

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



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

Minutes of proceedings of April 2017 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Gate Lodge, Lough Muckno, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan on Monday 24th April at 10.30am

Present: - Cathaoirleach Campbell

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

In attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services; Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator; John Lennon, District Engineer, Deirdre Power, A/Assistant Staff Officer, Caitriona Lazdauskas, Clerical Officer, Veronica Corr, Northern Standard.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Crowe and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 27th March 2017 were adopted.

2. Matters arising

Replies to queries:

- Members commented on the response from the Environment Section in relation to the widespread litter problem and installing cameras to combat the issue. Issues raised by the Environment Section included security, data protection, management of the system and the possibility of not getting good quality footage to issue a fine. Cllr. Carthy enquired if mobile cameras can be placed on walkways. Cllr. O' Hanlon requested information on the number of cameras in place for litter monitoring. Cllr. Crowe requested information on the number of fines issued in relation to littering at the two bottle banks in Castleblayney. Cllr. McNally recommended that signs stating cameras in operation will help deter littering. Cllr. Keelan stated that cameras should be placed in targeted areas and zero tolerance should apply when put in place. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that a member of the Environment Section attend the next monthly meeting to discuss further. Cllr. McNally proposed, seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon

“that this MD write to Minister Simon Coveney to immediately amend the regulations that can restrict Local Authorities from using mobile cameras to catch people fly tipping under Data Protection laws”.

- Cllr. Crowe commented on the potholes at Ballinacarry Bridge. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that this section of the N53 to Castleblayney is subject to overlay and an assessment will take place to identify if a high friction surface is warranted at the Bridge.
- Cllr. Keelan requested that a 30km per hour speed limit is put in place at Sean Carraig Estate. District Engineer John Lennon stated that he will check if the estate is in charge of Monaghan County Council.
- Cllr. Keelan enquired if a letter has been sent to the CEO of Ulster Bank regarding the effects the closure of the bank branch in Carrickmacross will have on the town. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon confirmed that a letter was sent but no response has been received to date.
- Cllr. McNally enquired if a speed counter was put in place on the Magherboy road. District Engineer John Lennon confirmed that the traffic counter was put in place and the data is currently being analysed.
- Cllr. McNally enquired if land has been transferred to Carrick Rovers. Director of Services Paul Clifford stated that the transfer of the land is ongoing and is currently with the solicitor.
- Cllr. McNally asked if a meeting occurred between Monaghan County Council and Louth County Council in relation to the link roads to the M1. Co-ordinator Gareth Mc Mahon stated that a meeting took place with Louth County Council and Monaghan County Councils Roads Section and a report from this meeting will follow. Cllr. McNally proposed that a member of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District be involved in the meetings and a further meeting should be sought by this Municipal District with Louth County Council.
- Cllr. Carthy commended the works carried out on Chapel Lane.
- Cllr. Carthy commented on the correspondence sent to the HSE and Minister of Health in relation to GP Services in Carrickmacross as obtaining an appointment is still an ongoing problem.
- Cllr. Carthy commended the Roads Section on the works carried out to resolve the sink hole at Barford Meats.
- Cllr. Carthy enquired on the works to repair the loose corner panel on the fence at Barford Meats. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon confirmed that this work is scheduled to be carried out.
- Cllr. O’Hanlon asked that a meeting be scheduled between a member of the executive and the manager of Ulster Bank about the proposed closure of the bank branch in Carrickmacross. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon agreed to schedule a meeting.
- Cllr. Crowe praised Monaghan County Council for taking charge of the works at Sruth Na Nuir Estate, Oram. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon and District Engineer John Lennon stated that the work was 50% complete.
- Cllr. Crowe enquired about the land ownership details in relation to the drainage pipes at the graveyard and chapel in Oram. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that he would investigate the matter.
- Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that in order to make any further progress to secure an increase in funding for road improvements in the region, the next step is to speak to Robert Troy on the issue and organise a debate on the topic in Dáil Éireann by the Fianna Fáil party.

3. Correspondence

- Report from The Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment regarding telecommunications implementation programme.

Cllr. Carthy welcomed the procedure for premises to get broadband. All members agreed the importance of having proper infrastructure in place and most importantly proper roads and broadband infrastructure for this county.

