

Carrickmacross Town Council
(Comhairle Bhaile Carraig Machaire Rois)

Administrative Headquarters: Town Clerk's Office,
Old Fever Hospital,
Shercock Road,
Carrickmacross.

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Meara a Bhaile: Cllr. Mary Kerr-Conlon (FG)

Members: Cllr. Teresa Carolan (FG)
Cllr. Matt Carthy (SF)
Cllr. Pdraig McNally (FF)
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon (FF)
Cllr. Mark Clarke (FG)
Cllr. Noel Keelan (SF)
Cllr. Kristina Jankaitiene (GP)
Cllr. Catherine Martin (GP)

Town Manager: Mr. Paul Clifford
Town Clerk: Ms. Frances Matthews
Staff Officer: Ms. Amanda Murray
Revenue Collector: Ms. Angela Gallagher
Assistant Staff Officer: Ms. Amanda McCarville
Clerical Officers: Ms. Stephanie McEneaney
Ms. Niamh O'Reilly

Town Engineer: Mr. Alan Hall
Assistant Engineer: Mr. Joe Durnin
Town Foreman: Mr. Patsy McKenna

BUDGET 2010 €2,515,291
BUDGET 2009 €2,641,631
STAFF EMPLOYED 16
GENERAL ANNUAL RATE OF VALUATION 2009 65.55

PROGRAMME 1 - HOUSING AND BUILDING

The principal functions of Carrickmacross Town Council, under this heading, are the direct provision of and support for the provision of social and affordable accommodation, management of the housing stock and general estate management.

In 2009 Carrickmacross Town Council received €1 million in Government funding for the provision of Local Authority Housing. The Council purchased 7 houses at various locations in the town. This brought the total of Council housing stock to ninety five.

During 2009 the Council provided central heating in 6 houses, new fitted kitchens in 3 houses and attic insulation in 5 houses. The Council has now provided main smoke alarms and completed the insulation of attics in all its housing stock. Works were also carried out under the disabled persons grant to house no 48, Drummond-Etra, new fencing was put in place at Convent View and extensive refurbishments works were carried out on no. 23, Valley Close and 61, Drummond-Etra.

PROGRAMME 2 - ROAD TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY:

The Department of the Environment reduced its allocation in 2009 by €10,000 to €77,000 towards the Council's road programme. The road works programme for 2009 was mainly used on the total reinstatement of footpaths and carriageway at Farney Street and Chapel Lane following the completion of the laying of water and sewerage pipes in these locations. Reinstatement works have also been completed in O'Neill Street and Parnell Street. Drainage and surfacing works at Gallows Hill were also completed in 2009. New public lights installed at Bath Avenue by the Council were funded by Development Charges.

Carrickmacross received a bronze medal in the Tidy Towns Competition but lost its County Award for the first time in nearly two decades by one point. The Council made a provision of €7,000 for tidy town's projects in 2009

PROGRAMME 3 – WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE.

Construction commenced in February, 2008 by P. & S. Civil Works Ltd. to provide for the construction of new foul, combined and surface water sewers, the replacement of existing stone culverts and the refurbishment of existing sewers. The contract managed by Monaghan County Council also provides for the construction of new pumping stations and rising mains in the town area and surrounding environs. The contract will take 30 months to complete. The Council hold regular sewerage liaison meetings with P. & S. Civil Contractors and publishes the programme of works for the public's information.

PROGRAMME 4 - DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES AND CONTROL.

In accordance with Section 48(14) (b) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, under the Development Contributions Scheme, €6,767.65 was accrued in 2009, and a total of €9,646.31 was received by Carrickmacross Town Council in 2009. The amount paid was expended as follows:

Footpaths & Public lighting	€2,400.00
Car-Parking	€5,041.66
Community, recreation and amenity infrastructure and facilities,	€2,204.65

Carrickmacross Town Council received thirteen planning applications in 2009. Digital recording of all planning history files was made available for public viewing from December 2007, via the internet.

The Council constructed a heritage trail during the summer months of 2009. Sixteen historical sites are highlighted on two routes which take approximately 40 minutes to walk. Eight informative panels have been erected, three of which include orientation maps. The Council was awarded a grant of €36,000 to cover the purchase of the various panels and signage by Bord Fáilte and the National Tourism Development Authority. The total cost of the trail was in the region of €57,000. The balance will be paid by the Council over the next few years. The Heritage Trail was officially opened by An Meara Bhaile outside the Workhouse on the 12th of October, 2009.

At a special presentation held in May, the Council made financial contributions to the various community groups and voluntary organisations throughout the town. Additional funding was also allocated in November to a number of groups. The Chamber of Commerce received an additional allocation towards Christmas lighting of €1,600 bringing their total allocation in 2009 to €3,600.

