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 24th of June 2024 at 10:50

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

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

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Conlon, the minutes of the May 2024 monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 27th of May 2024, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Carthy:

Queried if the elected members will get sight of a report regarding the Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Road AT scheme (Project Ref: MN/21/0010).
Expressed disappointment that there is no consideration given for repairs at St. Macartan Villas and requested that this is re-investigated.
Remarked on the motion which was passed in the May 2024 meeting calling on Minister Foley to progress the development of Gaelscoil Lorgan and Inver College, Carrickmacross and welcomed the progress at both schools.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commended the works at Essexford Bridge and remarked that small measures such as signs/lines may make a big difference.
Requested an update for next month's meeting on the Lisagore Road.

Queried if there was an update on adding stops to the Local Link route and if the Executive have been in contact with the NTA.
Reply – This MD is liaising with Roads section, specifically the Active Travel Unit, about this matter.
Acknowledged recent resurfacing works and commended the staff involved – particularly the Bog Road. Remarked that central government need to fund local areas better.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Acknowledged Cllrs. Carthy and Campbell's role as board members of CMETB and wished to recognise that The Department of Education has issued approval for plans to proceed to Stage 2b for additional accommodation at Inver College.

3.0 Presentation – Gallows Hill Greenspace Masterplan
James Hennessey, The Paul Hogarth Company

Cllr. Carthy:
Pointed out an error regarding placenames on Google Maps

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Advised that awareness is paramount.

Cllr. Conlon:
Expressed thanks for the presentation.
Remarked that Gallows Hill is a piece of history and speculated whether it could be incorporated into Carrickmacross walking tours.
Stated that it is located in a large residential area, and we need to be conscious of not impacting residents.
Advised that the large greenspace has always been an area of concern for locals, and it would be welcome that it becomes more aesthetically pleasing.
Commented that there are a lot of local historians, and this should be tapped into – details can be passed on if desired.
Stated that we need to make greater use of the area and suggested that it could be incorporated into Tidy Towns.

Cllr. Carthy:
Expressed thanks for the presentation.
In relation to public consultation, stated that it is vital that priority is given to people living in the immediate vicinity of the area.
Advised that part of the Plan needs to include the provision of on-going maintenance.
Suggested that there may be a need for an additional access point at a higher level.

4.0 Correspondence

i. Letter from Cathal Hand – Consider Castleross as local link bus stop.

Cllr. Carthy:
Remarked that Cathal Hand engaged directly with the Executive and Local Link himself and advised he was pleased with the response.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Acknowledged Mr. Hand's response and proposed that a letter is sent to thank him and to acknowledge the work he does.

Cllr. Campbell:
Agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr. Hans and welcomed his response.

Cllr. Conlon:
Acknowledged the positive response from Mr. Hand and remarked it is good to see a common-sense approach.

5.0 MD Coordinator's Report

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Clarified that the local schools will receive notification about the pop-up pool.
Clarified that the works at Rahans Lake will take 8-10 weeks.
Reply – it is planned that these works will be complete early Q4.

Cllr. Campbell:
Voiced frustration at the slow progress of works at Black Island, noting that the funding was granted some time ago.
Remarked on the number of Northern Ireland stakeholders who have requested further information to be included in the planning application for Ballynacarry Bridge and queried if Northern Ireland are putting any money into this project. Cllr. Campbell requested that a letter is re-sent regarding this.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Concurred with Cllr. Campbell's request to send another letter.

Cllr. Conlon:
Requested an update on the start of the Low-Cost Safety Initiative Schemes.
Reply – these will commence once the RI Programme is complete.

Cllr. Keelan:
Voiced frustration at the delay of the proposed CCTV Schemes, noting that it has now been well over 12 months since the application was submitted. Cllr. Keelan asked that the Executive make contact to try and progress this issue.
Welcomed the efforts of MCC regarding the proposed Inniskeen Bike Rental Scheme and remarked that he hopes to hear positive news.

Welcomed works on the Carrickmacross Workhouse and advised that, during canvassing, a number of constituents asked about the provision of somewhere to display arts. Cllr. Keelan commented that it is important to support those in the Arts.
Asked does the upcoming Reclaimed Asphalt Scheme event include elected members and further enquired if a list of roads to be done is available.
Reply – this can be organised, and the elected members will be informed regarding the list of roads.
Acknowledged the work of the MD in recent pothole blitz.
Queried when works will commence to deal with the Rossdreenagh Road issue.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Acknowledged the role the MD team and MCC played regarding the Carrickmacross Workhouse, specifically Carmel O'Hare, Damien Thornton and Robert Burns.
Advised that the people who pay their LPT need to be acknowledged - this is now in the ownership of the public.
Remarked that there is interest from the public for a small theatre type space.

Cllr. Carthy:
Welcomed the progress on the feasibility study for the leisure complex.
Advised that, at the next full council meeting, he will propose that the leisure complex be placed as an agenda item on full council meetings going forward and asked for the members support with this.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Advised that he has no problem supporting this but wished to note that MCC's Chief Executive. Robert Burns, has spoken passionately on this issue.
Stated that he would like to bring in the members of the original committee, dating back to the 1970's, as these people planted the seed for this project and should be recognised.

Cllr. Carthy:
Welcomed the progress on Rahans Lake.
Requested a breakdown on the various LCSI and ORIS schemes that have not received funding.

6.0 Q&A

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

1. Are there plans in place to increase the number of dog fouling bins around Carrickmacross over the next few months and, where does the executive intend to install them?
   Response:
   There are currently no plans to increase the number of dog fouling bins around Carrickmacross. At present there are 6 No. dog fouling bins located in and around Carrickmacross Town.

