

## Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan

### Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain



## The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney

### Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of MD Monthly meeting held in Carrickmacross Civic Offices on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 11.00am.

**Present** : Cathaoirleach Aidan Campbell

Cllrs. Aoife McCooey, PJ O’Hanlon, Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan, Mary Kerr Conlon

**In Attendance**: Paul Clifford, Director of Service, Damien Thornton, A/District Coordinator, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer, Julieann O’Reilly, Clerical Officer

Cllr. Campbell opened the meeting by expressing sympathy to the family of John Hennessy, past foreman of Castleblayney Town. A minute’s silence was observed before the meeting proceeded.

#### **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. McCooey the minutes of the April Budget Meeting – Public Lighting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. McCooey the minutes of the April Monthly MD meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were adopted.

Cllr. Campbell congratulated all involved with the recent TV Programme about Carrickmacross Workhouse. Cllrs. Keelan and O’Hanlon wished to be associated with these comments.

#### **2.0 Matters Arising**

Cllr. Carthy asked for an update on the rear access lane at Drummond Etra.

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton advised that it is currently at procurement stage.

Cllr. Carthy asked if consideration had been given for a date for a meeting about outdoor seating?

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton stated that no invitations had been sent out as the scheme was only getting up and running.

Cllr. Keelan asked how many applications had come in for this? He also asked if there are any planning issues regarding outdoor seating/awnings.

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton informed the members that 3 queries had been made to Dympna Condra, Tourism Officer about private spaces and approx. 5 or 6 about public spaces.

Cllr. Keelan state that he would hate to be here in September and not to have availed of funding for outdoor seating areas, commenting that there are areas in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney which may be suitable.

Cllr. O'Hanlon also requested an update about holding a special meeting about outdoor seating as spoken about at last month's meeting. Cllr. O'Hanlon asked if someone from MCC can visit Dartry Park to see what it is like.

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton advised that the Outdoor Seating Funding is aimed at businesses and not for picnic areas.

Cllr. O'Hanlon spoke about the closure and re-opening of the LP4900, Magheraclone. He asked if anything had been done regarding speaking to landowners about creating lay byes on the Corrybracken Road?

A/Co-ordinator responded that roads for inclusion under CIS were confirmed last week and this would be investigated as part of the contract.

Cllr. Keelan requested an update on the Carrickmacross – Inniskeen – Dundalk Greenway.

A/District Coordinator Damien Thornton advised that he is currently reviewing the constraints study carried out by Clandillon. A meeting is organised for next week.

### **3.0 Presentation of Draft Litter Plan 2021 – 2023 by Sharon Finnegan**

#### Cllr. Carthy:

Commended Sharon Finnegan and MCC for their work.

Spoke about the "Big Spring Clean" initiative and the invaluable support from the public.

#### Cllr. Keelan:

Commended Sharon Finnegan and all involved in litter management works.

Mentioned the good works of the local Tidy Towns Committees and residents Associations.

Stated that he was very interested in the Solar Bins and Cigarette Bins.

Commented on the huge success of the Deposit and Return Scheme in Carrickmacross.

Stated he would like to see this rolled out nationally sooner rather than later.

#### Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Thanked Sharon Finnegan for her presentation.

Stated that CCTV is a good deterrent to littering and stressed the importance of bringing the small minority of people who are responsible for littering to the court system and issue fines.

Recognised the good works of local groups.

Cllr. McCooey:

Thanked Sharon Finnegan for her presentation.

Commented that it is great to have a plan in place.

Stated that it is hard to believe that people still litter, that the state of some of the country roads is outrageous. Also spoke about the harm littering has on animals / wildlife.

Cllr. Campbell:

Stated that he is looking forward to the draft going out to the public so they can have their say.

Commented that littering seems to be as bad as ever despite all the education being provided in schools.

Sharon Finnegan noted that solar bins are very expensive and that there is more value in buying rather than renting same. She agreed that the Deposit and Return Scheme was a great success. Sharon spoke about how every fine is processed – legal proceedings will be initiated if there is no engagement made with MCC. She stated that the possibility of using overt cameras will be investigated and informed the members that all reports of illegal dumping are investigated.

