Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan

Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain

The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney

Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of the Municipal District Monthly Meeting held in Carrickmacross Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday the 22nd of April 2024 at 10:00am.

Present: Cathaoirleach Aoife McCooey
Cllrs. Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan, PJ O'Hanlon, Peter Conlon, Aidan Campbell

In Attendance: Carmel O'Hare, Director of Services, Damien Thornton, A/District Co-Ordinator, Gary Toye, District Engineer, Gemma Keenan, Senior Staff Officer, Julieann O'Reilly, Assistant Staff Officer

Presentation - **Castleblayney Regeneration Plan**
Grainne Shaffrey (Shaffrey Architects) and
Kevin McNally, Town Regeneration Officer, Drew Hurley, S.E. Planner

Cllr. McCooey:
Commented that the dereliction issue is a bane for all and remarked that seeking solutions for this problem should be a priority for the MD.
Stated that she is happy to see the public consultation process.
Queried the funding opportunities available for the implementation of the regeneration plan.
Reply – The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund is one possibility. Also grants such as the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant and Croí Cónaithe could potentially be utilised. It is impossible to be specific at this point.
Questioned if there are any examples of best practice with similar projects.
Reply – Ballina is an interesting one to watch and there are lots of interesting examples in Scotland.
Queried the current position with regard to the development of Town Centre First Plan for Castleblayney.
Kevin McNally, A/Town Regeneration Officer advised that there is currently no funding, however Drew Hurley, SE Planner, has submitted an application for funding under the PEACEPLUS programme.
Queried how landowners will be communicated with.

Reply – Previously, a leaflet drop would have been arranged and a clinic held in the Gate Lodge 1. Shaffrey Architects have contact details for these property owners. Direct contact may need to be made with some. Ideally, everybody would be on board.

Cllr. Campbell:
Thanked all for the presentation.
Commented that action is needed out of the report.
Noted the amount of dereliction in the specific area.
Advised that a key area would be linking McGrath Road to the Main Street and stated that there are a lot of potential parking opportunities in the backlands as well as walkways.
Acknowledged the amount of grants available and stated that the message needs to go out to derelict property owners.

Cllr. Carthy:
Concurred with the previous comments.
Remarked that the issues of vacancy and dereliction are easy to see and that there needs to be progress on these issues as soon as possible.
Agreed that action is needed on these reports and stated that it needs to tie in with other projects in Castleblayney.
Advised that he believes there may be some issues with some property owners having to come out again for another survey.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Agreed that action needs to be taken on the reports and stated that finance is needed to back this up.
Acknowledged that the report is required in order to seek funding.
Noted that there has been a lot of work done in Castleblayney in recent years and the economic development of the town cannot be let go, commenting that there is no pint in spending millions if everything around these projects is not in tandem.
Acknowledged the energy that Kevin McNally, A/Town Regeneration Officer has brought to the role.

Cllr. Keelan:
Expressed thanks for the report and acknowledged the work of the Town Regeneration Team.
Remarked that rented business premises can sit empty for a long period of time if there is a changeover.
Commented that we need to be mindful of the dereliction issue.
Voiced concerns that town centres could become overpopulated with residences.

Cllr. Conlon:
Concurred with previous comments made.
Acknowledged the proactiveness of MCC for starting these projects.

Kevin McNally, A/Town Regeneration Officer advised that he would revert to the elected members with the public consultation dates.

Update from Magheracloone Community Centre Committee

- **Martin Carroll and Bernie Hamill**

The delegation advised the elected members that it is approximately 6 years since the mine collapse and provided an update on the new Community Centre. The presenters acknowledged Saint- Gobain for keeping their agreement to replace it. The new Community Centre will be twice as large as the old one.

Cllr. Carthy:

Thanked the delegation for attending, noting that he had requested this update at a previous meeting.
Remarked the importance of laying the groundwork at this initial meeting with the elected members and the Executive. There will be increased footfall and traffic as a result of the new centre.
Commented that there are lighting requirements for Ball Alley junction.
Asked the delegation if there is anything the Executive could be working on in the next few months.
Highlighted the importance of engagement between the Executive and the Magheracloone Community Centre Committee.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Welcomed the delegation to the meeting and advised that the elected members are here to help.
Noted the potential issues regarding the increased volume of traffic and advised that the Executive team will help in any way they can.
Advised that he was delighted to hear that Saint - Gobain have fulfilled the objectives.
Wished the delegation the best of luck with their new facility.
Stated that the contact details of Damien Thornton, A/Municipal District Coordinator and Gary Toye, District Engineer should be provided to the delegation.

The delegation advised the meeting attendees that they have been informed that planning permission is required for signage.

Cllr. Campbell:

Commended Saint - Gobain and reiterated the offer of assistance from the elected members.
Stressed the importance of putting on record that Planning is a separate Executive function – Elected members do not make planning decisions.
Remarked that the new centre will be a great asset to Magheracloone.

Cllr. Keelan:
Thanked the delegation for their attendance.
Expressed his delight at seeing the project coming to fruition.
Stated that the elected members want to work together for the betterment of the local communities.

The delegation asked about the monitoring systems on the road and questioned if there has been much movement on it.
Damien Thornton, A/Municipal District Coordinator advised that Saint - Gobain monitor and relay reports to MCC. Nothing has been flagged.

Cllr. Carthy:
Advised that the monitoring system is an early warning system re: movement.

Cllr. Conlon:
Stated that he was delighted to see the delegation at the meeting and afforded the offer of assistance.

Cllr. McCooey:
Noted the importance of laying this foundation and connection for the future and remarked how great it is to see the progress and positive outlook.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Conlon, the minutes of the March 2024 Monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 25th of March 2024, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan:
Regarding the proposed adoption of a Public Road at Steadfast Industrial Estate – what stage is this at?
Reply – It was previously agreed by the elected members that the reports would be forwarded to Mr. Robert Burns, CE, MCC seeking his considered opinion and subject to receipt of same, another in-committee meeting will be held.

Cllr. Carthy:
Advised of concerns about the gaps at the railings located at the Close Drummond development and requested that a visual assessment be undertaken.
Reply – This will be investigated.

Cllr. Campbell:
Requested an update on the submissions for the proposed Greenway on the Mile Hill Road and asked what its current status is.

Cllr. McCooey:
Asked about the report on the findings?
Requested the attendance of the Ballybay – Clones MD Coordinator at the next meeting regarding this.

Cllr. Keelan:
Clarified there had been agreement to re-convene about this in May.

Cllr. Keelan:
Requested an update on the issues of tree/branches in the River Fane.
Reply – A weekly assessment is carried out regarding the water levels. Another is due this week.

Cllr. Carthy:
Stated that both the Kingscourt Road and Oriel Road require safe pedestrian crossing points and expressed annoyance that the MD did not receive funding for these projects under this year's Low-Cost Safety Scheme.
Requested that, in the interim of investigating potential funding sourced, possible signage be looked at – even temporary signage, as people need to be aware that children may be on the road.
Reply – This MD will explore this option.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Requested an update on the recent flooding issues on the Ballybay Road.
Advised that he is aware that Glenn O'Reilly, Assistant Engineer, has made site visits and is keeping in touch with residents.
Asked who owns the pumping station near the roundabout on the Ballybay Road.
Reply – This is water infrastructure; therefore, Irish Water would be owners.
Requested that Irish Water be contacted about the issues at the location.
Advised that there are serious issues regarding electrics also, noting that there is a creche located nearby also.
Wondered what part this may have played in the recent flooding.
Expressed serious disappointment with Irish Water regarding the way this has been left.
Asked that the Executive meet with Irish Water about this as a matter of urgency.
Noted the potential home insurance implications for local residents.
Expressed thanks to Gary Toye, District Engineer, and his team for their professional manner during the flooding.
Reply – Checks are carried out by Irish Water on their infrastructure. A meeting can be organised with Irish Water.

Cllr. Keelan:
Advised of the poor state of the access roads to Donaghmoyne and the on-going flooding issues.
Stated that engineering staff are left in a terrible position – there are no resources to carry out works.
Welcomed the progress of flood design in the coming months.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Regarding Flood Design, commented that there must be a design before funding and clarified that MCC and the Roads Section are very confident about the design.
Advised the meeting attendees that he had recently attended the Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis and was informed that additional funding for road maintenance will be forthcoming.
Noted the large volume of rainfall in the past months and stated that he hopes that MCC are well prepared, weather permitting, to carry out works.
Remarked that he hopes to see a serious improvement in the coming months.