- **Letter from Office of the Taoiseach** acknowledging the Notion of Motion regarding roads funding.
- **Letter form Niamh Smyth TD** regarding the motion on ground rents.
- **Letter from Shane Ross, Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport** regarding roads funding. All members voiced their dismay at the lack of progress made in relation to roads especially the lack of funding. Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that €1.2 million has been allocated for road upgrades in this district, however, it will cost €15 million to bring the roads up to standard considering Brexit and this is not acceptable. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that when the roads programme is being developed for 2018, regional and local roads will be brought in to the programme.
- **Letter from Shane Ross, Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport to Heather Humphries, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs** regarding roads funding.
- **Letter from Chris Smith, Private Secretary to Minister Ross** in relation to Clár Funding.
- **Letter from Brendan Smith TD** in relation to the motion on ground rents.

4. **Dangerous Wall at Convent Hill, Carrickmacross**

- An application for a Heritage Grant has been made by the wall owners. This matter is being dealt with by the Planning Section of Monaghan County Council.

5. **Consideration of Coordinators monthly report**

Issues Raised Discussed

- Cllr. McNally welcomed the work that is planned on the fibre network and requested that strict guidelines and inspections are put in place while this work is carried out to ensure that all works are completed to an acceptable standard. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that all existing ducting will be surveyed and where possible used, however some ducting will need to be replaced if deemed necessary.
- Cllr. McNally stated that there is a need for ducting on Main Street in Carrickmacross for public lighting and requested an update on where ducting is needed as there is an issue with lights.
- Cllr. McNally stated that temporary safety measures are needed at the bridge in Inniskeen. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that measures will be put in place.
- Cllr. McNally voiced his concern regarding the issue of access for a section of works at Linear Park, Carrickmacross and hoped that no barriers are in place to prevent the work from taking place. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon confirmed that the contractor is completing a snagging list before work can begin.
- Cllr. McNally enquired on the public opinions collated from the Walking and Cycling Strategy. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that cycle lanes were requested by the public during the consultation period.

- Cllr. McNally stated that due to the state of the roads, there has been an increase of insurance claims, two of which he is aware of. Works on the sewerage has caused some of these issues and the lack of money for fixing roads is a huge problem.
- Cllr. McNally asked if there is a policy in place to ensure that no discharging of water is taking place on roads that are being surfaced. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan stated that checks are completed by both the planning section and engineering staff to ensure compliance. Specific complaints can also be investigated.
- Cllr. McNally requested that a draft of the preliminary design for works at the junction on the Castleblayney Road be circulated to the members. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan stated that the MD is close to finalising a design.
- Cllr. McNally voiced his concern that the works on the Convent Wall will not be completed during the school holidays.
- Cllr. Crowe asked how long before the proposed new lights are erected at Knockturnagh Castleblayney. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan stated that the MD will keep pressure on the ESB to complete the works.
- Cllr. Crowe congratulated the regeneration team on the Big Tom tribute currently being organised.
- Cllr. O'Hanlon requested information on the amount of funding available for footpath improvements and also details on footpaths being developed. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan stated that the total spend for lighting and footpaths is €54,000 in 2017.
- Cllr. O'Hanlon thanked Minister Humphries for the funding received for the upgrade of The Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen.
- Cllr. Carthy stated that roads are being left in bad state after works. The road outside Cloughvalley Stores in particular has been left in a bad state after works.
- Cllr. Carthy asked if water and electricity will be made available to Camper/Caravans in the designated area on the Dundalk Road within the next twelve months. Director of Services Paul Clifford stated that most camper vans have their own supplies.
- Cllr. Carthy requested that the Housing Association be contacted regarding the finishing of works in the unfinished estate on the Ardee Road.
- Cllr. Keelan commended the safety works carried out at the schools under the Clár Project.
- Cllr. Keelan requested a report be circulated at the next monthly meeting in relation to the state of the roads in Carrickmacross town centre and surrounding area.
- Cllr. Campbell expressed his dismay at the vandalism of Ard na Lorgan playground which is currently closed and questioned whether cameras will resolve the issue.

6. Consideration for date for awards night for Community Group Allocations 2017

- It was agreed by all members that the awards ceremony will take place on Monday the 22nd May 2017 at 6pm in the Civic Offices, Carrickmacross. It was also agreed by all that a civic reception to recognise the 50th anniversary of the Community Games will coincide with the awards nights.

7. Questions

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

1. What works are planned in this Municipal District with the Footpath and Lighting budget 2017?

Response:

The District Office will prepare a Footpath and Lighting programme in 2017 which will be presented to the elected members for approval in the coming weeks. The priority for this Municipal District is to repair and upgrade existing Footpaths and Public Lighting.

2. Has this Municipal District made any application to Government for financial assistance to introduce a pedestrian crossing on the Dundalk Road, Carrickmacross (in front of Pearse Avenue)?