Cllr. Carthy asked if there is a process in place to deal with those who do not have proper waste disposal methods in place?

She responded that there is a team who deal specifically with this issue and on the spot fines can be issued.

**4.0 Set Date for A.G.M.**

28th June 2021 @ 11am in Civic Offices, Carrickmacross.

**5.0 Correspondence**

I. Response from Breffni House Owners

Cllr. Keelan acknowledged the response.

II. Response from Roads Section re: Park N' Ride Facility

Cllr. Keelan welcomed the response and commented that the key point is that it is viable.

Cllr. Keelan stated that there are a number of landowners interested and requested that the MD investigate same.

III. Letter from Comhaltas Craobh Charraig Mhachaire Rois

IV. Letter from Tuath Housing

Cllr. Carthy asked that the MD make contact to request an update.

**6.0 MD Coordinator Report**

Cllr. Keelan:

Acknowledged the works at the Patrick Kavanagh Centre, commenting that the Poetry Jukebox sounded promising.

Welcomed the detailed design for Main Street and Bridewell Lane (Public Realm Plan).

Stated that the area at the back of BOI would be of excellent use if acquired.

Noted the two-year contract for Verge Maintenance. Commented that he is conscious of the flora and fauna.

Asked if MCC can undertake hedge trimming / works if there is a road safety issue because of overgrown hedges.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Stated that the sooner the Lough Na Glack to Ardee Road walkway is done the better.

Commented that it is vital to link the new CTek 2 area to the town with some form of walkway.

Cllr. McCooey:

Commended the works at the Memorial Garden in Oram.

Wondered if there would be any merit in writing to the Gardaí about the CCTV scheme in Castleblayney?

On the proposal of Cllr. McCooey and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon, it was unanimously agreed *"that the MD introduce a sustainable Christmas Tree in Oram Village to ensure we follow the most environmentally friendly and ethical practices for celebrating Christmas. Planting a tree will ensure we cut the carbon footprint in the village which will also be of benefit to the tidy village group"*.

Cllr. Carthy:

Mentioned Tullynaskeagh and Gallow's Hill. Asked if residents will be sent a copy of proposed plans?

In relation to the Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund, can the natural amphitheatre space created around the bandstand area be investigated?

Areas in Carrickmacross town are in a bad state. Can a Patcher attend same?

Raised the issue of a pedestrian crossing at Rockdaniel Road and Cloughvalley junction.

Cllr. Campbell:

Recognised all the works at the Patrick Kavanagh Centre which has recently re-opened.

## **7.0 Questions**

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for May 2021 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. What is the up-to-date position on the Malodour problem that continues to persist on the Monaghan Road, Castleblayney, and has the council established a plan to deal with it?

Response:-

The following response has been received from *Irish Water* (via Water Services Section, Monaghan Co. Council):

*This query has been assigned to the appropriate department for review and response. Once we receive any update, a member of our team will be in contact with you. Your Irish Water reference number is 35299, which you can keep for your own records. I understand that this issue is a source of concern for you and your constituents, please bear with us while this matter is being investigated.*

2. When is it expected the Dog Park and bandstand for the Convent Avenue, Carrickmacross, will be completed?

Response:-

It is envisaged that the proposed Dog Walking Park shall be substantially complete by the end of Q3 2021. It is intended that the proposed Bandstand/Canopy construct will be completed by the end of Q3/early Q4.

3. This Municipal District previously committed to extending the handrail at the bottom of St Macartans Villas (at the Cross Lane junction); when is it expected this will be done?

Response:-

This work shall be completed following resurfacing works on Farney Street which are provisionally scheduled for completion week ending the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 2021.

4. As discussed previously, will this MD be painting & tidying up the Hope Castle this year?

Response:

There are no plans to paint Hope Castle this year and funding has not been provided for same in the Annual Budget. The MD will seek to maintain the area around the Castle.

5. Will consideration be given, following the significant developments in recent years (housing, group home, CTEK II, Primary Care Centre etc), to adding a pedestrian crossing to the Oriel Road (R179), Carrickmacross, to facilitate increased footfall in the area?