Cllr. Carthy:
Noted the unpredictability of the weather, commenting that since rainfall began last July, there has been a serious deterioration of the roads.
Commented that alternative methods need to be looked at as there is a limited number of staff and a limited number of hours. The options need to be broadened.

Cllr. Conlon:
Remarked that the state of the roads is a very frustrating, noting that all elected members have made representations for additional funding, and all are hopeful that it will be received.
Stated that he is looking forward to the works getting underway.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Stated that roads funding was decreased under a Fine Gael government.

Cllr. Campbell:
Replied that funding needs context of the bail out and Troike needs to be applied.

Cllr. Keelan:
Advised that in reality, funding for roads is €6million short.
Stated that he welcomed the comment form Cllr. O'Hanlon regarding additional funding.

Cllr. McCooey:
Advised that she spoke to Minister McGrath and Jack Chambers TD at the recent Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis and raised the issue of roads with them – they were very concerned.
Requested an update on the public toilets in Castleblayney.
Reply – There is no update presently.

Remarked on the good news that funding has been secured for Mullyash Walking Loop and the Sensory Garden in Castleblayney.
Requested an update on the Mullyash Walking Loop.
Reply – It is hoped to commence works in Q3. Elected members will be consulted.
Queried when works on the Sensory Garden will commence.

3.0 Correspondence

i. Response from Office of the Taoiseach re: motion - funding for roads

ii. Response from Min. Eamon Ryan, Department of Transport re: Motion – funding for roads

iii. Response from Mr. Brendan Doyle, Newbaze Ireland

iv. Response from Min. Eamon Ryan, Department of Transport re: additional funding for roads

4.0 MD Coordinator's Report

Damien Thornton, A/Municipal District Coordinator, informed the elected members that the Pop-Up Pool project has temporarily stalled, mainly due to staffing issues at Swim Ireland. Mr. Thornton advised that there should be a clearer picture following this Friday's scheduled meeting between the Executive and Swim Ireland.

Cllr. Conlon:
Welcomed the funding for Lough Nagarnaman.
Asked if the Local Area Action Plan for Carrickmacross is available for review. Is there an update?
Reply – The Town Regeneration Team are progressing this. As outlined in the Co-Ordinator's report it is hoped that the final draft LAAPs be available for review in early Q2 2024.
Stated that he is both welcoming and frustrated with the Climate Adaptation Grant, also mentioning issues on the L-8660, where Finnegan's Garden centre is located.
Stressed the importance of making the best use of the funding.
Advised of his frustration that the plan submitted for Donaghmoyne did not get over the line.
Reply – This MD fully intends to carry out works as soon as possible. It is hoped to secure flood alleviation funding next year.

Cllr. Campbell:
Complimented the amount of work carried out by the MD.
Requested an update on the upgrade of trails on Black Island, voicing frustration at the hold up and noting that the project is not yet at Part 8 planning stage.
In welcoming the funding for Mullyash Walking Loop and the Sensory Garden in Castleblayney commended Minister Humphreys' Department.
Welcomed the €100,000 funding for Annadrummond and sought clarification that it is a three-year programme.
Reply – The road is being raised incrementally. Phase 2 is due to commence in Q3.

In relation to Former National Road funding, advised that there are important businesses on York Street and that there needs to be good traffic management in place during works.
Voiced disappointment at the lack of funding for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme, noting that a lot of money has already been spent.

Cllr. Carthy:
Noted the response letter from Newbaze Ireland and remarked that the factory is still in line to start full production and the area is very well maintained.
Voiced concerns about staffing for the proposed Pop-Up pool. Requested that the Executive continue to push on for a summer opening.
Wondered when progress will be seen regarding Shirley House Lane car park as Carrickmacross is crying out for car parking spaces.
Reply - There is currently no update.
Asked for an update on a water feature for the town. A discussion ensued amongst the elected members with Cllr. O'Hanlon asking when it will happen, noting that a commitment was made to the Tidy Towns Committee. Cllr. Carthy stated that if there are plans ready to go, they should be pushed for.
Reply - It has always been the intention to include a water feature in the detailed design of the Public Realm for Main Street and Bridewell Lane Area. It needs to be considered as a whole.
Requested an update on Market Square signage, suggesting the possibility of using laser signage or suspended signage.
Reply – As it is a protected structure, nothing can be affixed to the building. Laser lighting signage may not work well in daytime. The MD are liaising with MCC Planning Section.
Advised that there are loose paving slabs along the Courthouse car park.
Reply – This is on the current repair list. The car park must be closed to carry out repairs.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Stated that he presumes that MCC CE, Mr. Robert Burns is involved with plans.
Reply – Yes, Mr. Robert Burns is very much informed and had advised that he will contact Swim Ireland himself.
Stated that he has raised the Noise Action Plan at County Council Level and commented that it is vital to keep this on the agenda after public consultation.
Remarked that the NRA have previously not fulfilled their obligation regarding noise.

Cllr. Keelan:
Commended the MD team for all the works being carried out.
Commented that the delays in the roll out of CCTV schemes for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney are very frustrating.
Welcomed the €10,000 funding for safety/traffic calming measures at Donaghmoyne Playpark.
Concurred with Cllr. Campbell's comments about the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme.
Remarked that potholes are now appearing on our National routes, advising that one was repaired last night.
Asked who is responsible for monitoring the N2?
Reply – Ultimately this rests with TII.
Queried when the issue was first recognised.

Reply – The first complaint was received last Thursday morning.
Commended Cllr. O'Hanlon regarding his comments about noise action.
Commended Gary Toye, District Engineer, and his team for looking after the issue at Essexford Bridge.
Requested if signage and lining at this location can be looked into as there is an issue with traffic coming from Inniskeen direction turning onto the Carrickmacross/Dundalk Road.
Reply – This is being investigated.

Cllr. McCooey:
Queried the holdup with regard to trails enhancement on Black Island? Queried what the timeline is?
Reply -The Tourism Office are due to be in touch this week. It has been held up by Part 8 Planning.
Requested an update on the culvert on the R182 (Climate Adaptation Fund).
Reply – This may possibly be carried out in Q3.
Welcomed traffic calming measures for Oram and asked when a design can be expected, suggesting ramps, a pedestrian crossing and lighting.
Reply –
Funding is for a crossing near the church. This will need to be investigated.
Welcomed funding for York Street.
Stated it is great to see progress on Ballynacarry Bridge and asked if there has been any update from Northern Ireland.
Reply – There is no further update.
Noted that public lighting for Brennans Cross on the N53 is with TII and requested that the Executive keep following up on same.

5.0 Q&A

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for the April 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. What funding schemes are being looked at for the delivery of safety measures and pedestrian crossings for the Kingscourt Road and Oriel Road, Carrickmacross, following the unsuccessful application to the Low-Cost Safety scheme?
   Response:
   The Executive shall explore all potential sources of funding, including relevant Active Travel programmes, to facilitate the installation of appropriate road safety measures and pedestrian crossings on the Kingscourt and Oriel Roads in Carrickmacross Town.

2. Owing to the reduced level of patching and drainage repairs on our roads network over recent months due to poor weather, and the significant level of deterioration seen on numerous roads, what plans are in place to dramatically ramp up repairs over the coming months?
   Response:
   MD staff are engaged in ongoing maintenance works to the drainage network in Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District, with priority given to problematic locations. With the weather expected to improve over the coming weeks, the level of pavement surface repairs should increase significantly. In addition, the implementation of the Restoration Improvement, Reclaimed Asphalt and Restoration Maintenance (surface dressing) programmes is scheduled to commence in Q2/Q3 2024.

3. Has the Executive any plans to introduce traffic calming on the Ballybay road, out of Carrickmacross, to facilitate safe access and crossing for secondary school students and increase in residential properties in the area?

   Response:

   The Active Travel Unit are currently progressing designs for the enhancement of pedestrian and cyclist facilities in the Cloughvalley Upper area of Carrickmacross Town. The scheme includes for the identification of suitable pedestrian crossing points on the R183 Ballybay Road and the R927 Castleblayney Road, together with supporting traffic calming measures.

4. Will the executive carry out a tidy up of the walkway that leads from the rear of the Courthouse down to lower Drummond Etra, Carrickmacross, and consider the installation of streetlights along this pedestrian route?

   Response:

   The Executive will carry out a tidy up of the walkway leading from the Courthouse to Lower Drummond Etra. This walkway forms part of the Gallows Hill Greenspace Masterplan project. Public lighting will be considered as part of the overall development.

5. Understanding that we will be carrying out the process of making a Masterplan for the Convent Avenue over the coming months, will the council carry out repairs to the damaged section of pathway that leads from the rear of the Civic offices to the Ardee road entrance in the interim, as it is severely broken up?

   Response:

   The Executive shall examine the possibility of carrying out localised repairs to the section of the Convent Avenue that leads from the rear of the Civic offices to the Ardee Road.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for the April 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. What immediate, short term, and indeed long-term plans has the council to maintain upgrade and resurface the access roads into Donaghmoyne village which are in a deplorable state. Also, what plans and funding have the council to address the ongoing flooding problems in the village?

   Response:

   In the immediate/short term, the Executive shall endeavor to carry out localised repairs to the worst affected sections of pavement on the access roads entering Donaghmoyne Village. Longer term, the Executive is committed to engaging a design consultant to assess the on-going flooding problems and develop feasible solutions. It is anticipated that a suitably qualified design consultant shall be engaged in Q2 2024. Following completion of the flood mitigation design, the Executive shall explore all potential sources of funding to advance the implementation of the identified remedial drainage works. The Executive intend to undertake significant resurfacing works to the access roads entering Donaghmoyne Village in conjunction with the implementation of flood mitigation measures.

7. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the public realm plan and parking strategy for Inniskeen village. What progress if any has been made in relation to the provision of proper safe walking routes throughout the village including across the river fane and onwards past Magees corner. When can local residents and community organisations expect to see works commencing on some of these projects?

   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. Detailed design, including the development of a car parking strategy, is nearing completion and it is envisaged that works shall commence in late Q3 2024. The proposed public realm enhancements to the Village Heart and St Mary's Space areas shall include for the enhancement of pedestrian facilities at these locations. The Executive shall continue to explore all potential sources of funding to progress the various public realm interventions identified in the Spatial Plan, including pedestrian facilities that extend beyond Magee's corner.

8. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of additional car parking spaces and improvements to the access into Deery Tce Inniskeen as requested by the local residents?
   Response:
   The Executive are currently reviewing parking and access arrangements at Deery Terrace in the context of the development of overall parking strategy for Inniskeen Village.

9. In commending the council for carrying out some improvement works to the Longfield cross junction on the regional road (R179) as requested previously will the council examine the possibility of putting in place measures to address the ongoing problem of excessive speeding in this area which is a huge concern for the local residents and other road users?
   Response:
   The Executive shall arrange for a speed survey to be undertaken on the R179 Donaghmoyne Road, in the vicinity of Longfield Cross, to determine the extent of any speeding issue. Subject to the outcome of this assessment, the Executive shall seek to identify appropriate road safety measures for this location and explore all potential sources of funding to implement same.

10. In relation to road maintenance / pothole filling and drainage issues, how many complaints are outstanding? how long will it take to address these issues? what resources will it take in terms of funding to address these complaints? what funding is available to address these issues? How many complaints have been outstanding for over three months? and for over six months?
    Response:
    There are currently 103 No. "live" items on the maintenance and repair list relating to road pavement/pothole and drainage issues. Of these 103 items, 13 No. have been listed for over 6 months. whilst 37 No. have been listed for over 3 months. It is hoped that the majority of the current 103 No. items relating to road pavement/pothole and drainage issues will be addressed by mid Q3 2024. The MD Executive, in conjunction with the Roads Section, are currently reviewing road maintenance costs and these figures should become available within the coming weeks. Depending on the nature of the works to undertaken, essential repairs and maintenance activities are funded from a combination of own resources and department grants.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for the April 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

11. When is it hoped that the MD will be in a position to start the roads programme for the area?
    Response:
    It is anticipated that the roads resurfacing programme will commence in June 2024. The drainage element of the roads programme has been underway since January 2024.

12. With the recent announcements of funding from Minister Humphreys department under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme to complete works at Mullyash on the Monaghan Way Walking route, also to install a new sensory Garden in Muckno park and to carry out works at Lough Nagarnaman. When will these works commence?

Response:
It is anticipated that works shall commence in Q3 2024.

13. When is it expected that the works to resurface the avenue and make it safer for pedestrians to use the area into Lough Muckno Park will take place?
Response:
It is intended to carry out pavement repairs on the avenue leading to Hope Castle in conjunction with the proposed upgrade works to the Orchard Car Park at Hope Castle. Subject to the completion of detailed design, it is expected that the upgrade works to the Orchard Car Park shall commence in late Q2 2024.

14. Will the MD look at raising the path over to the White Island in Muckno which is now prone to flooding and is effectively cutting the walking route off?
Response:
MD Engineering staff will carry out an assessment of the path to the White Island to identify the areas prone to flooding. Upon completion of this assessment, the MD will identify feasible solutions to help alleviate the flooding and thereafter explore all potential sources of funding to advance the identified remedial works.

15. Can the MD provide an update on any plans for traffic calming measures on the Shercock Road out of Castleblayney?
Response:
The Executive shall undertake a safety assessment on the Shercock Road out of Castleblayney to establish the need for traffic calming measures at this location. Subject to the outcome of this assessment, the Executive shall seek to identify appropriate traffic calming measures and explore all potential sources of funding to implement same.

Questions raised by Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon for the April 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

16. Does the Executive intend to carry out any hot patching repair works this year? If so, when is it expected that these works will commence?
Response:
The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD, in conjunction with Roads Section, intend to implement a patching trial, using reclaimed asphalt material, in the coming weeks. Suitable sections of road pavement are yet to be confirmed.

17. When is this year's road improvement programme going to commence in this Municipal District?
Response:
It is anticipated that the roads resurfacing programme will commence in June 2024. The drainage element of the roads programme has been underway since January 2024.

18. How many roads in this Municipal District will be completed under this year's Reclaimed Asphalt programme? When are these works due to commence?
Response:
Subject to submitted tender rates, it is anticipated that 2-3 roads will be completed under the 2024 Reclaimed Asphalt programme. It is expected that these works will commence in June 2024.

19. In relation to the C:TEK II, when do we expect works to be completed and the handover of the facility to Enterprising Monaghan to take place?
Response:

It is anticipated that the new C: TEK II facility shall be substantially completed in October 2024, with handover to Enterprising Monaghan occurring shortly thereafter.

Questions raised by Cllr. Peter Conlon for the April 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

20. Can a commencement date for the installation of the low cast safety driver feedback signage for the Rock Chapel be confirmed?
Response:
It is envisaged that the proposed driver feedback signs will be installed in Q3 2024.

21. What is the latest update on the reclaimed asphalt programme and the testing of the shortlisted roads that may suit this application?
Response:
The testing contractor has been appointed and are due to commence testing of the proposed roads in the coming weeks. The contract for the works has also been awarded and will commence in June 2024. The roads for the scheme will be agreed with the MD prior to commencement.

22. What is the latest on the Gallows Hill masterplan?
Response:
The Executive is currently engaged in negotiations with a prospective Design Team to progress the development of the Gallows Hill Greenspace Masterplan. It is envisaged that a Letter oi Intent shall issue within the coming week.

23. How many roads are currently on the CIS programme for the CMX / CBY MD and in which geographical area are these roads based?
Response:
The Roads Section has received CIS applications for the following roads in CMX/CBY MD:

LT47002-0	Mullaghmeen, Lisnahsannagh, Shanmullagh, Carrickmacross
LT87011	Shanrah
LS8621	Cornagarvoge, Inniskeen
LT49102	Mullinclavin, Magheracloone
L88311	Derrynaglam, Maheracloone, Carrickmacross, A81 YE82

Note: The CIS roads have not been finalised for 2024.

24. The building commonly known as the Bridewell has been identified as a landmark building in the town centre masterplan, can the executive advise if there has been any development in this regard?

Response:

The building commonly known as the Bridewell is privately owned. Monaghan County Council are currently exploring the possible acquisition of this property. Discussions in this regard are ongoing with the owner.

6.0 Director of Service Orders

Orders Cmx-Cby 20/2024; Cmx-Cby 21/2024; Cmx-Cby 22/2024; Cmx-Cby 23/2024 were noted.

