and electricity is connected.

3. Is this MD confident that the substandard sections of the N2 that passes through our district will get funding in 2017?

Response:

“The TII has made an allocation of €450,000 in 2017 for safety improvement works on the N2 from Castleblayney to Aclint as part of the ongoing Safety Review being carried out by consultants on behalf of Monaghan County Council.”

4. Has this MD finalised plans for the reduction of speed at Coolreagh, Carrickmacross and the Castleblaney road out of Carrickmacross to the roundabout.

Response:

The Municipal District office will undertake a traffic count survey at Coolreagh to determine the most appropriate engineering solution.

A low cost safety improvement application has been submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for the Ballybay/Castleblayney junction. A preliminary junction layout design has been produced and a detail design will be completed when the level of funding is known.

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

5. When is it envisaged work will commence on the new proposed cycle/walk way in Carrickmacross?

Response:

It is proposed to hold consultation meetings with interested groups early in 2017 in order to prepare plans for cycling and walking routes in the town in anticipation of future funding.

6. **When are applications open for the community grant scheme 2017?**

Response:

Ms. Bernie Bradley will prepare the documents and advertisements etc along with proposed dates for opening and closing for the fund and present them to the next CPG. It is proposed that the scheme will follow the same timeframe as 2016, with the launch and advertising in February with the recommendations going to the County Council in April.

7. **Has any public liability claims been made against Monaghan County Council from accidents occurring in this Municipal District since June 2014 and, if so, how many?**

Response:

Since June 2014 the following claims has been made:

Period	No. of Public Liability Personal Injury claims received	Position to date
June 2014-Dec 2014	4 claims	1 closed -MCC not liable and 3 investigations still ongoing
Jan-Dec 2015	2 claims	1 closed - MCC not liable and 1 withdrawn by claimant
Jan-Dec 2016	4 claims	2 closed - MCC not liable and 2 investigations still ongoing

8. **Has this MD given consideration to adding speed ramps to the Foxfield housing estate in Carrickmacross owing to the fact that the new speed limit restrictions (new signs added and by-laws changed to 30km/h) seem to be ignored by a high number of vehicles driving through this estate?**

Response:

The District will inform An Garda Síochána and the Road Section of Monaghan County Council of the ongoing issue of speeding in the Foxfield estate and their help will be requested in finding an acceptable solution. Speed ramps will be considered if no alternative solution can be achieved.

9. **I enquired back in May 2016 about whether there was a Per Cent for Art Scheme allocation of monies due from the Water Treatment Plant in Carrickmacross and was told that Irish Water would revert back to the council with confirmation (Irish Water Reference number for this query is 21647) – has this MD been contacted on this issue since and, if so, what was the outcome?**

Response:

The Water Treatment Plant in Carrickmacross carried a per cent for Art Scheme allocation and a budget was allocated from the Department to Monaghan County Council prior to the setup of Irish Water.

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

10. In welcoming the campaign by this Council and Monaghan County Council, encouraging the citizens of the county to shop local, what efforts is this municipal district Council making in terms of buying goods and services locally and employing local contractors to carry out works where possible.

Response:

While Monaghan Co. Council has a procurement procedure in place, Carrickmacross MD ensure that, where possible, all monies are spent locally. We make contributions to both the Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce and the Castleblayney Regeneration Group, while purchases through LVP's are all spent locally.

11. In welcoming the funding for safety works adjacent to a number of schools in the area including Corduff, Blackstaff, Lisdoonan, Ballaghnameen and Inniskeen national schools, when is it hoped to have a plan in place for these works, will these plans be put on display, when is it hoped to carry out these works, and will school management be consulted in advance of works commencing.

Response:

A safety assessment was carried out prior to submitting the application to the Department Arts, Heritage Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Those schools that have received funding will be contacted and advised of the extent works and commencement dates.

12. In relation to our local road network what funding is available to upgrade and resurface these roadways in 2017. How many roadways is it hoped to carry out improvement works on this year, how many local roadways are in need of improvement in the area. What funding is available for our regional road network in 2017. What funding is needed to upgrade & improve our Regional road network in the area given the poor state of repair off these roadways including the Carrickmacross to Shercock Road.

Response:

The number of roads that will be completed under the Restoration Improvement Grant for 2017 will be dependent on the allocation received from the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport. This allocation has not been announced. Approximately 70km of local roads and 10km of regional roads need overlaying.