Response:-

MD Engineering staff shall undertake a site assessment to ascertain the necessity and most suitable location for the installation of a pedestrian crossing on the R179 Oriel Rd. Subject to the outcome of this assessment, the proposed scheme shall be included on the Low-Cost Safety Improvement List, for consideration in 2022.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aoife McCooey for May 2021 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. Can the MD provide clarity on camper vans parking at Lough Muckno car park.

- Is it allowed?
- Do you apply for permission? if so how?
- How long can you stay?
- How is this monitored and controlled?

Response:-

The current position in relation to camper vans parking at Lough Muckno car park is as provided for in the following extract from the Lough Muckno Park Bye-Laws 2018, adopted on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May, 2018:-

*“16. Caravans, tents, etc*

- a. No person shall erect any tent or camp in any part of the park or open space save with the written consent of the Council and subject to such terms and conditions as determined by the Council.*
- b. No person shall place or keep any caravan, camper van or dormobile vehicle in any part of the park or open space, save those marked expressly for that purpose, without the written consent of and subject to such terms and conditions as determined by the Council. “*

7. Can the MD provide an update on the application for funding to remove bends on the Oram Road, R182.

Response:-

Roads Section applied for a Specific Improvement Grant for the R182 Oram Road in September 2020. However, no funding was received from DTTAS in 2021. The submissions for 2022 must be submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We will highlight this submission to DTTAS again and re-apply, if necessary, in 2021 to try and progress this scheme.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for May 2021 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

8. With regard to the Market House and Market Square in Castleblayney and the recent work by AP & E in completing the very extensive report on the Market House and Market Square to prepare and deliver a report to identify potential appropriate future uses of the Market House Building and Market Square; with this part of the process complete and the Council demonstrating a commitment to the creation of a community-led redevelopment of the Market House and Market Square and given the fact the funding has been approved by Minister Heather Humphries Office for the next phase.

- Has Monaghan County Council advertised for the next phase of this namely appointing a Design Team?
- What will this entail?
- What timeframe will the design team have to report back to Council?
- What engagement will the design team have with the various groups who took part in the initial report?
- What is the next stage when the design team have concluded?

Response:-

Tender documents for the procurement of Design Team Consultants were uploaded to the Etenders procurement platform on 20/5/21 and tenders are due back by the end of June. Following the tender evaluation process and statutory notification periods it is envisaged that a Design Team will be formally appointed in early August.

It is anticipated that Preliminary Designs for the project will be completed in Q4 2021 and Detailed Designs completed in Q2 of 2022. Part VIII Planning for the project will be submitted in early 2022. The Design Team will be required to engage and consult with relevant stakeholders at appropriate time periods during the planning and design stages of the project. Subject to completion of detailed designs for the project and securing Part VIII Planning Approval, it is intended to submit a RRDF Category 1 funding application to the Department in Q3 of 2022 to progress the project to construction.

9. With the works commenced again on the Gate House at the entrance to the Hope Castle to transform this derelict building into a new state of the art modern library after the closure of the site due to Covid-19, what is the current statue of the works?

Response:-

Construction works on the Gate House recommenced on site on 17/5/21. The Contractor has programmed to carry out the following works over the next couple of months:

- Installation of temporary stability bracing to the Gate Lodge building to facilitate internal clear out, wet/dry rot surveys and underpinning works;
- Demolition of the existing small extension to the rear of the Gate Lodge building;
- Preparation of site works for the new extension.

Council staff in conjunction with representatives of the Design Team will continue to monitor and supervise the construction works and regular progress meetings will be held with the Contractor throughout the duration of the project.

10. In welcoming the recent announcement for funding for the pedestrian crossing at Annyalla beside the school, can the MD outline when this work will commence?

Response:-

The following response has been received from Monaghan Municipal District: This funding is part of the funding allocation for Active Travel from the NTA. The Project Grant Application Form is to be returned to the NTA seeking approval to expend this allocation. The crossing will need to be fully designed and tendered.

It is planned to have the works completed by end of 2021.

11. the easing of restrictions from Covid-19, what is the latest update on the new interpretive displays which have been installed in the Workhouse in Carrickmacross?

Response:-

The new Visitor experience at the Carrickmacross Workhouse opened its doors to the public on 10 May. The Workhouse team opted for a 'soft opening' to allow the guides time to become familiar with the new tour. An official launch of the new experience will be scheduled when restrictions for larger gatherings/events are lifted.

12. What plans has the MD to increase the amount of electric charging points for cars in Castleblayney and in Carrickmacross?

Response:-

Most recently, the MD Executive assessed the feasibility of providing EV charge points in its public car parks in both Castleblayney and Carrickmacross, as a self-funded pilot project. The costings obtained were, and remain, prohibitive. Notwithstanding the incurrance of on-going electricity costs, initial quotations for the installation of 10 No. EV charge points ranged from €100,000 (ex. VAT) for standard AC (Trickle) chargers to €250,000 (ex. VAT) for DC fast chargers. The Municipal District Executive, in collaboration with Monaghan County Council's Energy and Environment Sections, continue to explore feasible options for the delivery of EV charge points in the District.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for May 2021 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

13. What is the up to-date position in relation to the roll out of the bicycle rental scheme for Inniskeen?

Response:-

Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD has received 2 No. expressions of interest in relation to the operation of this scheme. Detailed business plan assessments will be carried out in the coming weeks to determine the most suitable candidate.

14. What is the up to-date position in relation to the provision of safe walking links / footpaths throughout Inniskeen village, including the proposed new pedestrian/cycle bridge over the river fane?

Response:-

As announced on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2021, funding was secured under the NTA's Active Travel Programme 2021 to facilitate the detailed design of a Pedestrian/Cyclist bridge crossing over the River Fane. In line with NTA approval protocols, a Project Grant Application Form is to be submitted to the NTA for ratification, and works are not permitted to commence until this *spend approval* process is completed. Subject to the foregoing, it is envisaged that the project shall commence in Q3 2021.

15. As discussed at the April meeting will the council examine the possibility of putting in place a pedestrian crossing adjacent to St Joseph's cemetery on the Dundalk Road?

Response:-

MD Engineering staff shall undertake a site assessment to determine the appropriateness and feasibility of installing a dedicated pedestrian crossing facility at this location. Subject to the outcome of this process, the proposed scheme shall be included on the Low-Cost Safety Improvement List, for consideration in 2022.



16. When will works commence on the resurfacing of the roadways that are on the road programme for this year 2021, including the roadway at Finnegan's Cross and Drumboat?

Response:-

Road resurfacing works, under the Restoration Improvement Programme, commenced in the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District on Monday the 17th of May 2021. It is envisaged that resurfacing works will be completed on the LT46034 at Drumboat week ending the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 and that resurfacing works will be completed on the LP4630 at Finnegans Cross week ending the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2021.

17. When will works commence on extending and improving our public lighting network in this district including in Lisdoonan village?

Response:-

Design works are currently progressing. It is envisaged that construction works will commence in Q3 2021.

Questions raised by Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon for May 2021 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

18. In relation to the roadworks at are scheduled to be carried out at Castle Street/Main Street and O'Neill Street, Farney Street , what days of the week will the works take place and at what time?

Response:-

The proposed schedule for road resurfacing works on Castle Street/Main Street and O'Neill Street, Farney Street is as follows: -

- *Resurfacing works on Castle Street/Main Street are to be completed at night-time over a 2-week period, 5 nights each week (Mon to Fri), between the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 and the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2021. Works will commence each evening at 7.30pm and will be completed at 7.00am the following morning.*
- *Resurfacing works on O'Neill St will commence on Mon 26<sup>th</sup> July during daytime hours and will provisionally last 4 days.*
- *Resurfacing works on Farney St will commence on Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> of August during daytime hours and will provisionally last 4 days.*

*Works on O'Neill Street and Farney Street will commence on Monday of each week to minimise the risk of leaving uncomplete works over the weekend.*

## 8.0 Motions

After a discussion amongst the members the following motion proposed by Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan was unanimously agreed:

*'This Municipal District calls on the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, the Minister of State at Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and youth, Anne Rabbitte TD, and the HSE to put in place measures to support those who are cared for in their homes, on a full-time basis, whose carer may be incapacitated due to ill-health or emergency; we ask that an emergency response unit be made available (care team/carers) that could be called in to support patients in these circumstances.*

*We also ask that this motion be circulated to all local authorities in the state.'*

The following motion proposed by Cllr. McCooey and seconded by Cllr. Keelan was unanimously agreed:

*"Councillor Aoife McCooey proposes and Councillor PJ O'Hanlon seconds, that Castleblayney - Carrickmacross Municipal District establish a recreation pilot scheme for young people. The proposed scheme will allow young people aged 16-20 living in the district to apply for a €50 voucher which can be spent with our recreation partners who take up involvement in the scheme. It is envisaged that we would have the uptake from local gyms, outdoor adventure centres, golf clubs and swimming pools who would be happy to accept the voucher as part of full payment of a membership or activities at their venue. I propose that the MD seeks the approval of a nominal amount of €5,000 to get the project up and running with the view that we could seek further funding from Government should suitable funding become available. This can be a success here and be rolled out across the county."*

Cllr. O'Hanlon commented that it is important to help young people.

Cllr. Keelan stated that he sees the merit in the motion, but he does have concerns about the age limit.

Cllr. Campbell questioned where the €5000 will come from.

Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that the motion, if passed would be referred to the Youth Officer, Community & Enterprise Section.

On the proposal of Cllr. Campbell and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon the following motion was unanimously agreed:

*"As result of so many more of our community out walking, exercising and using our public parks and open spaces and also bringing their dogs for exercise, the footpaths and public parks are littered with dog foul causing such unwanted litter. This problem has become a scourge.*

*Can the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District along with the Environment Section of the Council look at piloting a campaign to create awareness of the plague of dog fouling by using the paint-on stencils/signs which are spray painted on some of the footpaths around Castleblayney and get the message out that this MD will*

*take whatever action is necessary in an effort to encourage dog owners to take responsibility for cleaning up after their dog.*

*In line with this can the campaign include details of the fines that can be imposed under Section 22 of the Litter Pollution Acts 1997-2009 which requires that a person in charge of a dog shall immediately remove dog faeces from a public place or face an on-the-spot litter fine of €150. The maximum court fine is €3,000."*

Cllr. Keelan asked if any fines for dog fouling have been issued?

Cllr. O'Hanlon commented that is important to acknowledge those that do clean up after their dog.

Cllr. Campbell appealed to dog owners to act responsibly and pick up after their dogs.

The following motion proposed by Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. McCooey was unanimously agreed:

*"Call on Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD to carry out a safety survey at the junction of the Castleblayney Road linking to the Ross Road. Also, carry out a safety survey at the junction of Main Street and Bridewell Lane."*

Cllr. Carthy noted that a design has been done for Ross Road.

Cllr. O'Hanlon clarified that the motion is specifically talking about the junction.

## **9.0 Director's Orders**

Director's Orders 14/2021, 15/2021, 19/2021, 17/2021 and 18/2021 were duly noted.

## **10.0 VOS/VOC**

*Votes of Sympathy* were extended to Margaret Dowling on the death of her son Noel Thompson, Noleen McGahon & Family on the death of Brian McGahon, Paul and Rose O'Neill and Emilia and Daniel O'Neill on the death of Martin O'Neill.

Cllr. Carthy spoke about the contribution Martin O'Neill RIP made to Carrickmacross town.

## **11.0 AOB**

Cllr. Carthy:

Is there an update on the bin for the Donaghmoyny / Culloville Road?

Can signage be placed on the Magheraboy Road as there has been a lot of dog fouling complaints relating to this area.

Can it be confirmed that Doohamlet junction will be added to Public Lighting for future consideration?

Cllr. McCooey:

Can a white line be placed on the Newtownhamilton side of Oram?

The footpaths in Oram are dirty. Can they be washed? Local Tús workers are happy to undertake the work if equipment can be provided.

Cllr. Keelan:

The Famine Graveyard (Bully's Acre) is in an untidy state. Can MCC liaise with Tidy Towns/associated groups to tidy it up and make it accessible.

Acknowledged the works carried out at Magheross graveyard committee.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Acknowledged that the works on Main Street Carrickmacross are taking place at night.

Cllr. Campbell:

Spoke about a road which is flooding at the new Housing estate in Castleblayney.

Requested that the Developers are contacted to rectify the situation before the houses are occupied.

The meeting concluded at 13.10pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Meeting Administrator