Response:

Clár funding is not available for this project but other funding avenues will be explored.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for April 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

3. Regarding the Old Coach Road, Annahale in Castleblayney what plans has the MD in relation to public lighting and footpaths to link up with the existing footpath on the Dundalk road?

Response:

The District Office is currently carrying out a Footpath assessment in 2017, which will be presented to the elected members for approval in the coming weeks. The priority for this Municipal District is to repair and upgrade existing Footpaths and Public Lighting.

4. Due to the poor condition of the surface on the Main Street in Castleblayney. Can the MD outline the plans to resurface this area?

Response:

The District office has no plans to resurface this section of the road as the road programme has already been agreed by the elected members. Ongoing maintenance will be carried out in 2017.

5. Will the MD investigate a solution for traffic calming measure at Conabury, Castleblayney leading up to the sharp right turn which leads down then to Rosevale?

Response:

Will install a traffic counter to determine the actual type and speed of vehicles at this location. Speed ramps will only be considered when all other traffic calming solutions have been exhausted.

Questions raised by Cllr. Jackie Crowe for April 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. Will Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD tarmac the pathway from Black Island View to Oliver Plunkett Park adjacent to the children's play park at Drumillard. Wheel chair users are hampered by the uneven surface?

Response:

The District Office will prepare a public footpath programme for 2017, which will be presented to the elected members for approval in the coming weeks. Consideration will be given to Cllr Crowe's proposal.

7. Would the Council also consider a street light along this path where no lighting has been provided?

Response:

The District Office will prepare a public lighting programme for 2017, which will be presented to the elected members for approval in the coming weeks.

8. Have the public lights at Mullyash Centre which needed new bulb replacements been carried out and has consideration been given to a new Public Light at the back of the centre?

Response:

Public lighting heads were replaced on the 10th April 2017. The District Office will prepare a Footpath and Lighting Programme in 2017, which will be presented to the elected members for approval in the coming weeks. The priority for this Municipal District is to repair and upgrade existing Footpaths and Public Lighting.

9. In the interests of public safety will the Council erect Public Lights along the Old Coach Road in Castleblayney. This road is heavily traversed by children and adults alike and has ducting already in place for lights?

Response:

The District Office will prepare a Footpath and Lighting Programme in 2017, which will be presented to the elected members for approval in the coming weeks. The priority for this Municipal District is to repair and upgrade existing Footpaths and Public Lighting.

10. Has Castleblayney/Carrickmacross MD had any word back from the Department on the road safety issues at the Kinnegan Junction L7840 outside Castleblayney. Mr. Dermot Donovan said he would report back to this Council after his deliberations?

Response:

Roadplan Consulting Engineers are finalising their review on Kinnegan junction at present with a view to having it completed in early May.

11. In the interest of Public Safety will the Council erect Defibrillator signs around the town on behalf of Castleblayney First Responders?

Response:

The Engineering staff will liaise with the group to determine the number of signs and costs and report back.

Questions raised by Cllr. Padraig Mc Nally for April 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

12. Why has the toilet facility at Cloughvalley Playpark not yet been opened given the large number of children playing in the park?

Response:

The water connection has now been made by Irish Water and the toilet facility is open.

13. Has this Municipal District carried out the vehicle Speed/ Volume check on the Magheraboy Road, Carrickmacross with a view to reducing the speed?

Response:

Traffic counters have been completed and an assessment will be carried out of the results. Any proposals to reduce speed at Magheraboy road will have to be forwarded to Monaghan County Council for consideration by the Speed Limit Committee.

14. Has there been any developments regarding the speed limit on the old Castleblayney Road, Carrickmacross (at Cloughvalley Lower)?

Response:

The existing 60Km/hr speed limit zone is being extended by a further 190m in a northerly direction as part of the review on Regional and Local Road speed limits.

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

15. As a follow on from a presentation by Mr. Dermot Donovan TII regarding the N2 Carrickmacross to Castleblayney road what is the up to date position in relation to much needed safety improvement works at the Tullyvaragh junction in particular and also what funding is available to resurface the Donaghmoynes to Carrickmacross stretch given that potholes have appeared on this road? Will maintenance be carried out as a matter of urgency?

Response:

Roadplan Consulting Engineers are completing the detailed design of the safety improvement works at Tullyvaragh junction at present and it is anticipated that a tender process for their installation will commence at the end of May. There is no funding available to carry out full resurfacing of the N2 at Donaghmoynes at present, maintenance works will take place in the interim.

16. What is the up to date position in relation to the putting in place one / two speed ramps on the Carrickmacross approach road to Inniskeen village Adjacent to St Daigh's Tce. and Dunard as discussed and agreed as per a motion proposed by myself and adopted by the elected members ?

