



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of November monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District held in Carrickmacross Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, on Monday 24th November 2014 @ 10:00am.

Present: - Cllrs. Jackie Crowe, Aidan Campbell, Noel Keelan, PJ O Hanlon, Padraic McNally, Colm Carthy

Also in attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Cathal Flynn, Co-ordinator, Amanda Murray, Teresa McGuirk.

Press: - Cianna McNally, the Northern Standard. Martin Shannon, the Anglo Celt. Joe McCabe, Carrick Gazette

Apologies: - John Lennon, Executive Engineer

1. Presentations from

a. Castleblayney Arts & Community Resource Centre (Iontas)

Chairperson Jackie Crowe welcomed Raymond McHugh, Noleen O'Neill and Gina Martin from the Castleblayney Arts & Community Resource Centre - Iontas and invited them to make their presentation.

At the outset Mr McHugh thanked Monaghan County Council for their financial support to date; requested that the centre be included in next year's budget and invited Noleen O'Neill, Manager and Gina Martin, Arts Promotions Officer to make the presentation on the groups behalf.

Ms O'Neill gave a detailed outline of the group's goals, vision, values, energy efficiencies, anchor tenants, benefits to the local community, achievements to date and the threats going forward.

Ms Martin, Arts Promotions Officer explained

- There was huge customer and performer satisfaction with the facility and the performances
- The attraction of new audiences was a major challenge. To this end a new Marketing Assistant had taken up employment recently.
- A sponsorship programme inviting local businesses to place advertisements in brochures was ongoing
- Social media used to promote the centre
- Website recently overhauled to increase on line customers
- In constant contact with the Garage Theatre to ensure no duplication of performances
- There was a lot of competition with other events in towns

- E-newsletter published regularly
- Visual arts programme – availing of exhibition space for local artists
- Patrick Kavanagh Collection on loan from County Museum on display
- Overheads are huge for running of the theatre
- Classes held on various topics
- Main objective for the next 5 years was to maintain the high standard of artistic performances and quality drama

Cllr Crowe thanked the members for their presentation and assured the group of whatever support the council could address. Municipal District members all in turn acknowledged the work of the centre committee and its volunteers and all wished to be associated with this.

Cllr O’Hanlon proposed that the group prepare a detailed business plan and seek an urgent meeting with the new Minister for Arts.

In reply to queries from Cllr McNally, members were informed that

- Funding of €7m was secured to provide the centre
- The Iontas Board and the Castleblayney Trust were currently handling a debt of €700k which would take some years to clear
- There was no difficulty in getting acts to perform – there was a difficulty in getting the audiences to attend; theatre going not high on people’s agenda especially during difficult economic times
- Unlike the Garage who have the ETB for support the Iontas needs to seek support; from Monaghan County Council for example
- In consultation with the council’s Arts Officer the committee have made representations to the Arts Council for the fair distribution of annual funding.

Members were informed that the centre could cater for meetings and were encouraged by Mr McHugh to hold a full County Council and / or a Municipal District monthly meeting in the Iontas.

In conclusion Cllr Crowe thanked the committee for their time and assured them of the council’s support. The committee then left the meeting.

b. Presentation by Muckno Mania Festival Committee

Cllr Crowe welcomed Muckno Mania Festival Committee Members Finbar Carville, Barry McCluskey, Una McGuinness, Tommy Maguire (chair) and invited them to make their presentation.

At the outset Mr Maguire thanked Council for opportunity to give presentation on the Muckno Mania festival which is organised and run annually by a team of volunteers. Mr Maguire then outlined some of the activities, workshops, events and organisation which go into the running of annual festival pointing out that it brought an economic benefit to the town of Castleblayney.

With an approximate spend of €50k to run the event the committee were now seeking the support of the council in the amount of €10k.

Cllr Crowe thanked the Muckno Mania Committee for their presentation Municipal District and assured them of the support of the council. The members all in turn acknowledged the work of the committee, wished them well for the future and assured them of whatever support they could give.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of October 2014 meeting

Due to the overrun of allotted time for presentations Cllr McNally proposed that any future presentations be made at end of meeting – council business should take precedence. This was seconded by Cllr Crowe and agreed by all.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Carthy the minutes of the meeting held on 28th October 2014 were adopted.

3. Matters arising

Cllr Keelan asked that the serious flooding on the Lough Egish Road be addressed in the coming weeks.

