

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, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 28th September 2020 at 11:20am

Present : Cathaoirleach Aidan Campbell

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

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

Cathaoirleach Campbell opened the meeting at 11:20am and welcomed all.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. McCooey the minutes of the July Roads Area meeting held on Monday 27th July 2020 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. McCooey and seconded by Cllr. Carthy the minutes of the July monthly meeting held on Monday 27th June 2020 were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. McCooey asked for an update on the crash barrier at Oram?

District Engineer Matthew Lambe responded that investigative works are being carried out regarding funding.

Cllr. Keelan welcomed the progression of works at Close Drummond. He voiced safety concerns located at the Ardee Road and stated that he is anxious to have appropriate safety measures put in place.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that he had met with the site foreman and developers recently . Works are progressing to eradicate current safety concerns.

Cllr. Keelan stated that Breffni House remains in a poor state of repair.

Director of Service Paul Clifford responded that MCC will write to the owner to request that they paint / tidy the area.

Cllr. Keelan asked if a joint coach/taxi area can be put in place at Paddy Power’s in town?

District Engineer Matthew Lambe advised that Bye Laws will need to be changed to allow this.

Cllr. McCooey spoke about the on-going problem at the Big Tom area in Castleblayney.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe replied that the clean up of the area is in hand.

Cllr. Campbell advised that a new rota has now been completed for the Traffic Wardens and asked for an update on this.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe stated that the Traffic Warden was in both towns last week and are due to visit once every 2 weeks.

Cllr. Carthy thanked District Matthew Lambe for his many calls regarding the Traffic Wardens. Cllr. Carthy expressed concern about the new public toilet in Market Square stating that he is surprised and disappointed that it does not seem to meet the required standard for disabled access.

District Engineer Matthew Lambe replied that this will be investigated.

Cllr. Keelan stated that he is conscious of the upcoming Christmas period and the need to promote local businesses. Cllr. Keelan proposed and it was agreed by all to set up a meeting with Carrick across Chamber of Commerce and Castleblayney Regeneration to see what can be done to promote the businesses' in our towns. Cllr Keelan queried the possibility of placing an I-board in the town.

Cllr. Carthy welcomed recent grass cutting works on Gallows Hill and asked if a litter bin could be placed in the area. Cllr. Carthy also noted that the play pitch on the Convent Lands is a litter spot and needs to be marked as such.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that he finds it ironic that MCC are charging local businesses to rent signs during these times. Cllr. O' Hanlon proposed, Cllr. McCooey seconded and it was unanimously agreed that:

"a letter be sent to M.C.C. that rent for signs be suspended while the period of Covid Restrictions are in place".

3.0 Correspondence

- (i) Letter from Minister for Education, Norma Foley T.D. regarding the inclusion of Patrick Kavanagh's poetry on the curriculum. Cllr. Campbell welcomed the reply and proposed that the motion is forwarded onto the NCCA working group. Cllr. Keelan seconded and it was agreed by all to do same.
- (ii) Letter from Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport, Eamon Ryan T.D. regarding Block Grants. Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that he takes issue with the response. He suggested that the members should write to local public representatives and include T.D.'s with local roots such as Catherine Martin T.D. and Francis Duffy T.D. so that they are aware of what is happening locally. On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. McCooey it was unanimously agreed to send the following:
"Over the past number of years in both Carrickmacross and Castleblayney approximately €2 million has been lost in relation to Block Grants and that this issue be looked at."
- (iii) Cllr. Keelan noted that he had a motion which was held back at the last meeting until the above response was received. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Keelan, seconded by Cllr. Carthy and unanimously agreed by all:

“That this Council writes to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Mr. Darragh O’Brien T.D. calling for the reinstatement of the block grants to former Town Councils, specifically roads block grants and that we seek the support of the Oireachtas members for this constituency in this endeavour”.

4.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

Cllr. Carthy:

There is lot of illegal parking during school times at the bus stop at Cloughvalley. Is it possible to have signage installed?

Response – Traffic Wardens were on site. More signage would need to be written into the Bye Laws.

There is a portion of road on Farney Street sinking despite previous works.

Response – this will be investigated.

There is a bad bend at a hill near the re-surfacing works near Drumgosset. It drops into a field. Would the MD consider building up an embankment on this corner due to this safety issue?

Response - It is planned to build an embankment.

Have the Community Grants been issued or is there a delay due to Covid-19?

Response – These have been paid.

Cllr. Keelan:

Welcomed progress on the Inniskeen Public Realm Plan.

Is there a timeline for patching repairs on the roads? Are there many outstanding?

Response – We are going through the list presently.

Has the CBGM Pilot Scheme commenced? Is there an update on the Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot Scheme?