Response:

Traffic counters have been installed in Inniskeen village and consideration will be given to Councillor Keelan's proposal and the findings will be made known shortly.

17. Given a new round of Clár funding has opened up in relation to the construction and upgrading of access footpaths to Schools and Community Facilities, what is the up to date position in relation to the provision of extra Footpaths / Walking routes and a new Footbridge over the River Fane in Inniskeen village?

Response:

The District office is presently preparing a programme under the Clár programme with consultation with Monaghan County Council Planning office. Consideration will be given to Councillor Keelan's proposal.

18. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of extra safety measures adjacent to a number of schools in the area, including Corduff, Lisdoonan, Donaghmoynes, Ballaghnearn and Blackstaff, when is it hoped to carry out these works in consultation with school management and parents associations?

Response:

District office has completed the safety measures funded by Clár. Ramps have been installed at Lisdoonan, awaiting Street Lighting. Corduff Zebra Crossing installed, awaiting ESB connection

and guard. Donaghmoynne and Blackstaff works will be completed in the second quarter of the year. No plans for Ballaghnameen School.

19. Will this council carry out works on the Knock road Inniskeen (LT-46031) as a matter of urgency given the obvious health and safety issues on this roadway as discussed on site with our roads section staff ?

Response:

The Restoration Improvement Programme has been agreed with the Elected Members for the Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District. The District office will carry out maintenance works.

8. Notice of Motions

- Motion by Cllr. Pdraig McNally, seconded by Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon;

"Giving that it's alleged that there is anti-social behaviour happening along the boundary of the Council's playground and the Church property at Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross, that this MD liaises with the Church authorities with a view to erecting a security fence between both properties in order to stop such activities"

- Motion by Cllrs. Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan and Jackie Crowe;

"That this Municipal District calls on the executive of Monaghan County Council to increase accessibility for persons with physical difficulties, especially those who are wheelchair bound, in towns throughout the county by introducing increased size parking spaces (to allow for extra room at rear of vehicles), introducing ditching to pavements beside 'disabled parking' bays (including bubble paving for the blind) and incorporating specialised equipment to play parks to allow children in wheelchairs the chance to take part in play"

- Motion by Cllr. Colm Carthy;

"This Municipal District recognises the 50th anniversary of the Community Games in Ireland. We call on the executive to host a Civic Reception in 2017 inviting all Community Games groups in the area in recognition of all the hard work carried out by the committees, volunteers and participants"

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Keelan. The ceremony will take place on Monday the 22nd May 2017 at 6pm in the Civic Offices, Carrickmacross.

9. Directors Orders

The Directors orders 25/2017 to 33/2017 attached to the agenda were noted.

10. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following;

- Raymond McSkeane and the McSkeane Family on the death of Peter McSkeane
- Owen Woods on the death of his mother Kathleen Woods

- Elizabeth Brennan and the Duffy Family on the death of Jimmy Duffy
- Seamus Duffy and the Duffy Family on the death of Jimmy Duffy

11. Any Other Business

- Cllr. Carthy welcomed the work carried out at St. Macartans Villas and asked that the damaged ramps be investigated.
- Cllr. Carthy contacted the Environment Section in relation to an abandoned car in Cluainn Alainn Estate and asked that the vehicle be removed.
- Cllr. Carthy requested confirmation for a time for a meeting to discuss Tidy Towns and Festival funding.
- Cllr. Carthy highlighted that the Carrickmacross Festival committee require permission for use of the town during the festival weekend. Letter received from the festival committee to be circulated to members. All members agreed to give permission. It was also agreed that the Festival Committee could include Monaghan Street, Carrickmacross, for Monday 5th June 2017 for a proposed Car Boot sale.
- Cllr. Campbell thanked the outdoor staff for erecting the bunting for the Cycle to Suicide Event taking place in Castleblayney. The cyclists will be welcomed by Our Lady's Secondary School on Thursday the 27th April 2017 at 9.15am
- Cllr. Campbell commended the Press Photography of Ireland on the photography display taking place in the Íontas Centre where 124 iconic photographs are on display.
- Cllr. McNally asked for double yellow lines at Dunard and a dog fouling bin to be put in place.
- Cllr. McNally asked if there was any progress made in relation to Lorries parking outside Emmet Park in Carrickmacross.
- Cllr. McNally asked if a contractor has been appointed for road works on the R181. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that Roads section has scheduled the work to begin in May. No contractor has been appointed yet.

Meeting concluded at 12.20pm. This was followed by a presentation by John McArdle, Project Leader IS to all attendees regarding the launch of Castleblayney WiFi.

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: 24th April 2017