2. Has the executive reviewed the reinstallation of the basketball hoops in the Convent Lands play court, and will it consider a similar security measure to the playground in Convent Lands (closed during the night)?

Response:
The Executive will explore potential sources of funding to facilitate the reinstallation of basketball hoops in the Convent Lands play court. This facility is closed during the night.

3. Can the council executive give an update on the Market Square signage, proposed water feature and bandstand project for Carrickmacross?
Response:

Market Square Signage:
Members of the MD Executive met with the business owner concerned on Friday the 14th of June last to set about identifying acceptable and feasible signage options having regard to the planning constraints associated with the Market Square building, which is a protected structure. It is hoped that an agreeable solution will be arrived at over the course of the coming months.

Proposed Water Feature:
The provision of a water feature is included in the scope of works for the proposed Public Realm enhancement scheme for Main Street and Bridewell Lane. It is envisaged that an Urban Designer/Public Realm Architect-led Multidisciplinary Design Team shall be engaged in Q3 2024 to progress this scheme.

Bandstand Project:
The appointed consultants are currently preparing revised tender documentation for the engagement of a suitably qualified works contactor. It is anticipated that a tender shall to the market in July 2024.

4. What is the latest update on the delivery of the swim Ireland pop-up pool for Carrickmacross?
Response:
The pop-up pool structure is scheduled to arrive on site in early August 2024. Following an initial commissioning period it is anticipated that the facility will be fully operational by the beginning of September 2024.

5. Has the executive put a plan in place to replace the damaged fencing along the boundary of Convent lands, specifically in the Corran Fionn Barra and Plas Fionn Barra estates?
Response:
The fence repairs required at Corran Fionn Barra/Plas Fionn Barra have been logged on the Municipal District's essential repairs and maintenance repair list and shall be attended to as soon as possible.

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

6. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the public realm plan for Inniskeen village when is it hoped to see work commence?
Response:
The Executive is currently reviewing the draft detailed design. It is envisaged that works shall commence in late Q3 2024.

7. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the proposed parking strategy for Inniskeen village when is it expected to see works commence?
Response:
It is anticipated that the finalised parking analysis/strategy for Inniskeen Village shall be

completed within the coming week.

8. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the proposed rollout of CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney town?
   Response:
   Following a presentation on both schemes to the National CCTV Advisory Committee on Friday the 19th of May 2023, the Committee advised that they would be recommending the approval of both schemes to the Garda Commissioner's Office. The Executive continue to await approval or otherwise from the Commissioner's Office.

9. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the proposed bicycle rental scheme for the Inniskeen and wider south Monaghan area?
   Response:
   Negotiations with a potential scheme operator are on-going. These discussions are to be concluded within the coming week.

10. In relation to the recent announcement of extra funding for road maintenance pothole repair and drainage issues how many roads have been repaired to date and approximately how many are outstanding have we the resources to complete same?
    Response:
    The recent funding announcement is intended to assist Monaghan County Council in delivering the annual Restoration Improvement programme. Separately, under the recent "pothole blitz" 24 roads received hot patch repairs and more than 50 roads received velocity patching repairs. There are approximately 12 No. roads awaiting localised repairs under the "pothole blitz" programme. The Executive shall endeavour to complete these works within the coming weeks.

Questions raised by Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon for the June 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

11. In relation to the presentation that Councillors received from the library services, we were advised that Carrickmacross Library is already operating at full capacity. What plans are in place to address this situation?
    Response:
    Awaiting a response from Library Services.

12. What plans has the MD to carry out hedge cutting along the footpaths in Carrickmacross Town? At present, pedestrians are being forced out onto to the roadway because the hedges at some locations are overgrown.
    Response:
    Hedge cutting/trimming works are scheduled to commence along the Dundalk Road on Saturday the 22nd of June 2024. Remaining areas of concern shall be attended to as soon as is reasonably practicable thereafter.

7.0 Director of Service Orders

Orders Cmx-Cby 37/2024 and Cmx-Cby 38/2024 were noted.

8.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to Eddie Kelly & family on the death of Margaret Kelly (RIP); Philip and Bernie Callan on the death of Mary Callan (RIP); Gerry Kirk & family on the death of Edward Kirk (RIP) and Bernadette Duffy on the death of PJ Duffy (RIP).

A Vote of congratulations was extended to Mary Capaldi on her retirement as principal of St. Joseph's National School.

9.0 A.O.B

Cllr. Carthy:

Advised that a request has been made by the school management of Drumgossat National School for measures to be put in place to prevent trees falling, as happened recently. Asked that an assessment be carried out.

Advised that he has received complaints about adults using the play equipment in the playground in Carrickmacross and wondered if signage could be installed to deter same.

Cllr. Keelan:

Acknowledged Inniskeen Enterprise Development Committee, and informed the members that the Committee has been reconstituted and had new members.

Advised that issues with parking in Inniskeen village have been reported to him.

Asked that the Executive investigate watery safety around the river Fane.

Asked that the footways in Inniskeen be inspected as a number have fallen into disrepair. (Near the pitch and putt and near the Credit Union).

Cllr. Conlon:

Advised that anti-social behaviour in play parks has been reported to him .

Concurred with Cllr. Keelan's comments about issues with Inniskeen footways.

Cllr. Campbell:

Requested that the road markings at the entrance to Drumillard are reviewed.

It was unanimously agreed that the July MD monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 10am in Carrickmacross Civic Offices.

Cllr. Carthy requested that, going forward, the elected members receive a meeting invite in their *Outlook* calendars.

The meeting concluded at 12 midday.

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Cathaoirleach Date

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Meeting Administrator