Response – The CBGM Pilot Scheme has commenced. It is hoped that works will commence on the Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot Scheme early October.

Commended the M.D. on the hedge cutting programme, the town looks very well.

Cllr. McCooey:

Is there an update on the Castleblayney CCTV Scheme?

Response – It is hoped to send this within the next 7 – 10 days.

Asked for an update on the Market House.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Agreed with Cllr. Carthy’s comments about the safety issue near Drumgosset works.

Asked if there has been any response from Minister Humphreys office regarding a CTEK II building?

Response – There has been no reply to date.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that he believes Carrickmacross is being left behind in comparison to other towns in relation to funding and asked that as much pressure be put on as possible to obtain funding for Carrickmacross.

Cllr. Campbell:

Noted that the bridge at Longfield, Castleblayney is in bad repair.

Response – Repairs will be done by M.D. staff in the coming weeks.

Compliments the works carried out on Main Street, Castleblayney. Some works were not completed in relation to asbestos piping.

Response – This will be investigated.

5.0 Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for September 2020 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. Regarding safe Cycle Lanes for cyclists in Castleblayney and Carrickmacross.
 - a. What is the update from the MD in relations to planning for cycle lanes in Castleblayney to allow cyclists safely?
Can the MD engage in preparing a Cycling Strategy for Carrickmacross and its surround in order to allow for cyclist safety?

Response:-

Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD have recently secured funding under Active Travel Measures 2020 to provide 2 no. cycle lanes in Castleblayney and 1 no. cycle lane in Carrickmacross. Works are proposed to commence in Q4 of 2020.

2. With the recent announcement of funding under Town and Village funding for the provision of Broadband Connection Points in Monaghan.

- (a) What locations in the MD of Castleblayney/Carrickmacross will these BCPs be installed in?

The BCPs that are part of the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD area are as follows:

- Drumgossatt NS
- Corduff-Raferagh Community building
- Mullyash Community Centre

Under the terms of the Town & Village funding, we will be installing equipment for video conferencing and presentations. This will allow community groups to use their facilities for online meetings, online training, and remote working. We will also be installing CCTV and security solutions for the relevant community centres.

- (b) When will this work commence?

Work to deliver broadband to BCPs is expected to be fully completed by the end of the year. Installation work has already been completed at Mullyash community centre.

This work to install dishes for installation is scheduled for week of 28 September in Drumgossatt and Corduff-Raferagh.

Vodafone have been selected as the broadband provider for all of these BCPs. Vodafone have responsibility for delivering broadband connectivity to all BCPs and thir work will be scheduled within weeks of the equipment being installed on these buildings. Vodafone will also be installing equipment to offer free wifi inside and outside the building for all users.

(c) When will they be up and running?

Work to deliver broadband to BCPs is expected to be fully completed by the end of the year.

3. With the WiFi4EU initiative promoting free access to Wi-Fi connectivity in public spaces across the EU. What is the current update for this plan in connecting our communities to this essential service? Where is the proposed works in the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross MD?

Response:

The Wifi4EU scheme is a scheme intended to facilitate the capital costs for providing free public wifi in strategic locations throughout the county. The Wifi4EU scheme will run for three years and is jointly funded by the EU and by Dept. Rural & Community Development. All running costs being paid by the Local Authority. Monaghan Co. Co. has recently concluded a tender process to identify a provider to install broadband and National Infrastructure Systems has been identified as the winning tenderer.

This project is due to commence in October, with completion of the project scheduled for the end of the year, depending on our ability to get suitable broadband connections installed. The following sites in the Carrickmacross- Castleblayney MD are expected to be included following an application and evaluation process at the end of 2019/ early 2020.

- Carrick Community Allotments
- Carrickasedge Community Centre
- Carrickmacross Workhouse
- Cloughvalley Playpark Public Wifi-
- Lisdoonan Recreational & Dev Association
- Lough Egish Community Dev Association
- Patrick Kavanagh Centre
- St Michael's Regional Community Development Ltd, Donaghmoyne
- Castleblayney Public Wifi- Gate Lodge Meeting rooms
- Íontas Theatre & Gallery, Castleblayney
- Oram Development Group

4. When is work due to commence on the Gate House in Castleblayney?

How long will this project take to complete?

Response:-

Monaghan County Council is scheduled to complete formal contract award to the preferred tenderer in early October and subject to the contractor's programme it is anticipated that construction works will commence before the end of October 2020. The project duration is estimated to be 16 months for construction and therefore it is anticipated to be completed in Q1 of 2022.

5. When is the work which is currently ongoing at the Black Island in Castleblayney to upgrade the picnic area at the bridge and also to improve the facilities around at the point and the general area due to be complete?

Response:-

Provision of new seating and recreational facilities at The Point and jetty at Black Island is progressing with completion date week ending the 16th of October.