7.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to Elmar, David, Stephen & Rachel Marron; Paul & Linda Marron & family on the death of Michael Marron (RIP); Paul & Linda Marron & family on the death of Frank Marron (RIP); Des & Maria Murnaghan on the death of Teresa Murnaghan (RIP); Nieces and nephews of Sr. Sheila Finnegan (RIP) and the St. Louis Community on the death of Sr. Sheila Finnegan (RIP); Francie McGarrell & extended McGarrell family on the death of Peter McGarrell (RIP); the Callan family on the death of Geraldine Callan (RIP); Siobhan McConnon & family on the death of Jim McConnon (RIP)

Votes of Congratulations were extended to Kaiden McKenna on winning her All-Ireland boxing title; Maisie Flanagan on winning her All-Ireland Title boxing title, and to Colm Birdy on the achievement of being named Ulster GAA Coach of the Year.

Following a proposal from Cllr. Campbell it was unanimously agreed that the above will be included at the planned MD awards event.

8.0 A.O.B

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Regarding Newbaze Ireland, proposed that the owners should be invited to a meeting in the summer to provide an update on their plans.

Cllr. Conlon:

Advised the elected members that he had recently visited Newbaze and that the company are currently installing production lines with a view to a small-scale start to production in place by Q2/Q3.

Informed all that Newbaze have committed to this programme of works, and we can only take their word on this.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Stated that he was surprised to hear this, particularly in light of the previous official opening, and suggested that clarification is needed.

Stressed the importance of a letter being issued requesting a timeline – when are they proposing to open the factory?

Cllr. Carthy:
Noted the recent letter received did not contain the level of detail provided by Cllr. Conlon and queried if Newbaze had requested Cllr. Conlon to relay this update to the members.
Commented that a multi-tiered update would be welcome and suggested that the "new" Council should meet with them.

Cllr. McCooey:
Remarked that all are conscious of the factory and the excitement that it will be open.

Cllr. Keelan:
In concurring with the previous comments cautioned that Newbaze Ireland are under no obligation.
Advised that there are potholes on the Bocks Road.
Reply – Patching is due to begin on Friday.
Lisagore, Broomfield, the LT-41102 needs attention. It has subsided at parts and is in a dangerous state.
Stated that small works at Beech Corner, Castleblayney would make a big difference – allowing traffic to exit and head for the Carrickmacross direction.
Reply – The required junction upgrade will take place in conjunction with the resurfacing works.
Advised that there is an issue with the Local Link buses not servicing some stops and queried what role the MD have in providing bus stops. For example, Corduff Cross and in Inniskeen Village.
Reply – The MD would be contacted initially, the NTA draw a schedule of proposed stops which then goes to Active Travel.
Stated that a blitz of maintenance is needed with the good weather arriving.
Asked what oversight there is regarding the quality/consistency of works carried out.
Reply – There is a lot of oversight – GSS, Foreman and Engineering staff.

Cllr. Carthy:
Stated that there are a number of issues regarding access to car parking facilities because of the Thursday trading market. A review is needed of allocated Casual trading spaces.
Suggested that consultation should be held between the Casual Traders and the Executive.
Advised that sometimes items for sale are being placed on the footpath.

Cllr. Conlon:
Wished to inform all that there is an open invitation to attend the 50th Anniversary Commemoration at the Billy Fox Memorial Park.

Cllr. McCooey:

Raised safety concerns about the Keady turn in Castleblayney, remarking that people tend to cut off this junction.

Reply – A safety assessment can be carried out.

Advised that the rust on the planters at the Big Tom Statue remains an issue.

Reply – This will be investigated.

There is a drainage issue near Rooney's shop at Oram causing water to run on the road.

Reply – This will be investigated.

Requested an update on an electrical connection at Lough Muckno.

Reply – Costs are prohibitive. Solar power source may be an option.

Stated that there are issues with dips on the road, naming Annadrummand Road and Longfield Road as examples. Requested that the sinkage's on these roads be investigated and suggested warning signage.

Reply – The Annadrummand Road has been resurfaced a number of times and is on the Executive's radar. The Longfield Road will be investigated. The Executive will explore the feasibility of signage.

Stated that a date needs to be set for the Awards Night and suggested that the next MD meeting could be held in the afternoon in the Civic Offices, approximately 3.30pm, and the Awards Night held afterwards at approximately 6pm.

Agreed by all.

Requested that the elected members email details of potential awardees.

The meeting concluded at 12:45.

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Cathaoirleach Date

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Meeting Administrator