13. In relation to the area adjacent to Inniskeen national school, when is it hoped to have this area upgraded and extra parking put in place in the interest of road safety, as requested by school management at a meeting with our engineering staff in late 2016.

Response:

The Distinct Office is at present procuring a contractor to undertake this work. It is planned that the works will be carried out during the school's summer holiday, eliminating any possible conflict between students and the contractor.

14. Will this Council commit to completing the footpath link at Lisanisk in 2017, As requested by the residents association over a number of years and given that a small amount of money would resolve this road safety issue.

Response:

The District office is currently carrying out a footpath assessment within the Municipal District to identify areas of defects. When this assessment is completed a meeting will be held with the elected members to agree a footpath programme for 2017.

6. Notice of Motions

Cllr. Carthy introduced the following Emergency Motion which was seconded by Cllr. Keelan

1. *“That Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Council recognises that the imposition of so-called ground rents by the Shirley estate has had a detrimental impact on the economic, political and social development of the town of Carrickmacross over a prolonged period. We welcome recent court decisions that have found in favour of a Shirley tenant. However we note with concern reports that the Shirley estate (aka JES holdings) are seeking to (and have been reportedly successful in) purchase affected buildings in the town noting that they enjoy an unfair competitive advantage over other prospective buyers due to the fact that they will not be liable for the payment of so-called ground rents as they would, in effect, be paying the charges to themselves”*

That the council calls on the Government:

:-to enact legislation to remove ground rents being forced on businesses by absentee estate landlord who made ownership claims at the foundation of this state.

:- to, if necessary, propose a constitutional amendment to resolve the historical injustices where ground rents or other rent-collecting mechanisms are enforced on tenants arising from antiquated systems associated with the obscure ownership structures related to buildings such as those affected by the Shirley estate in the town of Carrickmacross. That this motion be sent to all Oireachtas members (TD’s and Senators) in the Cavan/Monaghan Constituency.

Cllr. O’ Hanlon agreed that the issue could only be dealt with in the Dáil and he requested Cllr Carthy send the motion to the four Cavan- Monaghan TDs and three Senators.

The following notice of motion was proposed by Cllr. O 'Hanlon seconded by Cllr. Mc Nally and unanimously agreed:

2. "In light of the job losses with the closure of BOSE, that Carrickmacross / Castleblayney MD seeks the unemployment figures from the department of Social Welfare in order for us to make a stronger case for additional employment to be in place in both Carrickmacross and Castleblayney."

Cllr Mc Nally asked for the motion to be circulated to the Chamber of Commerce.

7. Directors Orders

The Directors orders 71/2016 to 73/2016 and 01/17 to 06/217 attached to the Agenda were noted.

8. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:-

Mickey Ward on the death of his brother Patsy Ward
Jim McMahon on the death of his father Brian Mc Mahon
Deborah McGee on the death of her father Gerry Magee
Paul Goodman on the death of his wife Eilish Goodman
Patricia O'Donoghue on the death of her husband Felix O'Donoghue
Nancy Shankey on the death of her husband Joe Shankey
Marguerite Mc Mahon on the death of her Aunt Margaret Mc Eneaney

Votes of Congratulations were passed with each of the following:

Martin Mc Guinness M.L.A on his retirement from politics
Michelle O'Neill M.L.A. on becoming leader of Sinn Féin in Northern Ireland

Any Other Business

- Cllr. McNally requested that Town parking is placed on the agenda for the February Municipal District Meeting.
- Cllr. Mc Nally requested a report on number of car spaces that can be designated and also methods to promote /discourage parking on the street for long periods of time.

- Cllr. McNally notified the meeting that the footpath on the Ballybay road had been left in disrepair as a result of Eir Cable installation. Cllr Mc Nally requested that Eir Cable is contacted to repair the footpath.
- Cllr. McNally highlighted a problem on the Ballybay Road at Emmet Park with Lorries parking overnight with fridges running. Cllr Mc Nally requested immediate consultation with Emmets GAA to prohibit Lorries from leaving fridge running at night.
- Cllr. McNally asked District Engineer to examine the dangerous junction at the Oasis on the Kingscourt Road.

Meeting concluded at 5:10 p.m.

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: 27th February 2017.