Carrickmacross / Carhaix Town Twinning

On Sunday, October 25th 2009, a group of eighteen 15-16 year-old players from Soccer Club DC de Carhaix arrived in Carrickmacross. The young footballers were accompanied by DC de Carhaix Club President, Manager, football coaches and parents. The President of Carhaix-Carrickmacross Town Twinning Association as well as twinning committee members also travelled with the group.

The group were welcomed by Carrickmacross Town Council on their arrival by a reception held in the Workhouse.

The highlight of the visit was the big match for the Twinning Cup (La Coupe de Jumelage) played at noon in Birdy's Development Park on the following Monday. A second event took place on Tuesday morning when FAI under 19 National Manager Sean Mc Caffery and FAI Regional Development Officer and under 17 Irish National Coach Tom Mohan held a two hour coaching session with the two teams.

A series of mini tournaments were organised in Inver College football pitch for the two teams as well as a trip bowling in Castleblayney. The programme of activities concluded with a meal hosted by Carrickmacross Town Twinning Association for the players and officials from the two towns. Parents and families who accommodated the visitors were also present.

PROGRAMME 6 – RECREATION AND AMENITY

Carrick Aces commenced construction of their running track and playing fields at Convent Lands during 2009 having successfully raised €80,000 in funding under the Sports Capital Programme in July, 2008. Both Carrickmacross Town Council and Monaghan County Council pledged their support and each allocated €40,000 to the project. Carrickmacross Town Council has also committed €5,000 per annum for the next five years to help service a loan for the balance of works on the current phase of the project.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

2009 saw much upheaval around the town of Carrickmacross due to road-works resulting from the ongoing sewerage job. As a result, our Parade kicked off from the Ardee Road as opposed to the normal Dundalk Road starting point. This did not however deter our eager and colourful floats and marchers. The 17th of March fell on a bright and sunny Tuesday which drew huge crowds of spectators onto Main Street, to view over 60 participating entrants. As well as numerous local and non-local bands, there were a number of community and business floats and marchers, as well as a wide collection of vintage tractors and machinery. Face painting and street entertainment brightened the day along with traditional music provided by the Carrickmacross branch of Comhaltas, prior to the parade. Prizes given out on the day went to St. Jarlaith's Independent Pipe Band for the "Best Band", with the "Best Float" going to the Carrickmacross Festival. It was a brilliant day, enjoyed by all!

The Council continues to support the local June Bank Holiday festival and Halloween Festival in October. Both festivals were again very successful in 2009.

Other Events

On the 7th of March, 2009 Cllr. Rose McMahon, An Meara Bhaile made a presentation to Mr. John Scully, Chairperson Carrick Emmets to mark the occasion of Carrick Emmets winning the 2008 County Senior Football Championship. The presentation was made in the Nuremore Hotel at the Carrick Emmets annual dinner dance.

Following the Council's May meeting a presentation was made to Sr. Marie Byrne and Sr. Rita Greene to mark the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Order of Saint Louis Sisters to Carrickmacross.

Presentations were also made to local members of Comhaltas who won All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil 2008 awards. At the close of the presentations Comhaltas performed a number of tunes for the members.

At the October monthly meeting Mrs. Kathleen Ryan was presented by An Meara Bhaile Cllr. Kerr-Conlon with a piece of crystal to mark her recent retirement as Principal from Bunscoil Luaighaidh Naofa.

Cllr. Kerr-Conlon made a presentation to Mr. Fergus Lane to mark his retirement as Principal of St. Joseph's National School following the November monthly meeting.

PROGRAMME 8 - MISCELLANEOUS

Local elections were held on Friday the 5th of June, 2009. Cllr. Joe Quigley was the only member of the Town Council not to put his name forward for the 2009 election. A record number 18 candidates sought election. After 14 counts, including a recount, the results of the election were announced at lunch time on Sunday the 7th of June, 2009. New members of the Council included Mark Clarke, Fine Gael and Kristina Jankaitiene, Green Party.

At the close of the October monthly meeting Cllr. Vincent P. Martin announced to the members that he would be resigning from his Town Council seat. At the November monthly meeting Cllr. Catherine Martin, Green Party was co-opted to replace Vincent P. Martin.

Staff Retirements

Mr. Sean Farrelly, Revenue Collector retired from the Council in March, 2009 after 22 years with Carrickmacross Town Council.

Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Town Manager and Director of Services took early retirement from Monaghan County Council in November, 2009 after over 30 years service in local authorities.

Staff Appointments

Ms. Angela Gallagher was appointed Revenue Collector for the Carrickmacross Area by Monaghan County Council from the 1st of September, 2009.