Cllr McNally proposed that an advertisement seeking suggestions from the public to name the link road between the Ballybay Road and the roundabout leading to the Carrickmacross bypass be put in place.

In reply to a query members were informed that no reply had been received to date from Irish Water. However Mr Flynn had contacted their Cavan Offices and was informed that the query had been referred to Irish Water in Dublin.

4. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from:

1. Kate Beagan, Artist seeking permission to hold an exhibition in the foyer of the Civic Offices in Carrickmacross for the month of December 2014. Cllr O’Hanlon proposed that the council approve the request. This was seconded by Cllr Keelan.
2. Mr Brendan Smith TD regarding the provision of broadband in County Monaghan and for dental services in Castleblayney. Following a discussion Cllr Crowe proposed that the council write to Minister of State, Kathleen Lynch asking for the provision of a dental service in Castleblayney at least once a month. In seconding Cllr Crowes proposal Cllr O’Hanlon added that the council also write to Minister Humphreys and the local TD’s seeking a meeting with them and Minister Lynch to discuss the issue. This was seconded by Cllr Crowe.
3. Ms Heather Humphreys TD including attachment from HSE re dental services
4. Ballybay Clones Municipal District and Dublin City Council in support of our Notice of Motion for grant scheme for listed buildings
5. Letter received from Mr Alan Kelly, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources regarding the provision of broadband in the county. A discussion followed regarding the need have good quality broadband in the interest of economic development of the county. Cllr McNally proposed that the council seek a meeting with Minister White to discuss the provision of broadband. This was seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon.
6. Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce & Industry seeking permission to hold the Christmas Market at the end of November and to erect the festival stage in front of the courthouse for the switching on of the Christmas Lights. Cllr Carthy proposed that the council approve the request. This was seconded by Cllr Keelan.
7. Carrickmacross Baptist Church seeking permission to hold a charity fundraiser for Carrick Cancer on Main St. The approval was proposed by Cllr O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr Keelan

5. Consideration of Coordinators Monthly Report

Mr Flynn at the outset informed members that the Tourism strategy was currently under review and invited each member to complete the online survey.

Mr Flynn then went through his report in detail.

Items raised by members following Coordinators Report

Cllr McNally

- asked that traffic restrictions at Bree be reviewed to allow cars pass through following the realignment works on the N2 at Castleblayney
- could Magheross Graveyard be left open to the public during part of the day
- welcomed the sign cleaning / clearing programme and road patching
- asked when works would commence on the Clough Valley play park

Cllr Campbell

- Asked when the proposed gate dividing the industrial estate from the new junction on the N2 at Castleblayney would come into operation. Mr Flynn agreed to seek clarification from the Roads Section.

Cllr Crowe

- Thanked Mr Flynn for his report and the engineer, John Lennon for his input on the works at Bree

Cllr Carthy

- commended the works being done in the district especially the removal of the trees at Valley Close
- Proposed that any consultant appointed to undertake the Cycle Strategy would hold discussions with the Carrickmacross Cycle Club and the schools in the town. This was seconded by Cllr Keelan

Cllr O'Hanlon

- Asked that any future road works in the town would be carried be completed by 1st September each year to reduce the disruption to commercial businesses in the run up to Christmas
- Complimented the recent presentation on invasive species in Lough Muckno by Dr Joe Caffrey, pledging the councils assistance to deal with any issues

Cllr Keelan

- Commended Mr Flynn on his open and transparent report
- Asked that a report be prepared for the next meeting detailing the number of recent flooding instances and what could be done to prevent them
- Welcomed the dispatch of road patching crews

Cllr Campbell

- Complimented the installation of the ramps in Bree
- Acknowledged that Lough Muckno was the only one with no invasive species – important to work to keep it free from same

Director of Services, Paul Clifford in reply stated that

- Magheross Graveyard would be open to the public as much as possible while also taking into consideration the need to protect this heritage site.
- Flooding and drainage is the responsibility of the Office of Public Works – requests to deal with flooding will be dealt with on the basis of priority and budget available
- The Council were currently seeking planning permission for refurbishment works on the Carrickmacross Market House in order to be ready when funding agencies open for applications

6. Consideration of members to sit on the following committees

a) Budget Sub Committee

Cllr Keelan proposed that all six members of the Municipal District would sit on the Budget Sub Committee. This was seconded by Cllr Crowe and agreed.

Cllr Campbell asked that records are checked to find out who the members of the Castleblayney Twinning Committee were so that a meeting could be arranged with the Committee. In supporting same Cllr Carthy requested that it be integrated in with the Carrickmacross Committee.

7. Notices of Motion

None

8. Questions

The Following questions were asked by Cllr. Crowe

When is it expected that the two public lights intended for Aisling Grove Castleblayney will be installed.

Response: Three public lights (3 x 6m LED Columns) for Aisling Grove will be provided in January. The civil works will be completed by direct labour and the lights will be provided by Airtricity Utility Solutions. The lights are ordered. However, there is a 10 week delivery time with the order.

When will repairs to the Frankfort Bridge at Annyart commence. Will the Municipal Council consider putting a crash barrier along the front of the bridge after repairs?

Response: The District Office will investigate the possibility of installing a crash barrier along the north parapet wall of the Frankfort Bridge. Repairs to the damaged parapet wall will commence in the coming weeks.

What is the situation in regards to Castleblayney Christmas Lights this year? Will the Municipal Council be the responsible body in erecting the lights and when is it envisaged that this will happen.

Response: Christmas lighting installation will commence in the week beginning 24th November 2014.

Will the Municipal District Council consider the installation of public Lighting at the junction of the upper Bree and Knocktornagh roads? This area is a very bad black spot and one light is needed to improve safety.

Response: Funding for public lighting is exhausted for 2014. However, consideration will be given to this proposal in the 2015 budget allocation.

When will the traffic calming measures to be provided for Oram Village be installed?

Response: The new traffic calming measures in Oram Village will be completed within the coming days.

The Following questions were asked by Cllr. McNally

Will this Council ensure that all signage where needed will be washed and cleared of overgrowth?

Response: Yes. The Municipal District Office will assign a crew dedicated to sign cleaning and maintenance over in December and January.

The Following questions were asked by Cllr. Carthy

Will the Council liaise with the OPW and ESB with a view to getting the River Lagan cleared where it crosses the main Carrickmacross/Kingscourt road in Magheraclone? This part of the river has not been cleared in recent times due to power lines passing overhead.

Response: The Municipal District office will request a meeting with the Office of Public Works and ESB Networks to address the issue raised.

Will the Council liaise with Irish Water to ensure the water supply in Carrickmacross, specifically in the Lisanisk part of the town, is in an acceptable state for consumption?

Response: Yes. The Municipal District will request confirmation from Irish Water that the water supplied to the town is in compliance with the Drinking Water Regulations.

Can the council add the Donaghmoynne road leaving Carrickmacross (approx. 1 km from the town outwards) to the list of roads to be resurfaced in the near future?

Response: A meeting to discuss 2015 road restoration improvement programme will be arranged with the elected members in the coming weeks. The Municipal District Office will consider Cllr. Carthy's proposal in conjunction with the existing three year rolling road restoration programme.

The Following questions were asked by Cllr. Keelan

1. *What is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of safety measures at Drumgossatt National School, including the putting in place of a safety railing, as discussed with school management some time ago?*

Response: There is no provision in the 2014 budget to implement Low Cost Safety Improvements at Drumgossatt National School. An application to fund new safety measures has been made under the 2015 Low Cost Safety Improvement programme.

2. *In relation to Lisdoonan Village, will this Council ensure that the road markings are upgraded in and around the village, especially adjacent to the school, as I requested some time ago and can the possibility of extending the public lighting network out to the old Hibernian Hall also be considered?*

Response: The District Office will inspect the road markings in Lisdoonan and consider an extension, subject to funding, of the public lighting to the old Hibernian Hall in Lisdoonan Village.

3. *What is the up-to-date position in relation to the upgrading of the signs and lines at Blackstaff National School, including the provision of Driver Feedback Signs, as discussed with school management some time ago in the interest of road safety?*

Response: There is no provision in the 2014 budget to implement the above upgrades at Blackstaff National School. Consideration will be given to road safety improvements at Blackstaff National School in the 2015 work programme.

4. *Will this District Council contact Water Services requesting information in relation to the very high levels of lime in the drinking water, particularly in the Lisanisk area of Carrickmacross town; has this situation developed as a result of Spring Lake not being used as a water supply source anymore?*

Response: The matter will be referred to Irish Water and a response circulated at the December's meeting of this Municipal District.

5. *In relation to the ongoing provision of public lighting on the Inniskeen Road extending out to the Inniskeen Grattans GFC grounds, when is it hoped to have this work completed including the provision of public lighting at the entrance to the GAA grounds?*

Response: The District Office has procured seven new public lights for the Inniskeen Road. The installation of these lights will commence in the coming weeks.

- no. lights will be installed at Grattan's GFC football grounds and

- 2 no. Lights at “Lennon’s”.

9. Director of Services Orders

- 07/2014 - Appointment of Contractor – Project Supervisor Construction Stage – R180 Ballybay Road, Carrickmacross, footpath repair.
- 08/2014 - Appointment of Contractor – Project Supervisor Construction Stage – Farney/Main Street/Castle Street Junction.
- 09/2014 - Appointment of Lagan Asphalt Ltd., LP 7850 Upper Bree, Castleblayney, LT785201 Bree First, Castleblayney, LS8520 Cross Street, Carrickmacross, LT85201 St. Joseph’s Terrace, Carrickmacross, R927 Main Street, Carrickmacross including Market Car-Park.
- 10/2014 - Appointment of S. Wilkin & Sons Ltd., LP7850, Upper Bree, Castleblayney.
- 11/2014 - Appointment of NC Plant Hire, LT88202, Nure Beg, Carrickmacross.
- 12/2014 - Appointment of Lagan Asphalt Ltd., LT88202, Nure Beg, Carrickmacross.
- 13/2014 - Appointment of Patrick Hamilton & Sons, Market Square, Castleblayney.
- 14/2014 -Appointment of Lagan Asphalt, R927, Castleblayney Road, Carrickmacross, LP4931 Mullinary Road, Carrickmacross, LP4008 Mullinary Street, Carrickmacross.

10. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

The following votes of sympathy were passed. A minutes silence was observed with all present standing.

- Ann + Philip McDermott, Dunogue, Carrickmacross on the death of Julia Kelly (Ann’s Mother)
- Peter & Mary Kelly, Dunanny Carrickmacross on the death of Julia Kelly
- Joey + An Blair & Family, 5 Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross on the death of their daughter Sharon Blair
- Emma Blair, c/o 5 Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross, on the death of her mother Sharon Blair
- Geraldine McNally, Beech Drive, Carrickmacross on the death of her uncle Michael Hand
- Mrs Vera Ross, Hilgrove, Mullinary, Carrickmacross, on the death of her son Patrick
- Monica Lynch, Castleblayney Road, Carrickmacross on the death of her husband Peadar
- John McClory & Family, Drummerlough, Magheraclone on the death of his wife Ann

The following votes of congratulations were passed –

- The Farney Players on their latest successful play ‘Wanted – One Body’

11. Any Other Business

Cllr Campbell

- Informed the meeting that notice had been issued of the pending closure of the Ulster Bank in Castleblayney and proposed that the council write to bank asking them to reconsider their decision. This was seconded by Cllr Crowe
- Invited members to get involved in Castleblayney Faughs 5K run on Sunday 30th November

Cllr McNally

- In supporting Cllr Campbell’s proposal added that we ask the bank to retain the ATM in the town at the very least
- Proposed that the council write to Minister Alan Kelly appealing for legislation to be introduced so that no local authority should be asked to collect any debts incurred by council tenants in arrears with Irish Water for more than 12 months. This was seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon

- Requested that a list of improvements undertaken in the Fiddler's car park be provided for the next meeting
- Requested that the alignment of the Crossmaglen Road be reviewed as it was difficult for two lorries to go by each other on this road.

Cllr Keelan

- Asked that flooding in the Ascail Dubh on the Donaghmoyne Road be dealt with as soon as possible. Water was running onto the estate from a private site. Additional drainage would be required on the Donaghmoyne Road.

Cllr O'Hanlon

- Complimented Engineer, John Lennon on his swift handling of the flooding in this estate
- Asked that a 'Cars Only' sign be erected at the Bridewell Lane / Main St junction
- Requested that the process for awarding contracts be changed so as to award contracts to local companies in the interest of increasing local employment levels. This prompted a detailed discussion regarding the possibility of including a social clause in all tender/contract documents. It was agreed to check what can be done in this regard.

Next month's meeting – Cllr Crowe proposed that the venue be changed to the Iontas Centre in Castleblayney. This was seconded by Cllr Campbell and agreed. The date and time for the next meeting was changed to Friday 19th December 2014 @ 9.30am in Iontas Castleblayney.

The meeting concluded at 1pm

Cathaoirleach.

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____