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

6. Will the MD executive initiate a scheme of house-numbering on Muckno street, Castleblayney, following recent confusion with Emergency services and issues with Eircodes?

Response:

This MD will carry out investigation works regarding this issue at Muckno Street.

7. What is the up-to-date situation with the road markings to Drumillard Housing Estate, Castleblayney and has there been a traffic count carried out to determine whether new ramps are required in the estate?

Response:

Engineering staff completed a speed and traffic count from 10th of Sept to the 18th of September inclusive to ascertain the necessity for traffic calming measures at Beech Drive Drumillard. The Average daily traffic count was 259 vehicles with a 2% speeding violation. Road marking have been examined and will be repainted in the coming weeks.

8. Would the MD executive consider installing some form of signage for the 5no. Walking routes around Carrickmacross (with guided tours by the Drumlin Ramblers) to encourage increased use and improve road safety for those taking part?

Response:

This MD has made an application under the ORIS Scheme for funding to sign the walking routes around Carrickmacross.

9. When is it expected that 'public realm' works will commence throughout the Municipal District?

Response:

The Public Realm for Inniskeen has commenced and at present consultation is being carried out with relevant stakeholders.

Detailed design of Carrickmacross Main St new public realm scheme is progressing, and it is anticipated that it will be delivered in Q4 of 2020.

10. What is the up-to-date situation with the Carrickmacross Dog Park?

Response:

Carrickmacross-Castleblayney is currently seeking funding for the provision of a Dog Park in Carrickmacross.

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

11. In relation to crime prevention and detection what is the up to date position regarding the provision of a CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross town and its environs?

Response:-

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

12. In relation to road safety and the ongoing problem of speeding traffic in Inniskeen village what plans have the Council to put in place extra traffic calming measures including the provision of a pedestrian crossing adjacent to the car park at the reopened Patrick Kavanagh centre?

Response:-

This MD is presently carrying out preliminary investigation works and preparing preliminary designs to ascertain the feasibility of installing traffic calming on the main routes access routes in the Village.

13. What is the up to date position in relation to putting in place traffic calming and extra safety measures at the very dangerous Essexford junction on the very busy Carrickmacross to Dundalk regional route R178?

Response:

This Essexford junction was placed on the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme list for consideration for 2020. Although this area did not receive funding for 2020 a further application will be made again for 2021.

14. Will the Council examine the possibility of improving the visibility and safety for traffic accessing the Donaghmoynne regional route R179 from the local road LS08660 adjacent to the bridge at Rossdreenagh?

Response:-

Engineering staff in the MD have examined this junction and compiled a report complete with estimated costing to carry out works to improve visibility and road safety. This junction has now been placed on the list for consideration of the Low-Cost Safety Improvement scheme for 2021.

15. What is the up to date position in relation to the putting in place of safe walking routes/ footpath links throughout the Inniskeen village area in particular linking up the Kavanagh Centre crossing the river Fane and out to Magee's corner and beyond?

Response:-

This MD has appointed consultants to develop a public realm plan for Inniskeen. Part of the brief for this plan is to address accessibility issues for the village.

6.0 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Votes of sympathy were passed with the following:

To Philomena Carroll and Macartan Carroll on the death of their sister Sonia Mc Cague.

7.0 AOB

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Welcomed the good works done on the District's roads.

Asked how long is left on the CIS Scheme for Magheraclone? Stated there is a need to keep the pressure on to ensure the works are completed.

Reply – It is understood there is one year left however this will be confirmed.

Cllr. Carthy:

Stated that he has received numerous complaints about anti-social behaviour at St. Macartans Tce. Requested that the M.D. implement measures that will make a difference now, such as lighting and signage. Also, liaise with Gardai about patrolling the area.

Reply – the M.D. have already spoken to lighting experts and the Gardai .

Asked that the fencing between Woodvale Estate and Coill An Rí be inspected as it is in a poor state. Can MCC step in to make it safe? Wondered if it could be made a planning requirement that proper boundaries are put in place between new and existing estates. Stated that a yellow box is needed at Magheross and asked that a pedestrian crossing at Magheross and Mullanrory Road, Callan's The Bridge, are put on the list for consideration.

Cllr. Keelan:

Spoke about the recent "Make Way Day".

Noted that a section of pavement is missing on the Ardee Road near the filling station. This type of thing makes a big difference to those with mobility issues.

Reply – this is on the list to be repaired.

Cllr. Campbell:

Asked when the Public Consultation on Cycle Lanes will commence?

Reply – Consultation should commence shortly.

Cllr. Carthy informed the members that the draft survey completed on Make Way Day will be sent to all.

The meeting concluded at 12:30pm.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator