

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



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

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**Minutes of proceedings of January 2018 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 22nd January 2018 at 11.30 a.m.**

Present: - Cathaoirleach McNally

Cllrs. P.J. O'Hanlon , Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Aidan Campbell, Colm Carthy

In attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services; John Lennon, District Engineer; Amanda Murray, Staff Officer; Deirdre Power , A/Assistant Staff Officer; Pauric Clerkin Northern Sound, Veronica Corr, Northern Standard.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Crowe the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were adopted.

**2. Matters arising**

*Replies to queries:*

- Director Paul Clifford said that IPB Insurance is to clarify funding with all Municipal Districts shortly.

**Meeting went into Committee**

- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally stated that the new street lights in and around the town were inadequate, with too few lights in area leading to dark footpaths.  
Director Paul Clifford said that the installation process was not complete  
District Engineer John Lennon said that a street lighting survey report will be issued shortly
- Cllr. Carthy noted that the distance between lights at the bottom of town differed from lights at the top of the town with the added problem of lack of visibility in the middle of the main street.
- Cllr Keelan reported that lights at Markeys pub are not fit for purpose.
- Cllr O Hanlon informed the meeting the new lighting is part of a new directive for energy saving but it unfortunately its having an impact on public safety.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally voiced his dismay at the non availability of the report on Hope Castle  
Director Paul Clifford said that the report will be issued within the next number of weeks.
- Cllr. Crowe requested an extension of CCTV to Lough Muckno due to recent vandalism.  
District Engineer John Lennon said he would investigate the matter.
- Cllr. Keelan asked if CCTV could be made available for Carrickmacross.

- Cllr. O Hanlon said the Joint Policing Committee and Gardai are currently in discussion regarding monitoring of CCTV.  
Director Paul Clifford informed the meeting that a system had been in Castleblayney but due to the sale of the Town Council offices the CCTV the system was now in storage.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked about the post box outside the post office.  
Staff Officer Amanda Murray replied that An Post has been contacted.
- Cllr. Carthy informed the meeting that high resolution is a requisite for CCTV  
Cllr. Carthy asked about traffic calming in the town  
District Engineer John Lennon said that the matter was ongoing
- Cllr. Aidan Campbell asked for maintenance to be carried out on the damaged wire on the N2
- Cllr .Crowe asked for a replacement sign at Ballinacarry Bridge
- Cathaoirleach McNally asked for an update on overgrown trees and hedges on the Kingscourt road.  
Director Paul Clifford said the issue was currently with Roads Section

### 3. Correspondence

**Correspondence received from Department of Children and Youth Affairs in** relation to correspondence sent regarding the need for increase in funding for the Childcare Sector.

- **Correspondence received from Senator Robbie Gallagher** in relation to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs's response to his office in relation to Childcare questions members of Carrickmacross Municipal District raised previously.
- **Correspondence received from Minister Humphries office in** relation to an acknowledgement from Department of Children and Youth Affairs regarding their communication concerning the need for funding for Childcare and Early Childhood Education Sectors.
- **Correspondence received from Minister Humphries office in** relation to an acknowledgement letter received from Department of Education and Skills regarding the proposal adopted at the November 2017 meeting of the Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District.
- **Correspondence received from Department of Education and Skills** in relation to incorporating Early childhood education into the education sector.

**Correspondence received from Senator Joe O'Reilly's office in** relation to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs's response to his office in relation to Childcare questions members of Carrickmacross Municipal District raised previously.

- **Correspondence received from Minister Niamh Smith TD** regarding the November 2017 proposal and issues that have been brought to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of Education's attention concerning the need for funding for Childcare and Early Childhood Education Sectors.
- **Correspondence received from Minister Niamh Smith TD** regarding the issue's with broadband within the Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District which she has brought to the attention of Minister for Communications Denis Naughton.
- **Correspondence received from Minister Naughton Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment** regarding the issues concerning broadband within the Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District.

- **Correspondence received from Senator Joe O'Reilly's office** in relation to the Department of Communications response regarding the issues with broadband within the Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District which he brought to the attention of Minister for Communications Denis Naughton
- **Correspondence received from Minister Humphries office in** relation to her offices response from the Department of Communications regarding the issues with broadband within the Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District which she brought to the attention of Minister for Communications Denis Naughton.
- **Correspondence received from Department of Justice and Equality** in relation to queries concerning the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission raised at the November 2017 Municipal Meeting regarding the death of Shane O'Farrell RIP.
- **Correspondence received from Department of Health** acknowledging receipt of letter concerning "a soft opt-out" system for organ donation.
- **Correspondence received from Hudson's Funfair** requesting to hold Funfair for the 2018 on St. Patricks Day Weekend Celebrations in the Drummond Etra Carrickmacross. Cllr Mc Nally proposed and all present unanimously agreed.
- **Correspondence received from Carrickmacross Festival Committee requesting** to use the Public area's in Carrickmacross over the June Bank Holiday weekend. Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked that the funeral undertakers be made aware of the festival dates. Cllr. Carthy replied that the undertakers had been reminded that the stage will be in that area. Proposed by Mayor McNally and seconded by Cllr Carthy

#### 4. **Consideration of Co-ordinators monthly report**

##### Issues Raised Discussed

- Cllr. Campbell enquired about Town and Village Renewal for Oram Village Director Paul Clifford said that a second consultation meeting is due to take place.
- Cllr. Campbell said he was disappointed with the lack of funding for the dangerous right on the N2 at Kinnigin, he felt it was necessary for the MD to call on the TII to come to Castleblayney as it was impossible to acquire a meeting at the TII offices in Dublin.
- Cllr. O Hanlon said the Road Safety Officer is currently liaising with all the schools at Cloughvalley and the Gardaí.
- Cllr. O Hanlon said there was a need for a pedestrian crossing at the steadfast junction Director Paul Clifford said a safety report was necessary.
- Cllr. Keelan asked the TII to look at the junctions at Drumharra regarding road safety.
- Cllr. Carthy asked that South Monaghan Craft People are liaised with concerning the shop at Market Square Carrickmacross.
- Cllr. Carthy asked for signs on the Castleblayney Road as HGV's were parking on bend.
- Cathaoirleach McNally requested the Road Safety officer to also consult with the Doctors surgery and the Phoenix Centre.
- Cathaoirleach McNally welcomed funding for Tullyvaragh and asked the District Engineer to Have a plan for the proposed works.
- Cathaoirleach McNally said a number of bollards are missing on the N2 on the Dundalk road exit which has led to a road safety issue where motorists are taking chances. Cathaoirleach Mc Nally said that Transport Infrastructure Ireland have not been maintaining the bollards and that the Bollards are the wrong colour.

## 5. Questions

### Questions by Cllr. McNally for January 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. In light of the positive news re IPB funding, when does this expect to commence and complete work on the proposed footpaths at Drumcondrath Road, Carrickmacross and at the Lough Egish Road Castleblayney as far as Blackhill GFC?

Response:

The matter of IPB funding has been referred to the CPG and Head of Finance for consideration. No decision regarding the funding has been received by the District Office.

2. Has this MD contacted the new public light designer re Carrickmacross Main Street and Highfield with a view to improving the light which is alarmingly poor and has resulted in dark footpaths?

Response:

Monaghan County Council and the designer took Lux level readings on 19/01/18. The designer is checking the design calculations and will be issuing a report in due course.

3. Has this MD heard anything from our road safety office re traffic chaos at the schools and surgery in Cloughvalley?

Response:

The Road Safety Officer has arranged meetings with representatives from each of the schools, the doctor's surgery and An Garda Síochána to discuss a traffic management/access plan that will best serve all parties. When these meetings have concluded a report will be prepared and will be presented to the elected members.

4. Has this MD examined the road surface on the Killanny road adjacent to the roundabout/underpass which appears dangerously slippery in all weathers?

Response:

The District Office have reviewed this section of road and are arranging to have scrim testing carried out to determine the skid resistance of the wearing course. This is specialised testing and Monaghan County Council will proceed to procure a contractor to complete the testing.

5. Has this Council drawn up a list of road repairs following on from our sewerage upgrade with a view to having work carried out asap.

Response:

The District Office has compiled a schedule of defects for Carrickmacross Town. The Municipal District is seeking to have the pavement defects rectified by the contractor commissioned to install the sewerage network in 2011.

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

6. What is the up-to-date position on traffic calming measures for the Ross Road (between Inver Park and the Barford Meats site), Carrickmacross?

Response:

A traffic counter was installed on the Ross Road between the 29/09/17 and the 13/10/17. The count results have been analysed and they indicate a level of speeding violations above the norm. Monaghan County Council is currently drafting a Traffic Calming policy. The aims of this policy is to address the traffic calming needs of existing roads and estates and to set design guidance for traffic calming. Until this policy has been adopted by the elected members there is a suspension of the installation of traffic calming measures.

7. Has the OPW confirmed when it will be cleaning/clearing the Proules River, Carrickmacross?

Response:

The District Office has contacted the OPW requesting a work programme for 2018 for this Municipal District. When the programme is received the Elected Members will be furnished with a copy.

8. Has the MD liaised with the Arts community in Carrickmacross in trying to source provision for the proposed Craft Shop in the Market Square once it is completed?

Response:

Discussions are being held with the Local Enterprise Office – Craft Network (which includes craft makers from throughout the county).

9. Has the MD received any response to the low cost safety application regarding a pedestrian crossing on the Dundalk road (in front of Pearse Avenue) considering it has been submitted for over 12 months?

Response:

A Low Cost Safety Improvement funding application was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 13th October 2017. No decision regarding the application has been received by the District Office.

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

10. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of walking/footpath links throughout the Village of Inniskeen including the provision of a footbridge across the river fane?

Response:

Following a meeting with representatives from Inniskeen Village Tidy Towns it was agreed to submit a Low Cost Safety Improvement application to the Department Transport, Tourism and Sport for a walkway over the River Fane. An application was submitted to the Department on 13th October 2017. No decision regarding this application has been received.

11. In relation to the landmark wall at the dangerous bend at Lisgall on the old N2, will this Council re-examine the possibility of putting in place a crash barrier at this location, given it is the intension of the local community to repair and repaint this wall in the time ahead?

Response:

Statistical data provided by Monaghan County Council shows no accidents occurring at this location in the period 1996 – present. The Municipal District has carried out a visual inspection and has no plans to install a crash at this location.

12. In relation to the access road in to Killanny village (LP-04700) as discussed at the December meeting, will this Council carry out some resurfacing works (non slip surface ) at the roundabout on either side, given the current surface on this roadway is lethal and also given the number of accidents that have taken place at this location ?

Response:

The District Office have reviewed this section of road and are arranging to have scrim testing carried out to determine the skid resistance of the wearing course. This is specialised testing and Monaghan County Council will proceed to procure a contractor to complete the testing.

13. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the Donaghmoynne Rd/Lisanisk Junction as requested by the Lisanisk residents association and as discussed on site with our engineering staff?

Response:

A Low Cost Safety Improvement funding application was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 13th October 2017. No decision regarding the application has been received by the District Office.

14. What is the up to date position in relation to the resurfacing of the small area at Dunard estate in Inniskeen village as requested by the residents association and as discussed by this Council over a long period of time?

Response:

The District Office has procured a contractor and the surfacing of the wearing course will commence in early 2018.

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

15. With the footpath repairs finished on Park Road Drumillard, when will the road repairs in that area commence?

Response:

Consideration will be given to Cllr Crowe's request but will be subject to funding.

16. Will the MD look at improvement works at the pedestrian crossing at the roundabout in Castleblayney with a view to improving the safety aspect of that crossing?

Response:

The District Office will review the junction to determine if advance pedestrian crossing signs are required.

17. When is it envisaged that the upgrade facilities for Drumillard play park will start?

Response:

Funding has now been secured and a contractor is in place to proceed with works.

18. What is the update on the commencement of the footpath at Blackhill Castleblayney and the Old Coach Road?

Response:

The matter of IPB funding has been referred to the CPG and Head of Finance for consideration. No decision regarding the funding has been received by the District Office.

19. When the major scheme of the N2 to south of Castleblayney Bypass commences will the MD keep on its agenda the safety measures for Kinnigin Junction?

Response:

This matter has been forwarded to the Roads Section, Monaghan Co. Council for a response.

## 6. Notice of Motions

### Motion by Cllr. Mc Nally for January 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

“In light of the ever increasing damage that is being caused to central heating systems and domestic appliances in Carrickmacross due to the high levels of lime in the public water, that this MD urgently seek a meeting with Irish Water to discuss ways of reducing same.”

### Motion by Cllrs. Colm Carthy & Noel Keelan for January 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

‘The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District calls on Irish Water to reconsider its position on the process of diluting its ground water supply with surface water in the Carrickmacross Water Treatment Plant in order to try and help reduce the level of lime in the water supply.’

- Both motions were unanimously agreed by all members with the proposal to invite Irish Water representatives to the February Municipal Meeting.

### Motion by Cllr.P.J. O’Hanlon for January 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

“That the Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney calls on the Minister for Transport to reintroduce the block grant system for urban area roads immediately”

- The motion was unanimously agreed

It was proposed by Cathaoirleach McNally and seconded by Cllr O Hanlon and agreed by all

*“That this MD invites Michael Ring TD Minister for Rural Affairs to Carrickmacross and Castleblayney to see at first hand the deplorable state of our county roads”*

## 7. Director of Services Orders

The Directors orders 01 /2018 to 06/2018 attached to the agenda were noted.

## 8. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:

- Ann Conlon and Family on the death of Sean “Chippy” Conlon
- Rose Martin and Family on the death of Oliver Martin
- Mary Dolan and Family on the death of Jim Dolan
- Mc Cluskey Family on the death of Fr. Mc Cluskey
- Hughes Family on the death of Fr. Billy Hughes

Vote of Congratulations were passed with the following:

- Hazel Hughes on her cross country award

## 9. **Any Other Business**

- Cllr. Crowe requested that drainage problems are addressed at Lisdonny Castleblayney.
- Cllr. O' Hanlon requested that the current flashing signage on the N2 remains in place given the fact the bollards are incorrect in colour Cllr O'Hanlon requested the TII to rectify the matter immediately.
- Cllr. Campbell asked for an update on road markings within the Municipal District.
- Cllr Carthy new signage at Lough Muckno requiring dog owners to keep their pets on a lead.
- Cllr. Carthy informed the meeting that "*Cycle against Suicide*" will be in Carrickmacross and asked for the same support as Castleblayney got last year from the Municipal.
- Cllr. Carthy requested green lighting to be displayed on all public buildings in Carrickmacross for St. Patricks Day and also asked the Carrickmacross Photography Club get involved.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked for bollards to be fitted at the new junction at Inver College to prohibit HGVs from mounting the grass.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally requested immediate signage for the Corcrin junction at Lisanisk

Meeting concluded at 13.50 p.m.

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**Cathaoirleach**

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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**Meetings Administrator**