

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 the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 24th February 2020 at 11:00am

Present : Cathaoirleach Noel Keelan

Cllrs. Aidan Campbell, Aoife McCooey, PJ O’Hanlon, Colm Carthy, Mary Kerr Conlon

In Attendance: Paul Clifford, Director of Service, Gareth McMahan, District Co-ordinator, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer, Julieann O’ Reilly, Clerical Officer

Cathaoirleach Keelan opened the meeting by congratulating all the local people recently elected to the Dáil and wished them all well.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Carthy the minutes of the January monthly meeting held on Monday 27th January 2020 were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan asked if there has been any correspondence regarding the difficulties in accessing local GP Services?

Staff Officer Amanda Murray advised that there has not.

Cllr. Keelan asked about possibly improving the public lighting in Inniskeen and requested that it is investigated.

District Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan noted that the public lighting meeting was held this morning and agreed.

Cllr O’Hanlon stated that he agrees that it should be investigated.

Cllr. Keelan stated that he is looking for an improvement and requested a report for the next meeting.

Cllr. Keelan requests an update on when works may be completed at Close Drummond and mentions some of the hoarding blew onto a vehicle recently.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that he has spoken to the contractors and there was a hold up.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that he wants to keep CTek II at the fore and wishes to be kept informed. Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that MCC will be applying for funding from Enterprise Ireland.

Cllr. Campbell asked if there was any update on the Rural Regeneration Funding application for the Market House? Also, is there an update on Hope Castle?

Director of Services Paul Clifford stated that funding for the Market House is being applied for to bring it to tender stage. Regarding Hope Castle, this will be discussed at the meeting being held later on. MCC are also applying for funding for The Workhouse, Shercock Road.

Cllr. Campbell voiced his concern about the Market House – he stated he is worried about the time-line, particularly as the building is exposed.

Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that there was a structural report carried out and the building is secured.

Cllr. Carthy spoke about the access lanes and maintenance of the area between Upper and Lower Drummond Etra. Some form of resurfacing is required on the back access of these houses.

District Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that there is an insufficient budget for maintenance of housing estates, however the MD will investigate and try to improve the back lanes in a cost-efficient manner.

Cllr. Keelan asked if the issue of Breffni House on the Dundalk – Donaghmoyne Road can be followed up?

Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that it is in private ownership. MCC will liaise with Tidy Towns about this issue in an attempt to resolve it.

Cllr. O'Hanlon wished to acknowledge the work of MCC in liaising with the committee of The Workhouse. He went on to say he hopes to see more funding for Carrickmacross.

Following on from previous discussion about signage to walking routes, Cllr. Carthy asked if there is an update regarding The Hilly Way?

Director of Services Paul Clifford stated that we will be liaising with Cavan Co. Co. in regard to this.

3.0 Correspondence

No correspondence

4.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

Cllr. Campbell:

How long until CCTV in Castleblayney will be up and running?

Reply – the MD are working on this at the moment. There is a lengthy application procedure.

Is looking forward to seeing the Shaffrey Report.

When will works begin in Oram?

Reply – there is a small over run in costs. The community will come up with the funds to make up the balance.

Cllr. McCooey:

Asked for an update on the Dublin Road re-alignment?

Reply – there is a minor adjustment to be made to the design.

Cllr. Carthy:

Queried if the speed limit in Chapel Lane area can be looked at with a view to reducing it? There is excessive speeding and it poses a danger to the public. Asked that it is included on the Rural Regeneration Scheme.

Reply – this will be subject to the Local Area Action Plan. The speed limit needs to be raised at the Speeding Limit Committee, Roads Section.

Commented that the patching seems to be working well. Noted the Dunanny Road, Donaghmoynne. Part of it is fine however, two parts are constantly patched. Suggested that it may need heavy duty patching.

Queried if there was a discussion with Carrickmacross Tidy Towns in relation to a water feature in the town?

Reply – District Engineer Matthew Lambe met with reps from Carrickmacross Tidy Towns. Bio-diversity projects were discussed and this seemed to be the preferred direction.

Cllr. Keelan:

Stated that the parking bay for buses at the front of the Market House is constantly being used by cars. Remarked that Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce have requested that Traffic Warden visit more frequently.

Reply – the issue is that Carrickmacross and Castleblayney do not have a full time Traffic Warden. Hopefully there may be recommendations from the Parking Strategy.

Welcomed the proposed Public Realm Plan for Inniskeen village.

How long will it take to deal with outstanding pothole repair complaints?

Welcomed the robust approach in dealing with hedge cutting within the MD.

Reply – the MD are getting through the complaints list. Unfortunately, as soon as some are cleared off, new ones are added.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Stated that he is receiving phone calls about roads that are impassable due to flooding.

Asked if the fund that was used a few years ago is still available?

The following proposal by Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. McCooey was unanimously agreed:

“That Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District seek funding from Government towards remedial works on certain roads due to the level of flooding that has taken place over the last number of weeks.”

Cllr. McCooey:

Stated that there is an issue with Castleblayney Town not having a parking strategy.

Cllr. McCooey spoke about issues in the town regarding line markings. Queried if the parking laws can be changed? Suggested a possible public carpark for business people.

Reply – The MD will investigate the current line marking.

Cllr. Campbell:

Agreed that there is an issue with parking on Main Street Castleblayney. Noted that some business owners park their own vehicles on the streets all day which causes other business owners to suffer.

Agreed that an increased Traffic Warden presence would help.

5.0 Consideration of Implementation of HGV Restrictions

Report presented by District Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon and District Engineer Matthew Lambe.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Complimented the report and noted that it is about public safety. Pleased to see the number of signs. Expressed the opinion that decisions to be made regarding vehicle weight etc. to be left in the hand of the engineers.

Noted the importance of letting local businesses know that they will not be inconvenienced and suggested that the MD liaise with Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce and then proceed.

Cllr. Carthy:

Agreed with observations made by Cllr. O'Hanlon.

Stated that there are a number of benefits to introducing this Bye Law.

Suggested a time frame of 2-3 months to allow businesses to get their heads around it and implement in the summertime.

Cllr. Keelan:

Stated that this is the right thing to do in the interest of public safety.

Commented that he is conscious of working with local businesses and the Chamber of commerce. Suggested checking what axles oil delivery lorries are.

Cllr. Campbell:

Queried if there was a specific breakdown of vehicle type from the traffic count on HGV's.

Reply – there was not.

District Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon advised the members that the MD proposes that:

1. Vehicles of 3 axles and greater are restricted
2. No restriction between 5am and 8am
3. Implement in the summer – start of June.

6.0 Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for February 2020 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. Has the MD executive looked at the works required to fix/maintain all the walls along Shirley House lane, Carrickmacross, and are there plans being put in place to resolve the issues?

Response:

This MD at present is in consultation with one of the landowners along a section of walling on Shirley House Lane/Ivy Lane to carry out structural repairs. These repairs are planned to be completed in the coming weeks. Monaghan County Council are the registered owners of the walling on the left-hand side of Shirley House Lane heading away from the Main St and are at present making plans to ensure walling is safe. About the walling on the right-hand side of Shirley House Lane heading away from the Main St, repairs and maintenance to the section of walling is the responsibility of the registered landowners.

2. What is the up-to-date situation with the planned revitalisation of Muckno St, Castleblayney?

Response:-

Monaghan County Council is awaiting the draft report from Shaffrey Architects. This report is now overdue.

3. When is it expected that draft by-laws will be made available for consultation on Chapel Lane speed limits and Farney/O'Neill street parking?

Response:-

This MD has appointed Aecom Consultants to deliver a parking management strategy. It is anticipated that this strategy will be delivered by April 2020. Changes to the parking byelaws will be considered on foot of the findings of this report.

4. Can additional signage/road marking be added to the bus stops at Cloughvalley Playpark and Farney street, that service the Carrickmacross Primary Schools, to help prevent illegal parking at school times?

Response:

This MD recently completed additional road marking on Farney St and extended the Bus Stop Area. In relation to the existing bus stop area at Cloughvalley play area please liaise with the District Engineer to ascertain the extend of the additional requirements.

5. What preliminary works, i.e. costs, timescale etc, have been carried out to establish the viability of putting a barrier around the St Macartans/Convent Lands playground, Carrickmacross?

Response:

In relation to the viability of the installation of a barrier around please the St Macartans/Convent Lands playground in Carrickmacross please liaise with the District Engineer to ascertain the works requirement involved. Following this inspection, the MD engineering Staff can provide costings and a timescale to complete same should project be viable and a budget available.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for February 2020 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. What is the up to date position in relation to the possibility of this Council purchasing some backland sites in Carrickmacross town such as the lands at the rear of the Bank of Ireland and other such sites given that these sites could be very important for the future development and enhancement of our town?

Response:

This MD is currently progressing the appointment of consultants to deliver 2no Local Area Plans for the backlands of Carrickmacross Main St. The outcome of these plans will determine the approach to future land use and land purchase within the subject areas.

7. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of a number of traffic calming measures/ pedestrian crossings in the Carrickmacross -Castleblayney area including the provision of a pedestrian crossing and extra traffic calming measures on the very busy Donaghmoynne regional road?

Response:

With Regarding to the Donaghmoynne Road, this MD carried out a speed survey over a 14 day period and the 85th percentile operating speed on this section of road pavement was registered at 52km/hr which is 2km/hr above the 50km/hr speed limit restriction which is in place. This section of pavement has been placed on the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme list for consideration in 2020 for the provision of traffic calming measures following receipt of this information.

8. In the interest of road/pedestrian, safety what is the up to date position in relation to the provision of proper safe walking routes/footpath links throughout Inniskeen village?

Response:

The Council is in the process of procuring consultants to undertake a Public Realm Plan for Inniskeen, part of the brief for this plan will be to review pedestrian routes through the village. Any works identified as necessary under this plan will be progressed subject to funding.

9. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of a CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross town and its environs in order to detect and, more importantly, to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour?

Response:

This MD office is exploring options for the provision of a CCTV system for the town.

10. As a follow on from “Make Way Day” and those citizens with a disability, what actions will be taken in the time ahead by this Council to improve some outstanding accessibility issues in and around our towns including improving the footpath links on the old Ardee road adjacent to the filling station as one of the items raised by the disability sector?

Response:

Following the inspections carried out with members of the MD engineering staff and Monaghan Integrated Development Community Outreach Officer several issues were identified. It is proposed to carry out repairs to improve the outstanding accessibility issues in the coming weeks.

7.0 Director of Service Orders

Orders 5/2020 and 6/2020 were duly noted.

8.0 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were extended to the following:

Roslyn McMahon & Family and Tommy & Rose McMahon on the death of Shane McMahon and Marie Flanagan & Family on the death of Owen Flanagan.

9.0 AOB

Cllr. Campbell

- Spoke about flooding in the Annadrummon area. People in the area can become trapped due to the flooding. Acknowledged that every road cannot be fixed quickly but this does not help the families involved. Also spoke about flooding in Drumalish and Toome Road. Stated that small money would raise the road to fix the issues.
- Asked if a presentation could be arranged to resolve confusion about the Gates of the Dam.
- Stated that there is no pedestrian crossing at St. Mary’s church in Castleblayney despite it being a dangerous junction and with 2 schools nearby.

Cllr. Keelan

- Wished to highlight the Drumganny Road. Stated he was aware the District Engineer Matthew Lambe has spoken to the OPW.

- Named a number of roads in Carrickmacross which need attention: O'Neill Street, Farney Street and Church Hill.

Cllr. O'Hanlon

- Stated that when the new government is in place that the members should take the lead and get Block Grants re-instated.

Cllr. Carthy

- There are damaged electricity boxes located at Barford Meats. Can the MD make contact with the relevant party to get these fixed.?
- Asked if the layout of the Thursday Casual Trading Stalls can be looked at as at this time of year a lot of the pitches can be empty and cars cannot be parked in these spaces.
- Spoke about the current situation involving the Corona Virus and it unanimously agreed by the members that a letter be sent to the Dept. of Health to ask what plans the state have in case of infection.

Cllr. Keelan spoke about the upcoming Castleblayney Drama Festival on February 28th - March 7th 2020. He wished the organiser every success and encouraged all to support this event.

The meeting concluded at 12:45pm.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator