

# 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 Office, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 at 10.00am.

**Present:** Cathaoirleach PJ O’Hanlon

Cllrs. Aoife McCooey, Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan, Aidan Campbell.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Mary Kerr Conlon

**In Attendance:** Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Damien Thornton, A/District Coordinator, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, Michelle Boyle, Staff Officer, Julieann O’Reilly, Assistant Staff Officer, Sarah Moore, Clerical Officer

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

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. McCooey, the minutes of the April 2022 monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2022, were adopted.

#### **2.0 Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

#### **3.0 Correspondence**

i. Email of acknowledgement from Meath County Council re: Ballyhoe Lake Access  
Cllr. Carthy welcomed the response. Looks forward to their detailed response.

ii. Letter from B.O.I. re: ATM

Cllr. Carthy commented that he won’t argue with the statistics but noted that he has received numerous calls advising that the ATM’s in Carrickmacross are not working. He welcomed the extensive response from BOI and hopes to receive similar from AIB. Cllr. Carthy stated that he is conscious of the upcoming Carrickmacross Festival over the June bank holiday weekend.

Cllr. O’Hanlon suggested that an invitation be extended to BOI to attend a meeting to discuss the matter further. He also stressed the importance of it working over the bank holiday weekend.

iii. Letter from Dept. of Transport re: R182, Oram Road

Cllr. McCooley welcomed the response and stated that the onus is on the Municipal District to submit applications for funding. Cllr. McCooley commented that it is a very dangerous road and she is glad to see a survey will be carried out on the crash barrier.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that there is too much power concentrated in Dublin. He commented that the Irish Local government system is the weakest in Europe and went on to say that the only country worse than Ireland is Moldova! Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that he hopes that more power will be given to Local Government. He also wished to note that MCC can only work with the funding they receive. Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that the funding we receive for roads is a disgrace and that he will continue to fight for proper funding.

Cllr. Campbell stated that this road needs to be kept on the agenda. It is not safe at the moment – funding needs to be sourced to make it safe.

Cllr. Keelan supported the call for increased funding for roads and commented that a major injection of money is needed to get roads up to standard. Cllr. Keelan commented that he will continue to lobby for same. Cllr. Keelan stated that Minister Ryan seems to be “out of tune” with regard to rural issues.

iv. Letter from Tuath Housing

Cllr. O'Hanlon wished to note the comment in the letter about District Engineer Matthew Lambe, clarifying that it is regarding safety concerns.

Cllr. Carthy commented that the proposal from the developer is not exactly what the project set out to do. He acknowledged that Tuath Housing and the Developer met on request of the Elected Members. Cllr. Carthy stated if Tuath Housing and the Developer come to an agreement, it has to be welcomed. As a Local Authority, it cannot be countenanced that the site be allowed to fall into disarray. Cllr. Carthy stated that if an agreement is made, he hopes to see the site works concluded asap.

Cllr. Keelan commented that the Elected Members seem to have made a difference to the project. He stated that he has concerns about a number of properties being sold to private occupants, noting that there is a huge waiting list for social housing in Carrickmacross. Cllr. Keelan welcomed the progression and advised that there needs to be a watchful eye kept on the situation. Cllr. Keelan opined as to whether the District Engineer, Matthew Lambe might wish to comment on the safety concerns and poor aesthetics of the site.

Cllr. Campbell welcomed the letter. He wished to put on record his thanks to Tuath housing.

Cllr. Campbell wished to make it clear that the problem lies with the developer not being able to honour the contract in place – Tuath Housing are not to blame.

Cllr. O'Hanlon reiterated that the issue does not lie with Tuath Housing. Cllr. O'Hanlon commented that the situation is not what was agreed or wanted. People will remain on the housing list because houses will potentially be sold to the private market. Cllr. O'Hanlon wondered what is Plan B if nothing happens? He stated that the issue needs to remain on the agenda.

Cllr. Keelan agreed with this statement.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that the Elected Members need to push the Developers, East Coast Estates Ltd. to progress the site. He wondered if there will be changes to Planning

requirements and what is the time span? Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that we will need to see what the final situation is between Tuath Housing and East Coast Estates.

A/Municipal District Co-ordinator Damien Thornton advised the members that there was a miscommunication in the letter. At no stage, has the District Engineer or any of the Engineering team communicated/confirmed their satisfaction that the Health and Safety concerns have been resolved and certainly did not state that there were no further concerns.

Cllr. Keelan commended the Municipal District Staff for keeping on top of this issue.

Cllr. O'Hanlon proposed sending a letter to East Coast Estates Ltd, requesting that a safety audit is carried out on the site/estate. If not furnished to the members within a few weeks, the Municipal District should organise a safety audit and forward the costs of same to East Coast Estates Ltd.

Cllr. Campbell clarified that it seems that East Coast Estates Ltd were saying to Tuath Housing that all is ok regarding safety, when this was not the case at all.

Director of Service Paul Clifford advised that MCC are reluctant to engage in contractual issues between Tuath Housing and East Coast Estates Ltd. MCC will engage with regards safety concerns. He suggested that a letter can be written to East Coast Estates expressing concerns about the safety of the site. MCC will carry out an assessment when the resources are in place to do so.

Cllr. Carthy suggested that a response letter is sent to Tuath Housing in terms of the statement made by the developer to Tuath Housing and to also enquire if they have received a proposal from the developer.

Cllr. O'Hanlon commented that he believes that a proposal will not be made within a few weeks. He suggested that the best course would be for MCC to assess the safety concerns and asked the Executive how long it would take to receive the result of such an assessment. Director of Service Paul Clifford advised that it depends on the situation. He also stated that a letter can be written to Tuath Housing in the coming weeks asking if they have received a proposal from the developer.

#### **4.0 MD Co-Ordinator's Report**

##### Cllr. Carthy:

Stated that the Dundalk Road, Carrickmacross is very overgrown. Cyclists are cycling on the footpath at speed. Is there an Active Travel scheme for this location?

Reply – There is a proposed Active Travel Scheme. It is currently at design phase. The scheme is being delivered centrally by the Active Travel Team.

Requested that an update on all Active Travel schemes be provided in the next MD Co-Ordinator's Report.

Asked for an update on a live streaming webcam for Castleblayney.

Reply - Feedback from MCC Data Protection Officer indicates there may be GDPR issues. The webcam in Carrickmacross is not in the ownership of MCC – it is run by Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce.

Cllr. Carthy stated that he cannot understand this as there is no record/playback function.

Cllr. Campbell:

Stated that he is glad to see Castleblayney Community CCTV progressing.

Requested an update on The Ridge and The Gate Lodge. Are both on target?

Reply – The Ridge remains on target for completion by the end of Q3. The Gate Lodge is due to be completed in Q4 2022. It is intended that the facility shall be officially opened in early 2023.

Cllr. McCooey:

Can the Md provide a start date for this year's Roads Programme?

Reply – unable to do so presently.

Stated that cycle lanes in other counties are showing as having a negative effect on biodiversity. Can this be taken into account regarding cycle lanes within the district?

Reply – Active Travel Schemes are progressed in line with the NTA's Project Approval Guidelines which provides for the consideration of environment impacts.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Asked for an update on CTek II.

Reply – It is hoped that a Letter of Intent shall issue within the next few weeks.

Expressed frustration at GDPR issues regarding a live streaming webcam.

Requested an update on Lough Na Glack walking trail.

Reply – It is hoped this will be completed by the end of next month.

Can it be confirmed at the next meeting if there is a 25% reduction this year compared to last year regarding the CIS scheme.

Cllr. Keelan:

Asked that all is done in our power to acquire the piece of land at the back of the BOI in Carrickmacross. This is an opportunity that should not be missed.

Spoke about CCTV, noting that a lot of crime is detected using it. Expressed frustration at problems due to GDPR but acknowledged the MD Co-ordinator and staff for pursuing the issue.

## **5.0 Questions**

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for May 2022 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. When is it expected a Civic Reception will be facilitated to honour the Carrickmacross Emmets Rounders Team on winning the All Ireland Championship 2020 (final held in 2021 and Civic Reception agreed by MD Members shortly afterwards)?

Response:

Pending the consideration of the Municipal District Elected Members, it is hoped that a Civic Reception, to recognise such achievements, be arranged for some point in early to mid Q3 2022.

2. What is the up-to-date situation with the proposed footpath for the Lurgans Hill, Carrickmacross, and when is it expected that works will commence?

Response:

The detailed design of this scheme is complete. There are ongoing negotiations with landowners and on completion of these negotiations this Council will proceed to tender. On receipt of tenders and the appointment of an approved contractor works will commence. The works are expected to take 8-10 weeks from appointment of the contractor.

3. When is this year's MD Lighting programme expected to begin and can the executive confirm when footpath repairs in Castleblayney and Carrickmacross will commence?

Response:

The Municipal District Executive is currently preparing a lighting design for the adopted 2022 Lighting Programme. On receipt of this design, a programme of works shall be compiled. It is envisaged that footway repairs in the district will commence week beginning the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2022.

4. Has the Executive sourced any other stream of funding that would allow us to progress the Rahan's Lake slipway?

Response:

The MD Executive intend to apply for funding, towards the development of angling/boating facilities at Rahan's Lake, under the 2022 Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme.

5. Has the Executive been given any update on my previous request to install a live-streaming web cam to Castleblayney (note: this service is offered on both Monaghan Town and Carrickmacross websites)?

Response:

Under GDPR, the council is a Data Controller and must have a lawful basis to process personal data. Installing a live-streaming Web Cam in Castleblayney is considered processing personal data and there is currently no lawful basis for the Council as a public authority to carry out this function. Monaghan County Council is currently reviewing the Web Cams in place in Monaghan Town and Carrickmacross Town.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for May 2022 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. What progress if any has been made in relation to the roll out of the bicycle rental scheme for the Inniskeen area given that the tourism season is underway?

Response:

Discussions with a prospective Operator are at an advanced stage. It is hoped that the scheme will become operational in June 2022.

7. What is the up to date position in relation to moving forward with the implementation of the public realm plan for Inniskeen village , including the provision of safe walking routes throughout the village area and across the river fane , out to Magee s corner and beyond given that this is the number one priority for the local residents and community organisations Including the very active tidy towns committee ?

Response:

The Inniskeen Village Public Realm Spatial Plan formed the basis of a successful funding application, under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, to enhance the Public Realm, Heritage and Amenity of the Village Heart and St. Mary's Space areas in the Village. The MD Executive are currently advancing the procurement of design consultancy services to progress the scheme to construction tender stage. Subject to securing any necessary statutory consents, it is hoped to commence construction in Q4 2022. These works shall include for the enhancement of pedestrian facilities at these locations.

Likewise, under the Active Travel programme, Monaghan County Council secured funding for the detailed design of dedicated pedestrian and cyclist facilities at the River Fane bridge crossing. It is envisaged that a design consultant shall be appointed within the coming weeks to progress this element.

Using the Plan as a basis, the MD Executive shall continue to explore all potential sources of funding to progress the various interventions identified in the Plan.

8. In relation to the access roads into our village areas including Corduff , Killanny, Lisdoonan , Donaghmoyne for example which are all in need of some upgrading and resurfacing , will the council examine all funding opportunities such as the Town and village renewal scheme , Clar funding and active travel in order to carry out these much needed improvement works ?

Response:

Taking account of eligibility criteria, the Executive shall continue to actively pursue all potential sources of funding towards the rehabilitation of the public road network, including the public access roads into Village areas.

9. Will the council examine the ( blind junction ) on the approach road ( L45102 ) to Donaghmoynne village at the access route into Mannan castle golf club with a view to carrying out much needed safety improvement works at this location , given the very high volumes of traffic visiting this fantastic community facility ?

Response:

The access route to Mannan Castle does not form part of Monaghan County Council's Road Schedule. This Municipal District will examine the approach road and road arms off this junction, that form part of the roads schedule.

10. What funding is available for the public lighting programme in the Carrickmacross /Castleblayney municipal district area, what works is it hoped to complete this year 2022?

Response:

The adopted Public Lighting Programme budget for 2022 is €13,333. The proposed location of works is at Mullinary Rd, adjacent to the LP4930, from the Lurgan Hill Junction to Derryolam Junction at the R178 Shercock Road.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aoife Mc Cooney for May 2022 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

11. Can the MD provide an update on the electricity outlet we agreed to put in place at the Lough Muckno bridge in November?

Response:

The Municipal District Executive is liaising with the ESB regarding the viability of providing an electricity outlet at the Lough Muckno bridge. On receipt of costings for supply, all associated civil engineering works and future standing charges, the Municipal District Executive will examine in full the feasibility of the proposal.

12. Can the MD provide an update on the progress of the feasibility study being carried out on the stand-alone walking route for Mullyash, as part of the funding awarded for the Monaghan way?

It is envisaged that the formal appointment of Design Consultants to progress the Scheme shall be concluded within the coming week. The preferred Tenderer's **Services Proposal** provides for the initiation of the feasibility study into a potential stand-alone loop at Mullyash in early Q3 2022.

13. Can the MD provide an update on road safety schemes for the R182 Oram Road? In particular, funding opportunities to reinstate the crash barrier

Response:

The proposed road safety works on the R182 in Oram village, funded under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme 2022, will be completed in conjunction with planned surface overlay works. These works are scheduled for completion in Q3 of this year. The MD Executive has organised a Road Safety Audit to be completed in the vicinity of the crash barrier site.

## 6.0 Motions

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

*"That the Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney provide a piece of ground for the Carrickmacross Darkness into Light Group to plant a tree yearly and that petitions are buried with the tree each year".*

Cllr. O'Hanlon complimented the people who participated in the walk, Cloughvalley Stores who provided refreshments afterwards and the committee who organised the walk. Cllrs. McCooey, Carthy, Keelan and Campbell concurred with these comments.

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

*"That Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District write to the Court Services in relation to their plans for the Court House in Carrickmacross going forward and for an audit to be done on the building, making sure it is in good condition".*

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that he had reason to believe that there are issues with this building and is concerned it may fall into disrepair. Cllrs. Campbell and Keelan both voiced their concerns about possible issues with the buildings and stressed the importance of dealing with same. Cllr. Carthy commented that such a building cannot be allowed to fall asunder. Cllr. McCooey wished to be associated with these comments. Cllr. O'Hanlon also stated that if a response is not received, the matter will be forwarded to all local representations.

## 7.0 Directors Orders

Directors Orders numbers 19/2022; 20/2022; 21/2022; 22/2022; 23/2022; 24/2022; 25/2022; 26/2022; 27/2022; 28/2022; 29/2022; 30/2022 and 31/2022 were noted.

## 8.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to Gary and Olivia Byrne & Family on the death of Aoibhe Byrne and Paddy Rafferty & Family on the death of Rosemary Rafferty.



## 9.0 AOB

### Cllr. McCooey:

It was agreed last year to seek funding for a dual language map for Castleblayney.

Can this be investigated?

Reply – Director of Service Paul Clifford advised that it is not a question of financial resources. MCC are actively trying to source a translator.

Offered to help source a translator and provide MCC with contact details.

### Cllr. Keelan:

The access roads to Donaghmoyne village have fallen into disrepair – can this be investigated?

Spoke about a recent letter published in The Northern Standard regarding the difficulty accessing GP services in Carrickmacross. Cllr. Keelan acknowledged the many GP's who have provided services in Carrickmacross over the years and also those who stepped up during the Covid-19 pandemic. On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, the following was unanimously agreed:

*“That this District Council write to the Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly TD, and to the Department of Health and to the Oireachtas Members for this constituency requesting they do all in their power to address the shortages of GP's in Carrickmacross town and across this constituency. That the letter published in the Northern Standard dated 19/5/22 from the Carrickmacross GP Practice be forwarded to the above Reps, Department and also a copy of the letter to the local GP Practice.”*

### Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Suggested that in the coming months, our national representatives should be invited to discuss various current issues, including the accessing of GP services. He stated that it is vitally important that all work together.

### Cllr. Carthy:

Noted the new Health Care building in Carrickmacross and stated that members must do all they can with regards to the difficulties people have accessing GP services in Carrickmacross.

Spoke about the patching process that was in place pre-Covid times, which made sure that the repairs would last longer. Cllr. Carthy stated that he is conscious that some roads only have the odd pothole and the longer lasting mechanism should be employed in these instances.

Following a minute's silence, the meeting concluded at 11:20 am

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Cathaoirleach

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Date

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Meeting Administrator