## 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 Tuesday the 9th of July 2024 at 10:00am.

**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. Campbell, the minutes of the June 2024 AGM Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 24th of June 2024, were adopted.

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### 2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Campbell:
Requested an update on works at Black Island.
Queried whether there is any further update from the Northern Ireland Executive regarding Ballynacarry Bridge.
*Reply – nothing further received.*
Wished to congratulate and commend Muckno Mania Festival Committee on the successful festival over the weekend. On the proposal of Cllr. Campbell and seconded by Cllr. Gibbons, it was agreed to send a letter of congratulations to the Committee.
Requested an update on road markings at Drumillard.

Cllr. Keelan:

Requested an update on the Lisagore Road.

Requested an update on improvement works on Essexford Bridge – hedge cutting and relining works.

*Reply – The executive has investigated the road marking arrangement, and the position of the current STOP line cannot be adjusted forward without encroaching on the R178 carriageway. Hedge cutting at this location forms part of the annual regional road hedge cutting programme.*

Remarked upon the Local Link bus service losing bus stops which people used for many years, highlighting Inniskeen, Dun Ard and Corduff Cross as examples. Stressed the importance of public transport being made available.

*Reply – a full update will be provided to elected members in due course.*

Asked if there is an update on the CCTV schemes for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney.

Queried if there is a report on the Reclaimed Asphalt Scheme for elected members.

Requested an update on the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works on the Rossdreenagh Road.

*Reply- it is hoped to have these works completed by the end of Q3.*

Stated that he is conscious of water safety at the River Fane as raised by Inniskeen Development Committee and asked if this has been investigated.

*Reply – this will be investigated.*

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Wished to note that he had raised the Reclaimed Asphalt Scheme at the full council meeting. The CEO report stated that four roads are to be completed – two this year and will come back to the other two. Cllr. O'Hanlon remarked that it is unlikely that the Executive will have a fresher update than that. He asked that the MD follow up with Director of Services, Gareth McMahon to provide an update for Elected Members at the next meeting.

Cllr. Carthy:

Commented that residents were delighted to see the works completed on the Enagh Road.

Concurred with the comments made by Cllr. Campbell concerning the Muckno Mania Festival and wished to commend him for his involvement.

Queried whether the arrival of the pop-up pool was still on target for September.

Noted the response regarding dog fouling bins "no plans to increase the number" and requested that the Executive tie in with Environment Section to see if anything can be done. Cllr. Carthy advised that he would send an email identifying the specific locations of concern.

Cllr. Conlon:

Concurred with comments made previously about the Enagh Road.

Stated that the Elected Members need to drive the roads funding issue as a unit.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Wished to convey his apologies for being unable to attend the Muckno Mania Festival last weekend due to a prior commitment.

**3.0 Correspondence**

i. Response from Brendan Smith TD re: Representation made to Minister Ryan regarding dedicated pedestrian and cyclist facility in Inniskeen.

**4.0 MD Coordinator's Report**

Cllr. Carthy:
Requested that the details of the Gallows Hill consultation are forwarded to the members.
Advised that at the recent full council meeting, it has been agreed to keep the proposed leisure centre in Carrickmacross on the agenda.
Sought an update on the bandstand.

Cllr. Campbell:
Expressed thanks for the Co-Ordinator's report.
Remarked that he appreciated the update on the Market House and commented that he looks forward to its progression.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Expressed thanks for the comprehensive report.
Queried if there is an estimate on a response regarding the N53 / Brennans Cross.

Cllr. Keelan:
Commended the MD team for all their work.
Remarked that there is a lot of good quality work being done on repairing our roads however, more resources are needed.
Asked if contact has been made with the Garda Commissioner regarding the CCTV schemes for both towns.

## 5.0 Q&A

**Questions raised by Cllr. Peter Conlon for the July 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Council:**

1. What is the latest development on the Creevy Lough Masterplan?

   **Response:**

   Consultancy firm, *The Paul Hogarth Company*, has been appointed to progress this scheme. The programme for delivery of this enabling project anticipates a project duration of 12 months.

2. What is the latest on the Convent Avenue masterplan including linking up onto Farney Street or the Main Street?

   **Response:**

   Monaghan County Council has appointed *The Paul Hogarth Company* to prepare a concept landscape masterplan for the Convent Lands / Bath Avenue area to the south Carrickmacross Town Centre. This appointment will examine the need to provide better foot and cycle linkages to the town centre, accommodate the potential expansion of the St. Louis Secondary School and consolidate recent investments in sports facilities.

   Subsequent to meetings with key stakeholders, a number of options to improve the pedestrian/cycle linkages to the town centre have been developed for consideration.

   The Council is currently engaging with key stakeholders in order to identify the optimum solution for the provision of the improve linkage.

   These discussions ae ongoing and it is hoped that a preferred solution may be identified by Q3 2024.

3. The trees on the convent hill need to be trimmed as previously agreed, what is the latest on this? The tree trimming season will re-open on September 1st.

   **Response:**

   The landowner previously committed to undertaking the required tree trimming works however these works are not yet complete. The Executive are actively pursuing the landowner to provide an update.

4. The Community led Christmas markets were to be alternated between Carrickmacross and Castleblaney. Has any consultation taken place with interested parties in Carrickmacross for this December?

   **Response:**

   The Executive has contacted the newly formed Carrickmacross Town Team to initiate discussions surrounding the organisation of a Christmas Market in Carrickmacross Town this December. The Executive shall endeavour to keep the Elected Members fully informed of developments in this regard.

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

5. Has the MD Executive been able to source an alternative funding mechanism to install pedestrian crossings and traffic calming to both the Oriel Road and Kingscourt Road, Carrickmacross; if not, are both of these schemes prioritised for the next low-cost safety scheme?

   **Response:**

   The Executive have not yet sourced alternative funding to facilitate the installation of appropriate road safety measures on the Oriel Road and Kingscourt Road. The Executive will apply for funding for both schemes under the *2025 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads* scheme.

6. When is it expected that repair works will be carried out on the Convent Lands fence (Corran Fionn Barra and Plas Fionn Barra), and will the council ensure that the mesh/barriers in the fencing are maintained to avoid access through to adjacent lands?

   **Response:**

   It is anticipated that remedial works to the existing fence at Corran Fionn Barra and Plas Fionn Barra will be undertaken in Q1 2025. The Executive shall endeavour to ensure that the mesh/barriers in the fencing are maintained to avoid access through to adjacent lands.

7. Will the executive engage with management of Drumgossatt National School to deal with their concerns about potentially unstable trees across the road from a parking area used by staff?

   **Response:**

   The Executive shall engage with the management of Drumgossatt National School and the landowner concerned regarding the stability of the trees.

8. When is it expected that road markings will be carried out/updated throughout the Municipal District and will there be a clean-up, clearance of vegetation etc, of our road/junction signs this year?

   **Response:**

   It is anticipated that road markings at a number of locations throughout the MD will be renewed during July and August 2024. Vegetation clearance and general cleanup works at national and regional road junctions are on-going.

9. When is it expected that elected members will meet with the Carrickmacross and Castleblayney Town teams to discuss the rollout of potential projects over the coming council term; will the executive organise for these meetings to take place annually?

   **Response:**

   The Executive shall liaise with Carrickmacross and Castleblayney Town Teams with a view to facilitating annual update meetings with the Elected Members, in respect of the delivery of projects identified in the Town Centre First Plan for each town. The Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan was launched in March 2024. At present there is no Town Centre First Plan in place for Castleblayney Town. Subject to funding availability, it is hoped that a Town Centre First Plan for Castleblayney Town will be completed in Q2 2025.

**Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for the July 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Council:**

10. When will the resurfacing of Muckno Street and York Street in Castleblayney take place?
**Response:**
The resurfacing of Muckno Street and York street is scheduled for late July/early August 2024.

11. What are the plans for works in Annadrumond to alleviate the flooding and when will this work commence?
**Response:**
Phase 2 of the proposed flood alleviation works shall provide for the further raising of the road surface along sections of the L-3720 and the L-8400. It is anticipated that these works shall be completed in Q3 2024.

12. With regards to works to upgrade the car park at the orchard in Muckno Park. When is this work due to commence?
**Response:**
The proposed works to upgrade the car park at the orchard in Muckno Park have been incorporated into a broader plan to renovate the entire Walled Garden area. The Executive has initiated the procurement of design consultancy services in this regard, and it is hoped that a suitably qualified Landscape Architect-led design team shall be appointed in September 2024.

13. Can the MD investigate the public lighting in The Crescent in Castleblayney as there are several black spots where the lighting is inadequate?
**Response:**
The Executive will investigate the public lighting in The Crescent, Castleblayney. If sections of the lighting or individual lights are found to be inadequate, these will be included for consideration under the Municipal District's public lighting maintenance programme for 2025.

14. With the recent announcement of funding for works in Mullyash to upgrade the Monaghan Way walking loop. What is the update on these works?
**Response:**
Detailed design is on-going. It is intended that works shall commence in late Q3 2024.

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

15. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the proposed parking strategy for Inniskeen Village. including the provision of additional car parking and improvements to the access into Deery's Terrace, as requested by local residents?

**Response:**

The Executive is currently reviewing the final draft parking analysis/strategy for Inniskeen Village. Separately, the Executive shall continue to explore all potential sources of funding to undertake site-specific upgrades at Deery's Terrace.

16. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the proposed bicycle rental scheme for Inniskeen and the wider south Monaghan area?

**Response:**

Following discussions with a potential scheme operator, the party concerned is to confirm their intentions within the coming days.

17. What interaction if any has the council with the (NTA) national transport authority and the Local Link Service in relation to putting in place extra Bus stops throughout the area including at Ballymackney on the Dundalk road, and also the re-establishment of the very important bus stop at Dunard estate in Inniskeen?

**Response:**

The Executive is currently undertaking a review of bus stops along the Local Link 171 service route. Having regard to the criteria set out in the NTA's "Guidance on Bus Stop Locations in Rural Areas", the Executive are examining the potential of additional bus stops at the following locations:

| | |
|---|---|
| Corvally | Raferagh Cross |
| Corvally | Corvally Presbyterian Church |
| Rakeeragh | Rakeeragh Junction |
| Kinallyduff | Ballymackney Cross |
| Inniskeen | Kednaminsha Cross |
| Inniskeen | Lacklom |
| Inniskeen | Entrance to Dunard Housing Development |
| Inniskeen | St. Daigh's Terrace |
| Inniskeen | Football Field |

18. What active travel schemes are planned for this municipal district area in the coming 12 to 18 months?

**Response:**

Awaiting a response from the Active Travel Unit.

19. What progress if any has been made in relation to the ongoing problem of flooding in the Donaghmoyne village area. What is the expected timescale for works to commence on a flooding mitigation scheme, including the resurfacing of the access roads into the village?

**Response:**

It is anticipated that a suitably qualified design consultant shall be engaged in Q3 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.

**Questions raised by Cllr. Paul Gibbons for the July 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Council:**

20. Can I ask that the public lighting in The Crescent, Castleblayney be examined and upgraded as necessary? Lighting levels in the area seem low and I have been advised of several incidents where residents and visitors have fallen with a low level of lighting identified as a cause. Some residents are fearful of the upcoming arrival of the darker evenings.

    **Response:**

    The Executive will investigate the public lighting in The Crescent, Castleblayney. If sections of the lighting or individual lights are found to be inadequate, these will be included for consideration under the Municipal District's public lighting maintenance programme for 2025.

21. The MD grass cutting programme is underway and very welcome in the areas it is provided for. In Castleblayney the green spaces in Coill Darach and Plas an Bhri are not currently maintained by the MD. Both estates have a lot of young families where play facilities are particularly needed and are composed either entirely or substantially of local authority housing. Can the MD consider providing grass cutting services in these areas this year to provide a safe, off-road play area for children in Coill Darach and Plas an Bhri?

    **Response:**

    The Executive shall examine the feasibility of including the green spaces in Coill Darach and Plás an Bhrí on the grass cutting programme.

22. There are no playground facilities in the Rosevale, Plas an Bhri, Knocktornagh and Coill Darach estates which are all located adjacent to each other. Can the MD explore the possibility of locating a playground in a central location to service these areas?

    **Response:**

    The Executive shall examine the feasibility of providing a centrally located playpark for residents in Rosevale, Plás an Bhrí, Knocktornagh, and Coill Darach.

23. Can the Executive look at the provision of a play area in Thorndale where there is no designated off-road play area. The maintenance of a portion of the overgrown green area at the entrance to the estate as a play area is one potential solution.

    **Response:**

    The Executive shall examine the feasibility of including the green space in Thorndale on the grass cutting maintenance programme.

24. Can the MD provide an update on the following roads which require repair?
    - LT4101 -Tusker, Broomfield
    - LT3710 – Lisdoney, Oram
    - LT37123 – Tullynahattina, Oram

    **Response:**

    The Executive shall undertake an assessment of the roads identified above to determine the extent of required remedial works. Thereafter, the identified remedial works shall be included on the Municipal District's essential repairs and maintenance list.

**6.0 Notice of Motion**

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

*"That, in order to assist and promote the food and beverage service sector in our towns and villages over the remainder of the Summer period, that the Executive explore the possibility of waiving the fees associated with the licensing of street furniture, as happened during the Covid pandemic."*

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that we need to have business on the streets of Carrickmacross and Castleblayney.

Cllr. Conlon remarked that he welcomes anything that will aid local businesses, noting that similar has been done in other counties.

Cllr. Carthy commented that businesses should be actively encouraged to apply for the license, stating that it needs to be advertised.

Cllr. Keelan suggested meeting with the Chamber of Commerce in September / October. He stated that a job of work needs to be done on the Thursday Market in Carrickmacross.

Cllr. Gibbons remarked that he is curious if many businesses avail of such licenses.

Director of Services, Carmel O'Hare, noted that the fee has been waived nationally for the year. The local authority fee involved is the €50 application fee and €50 per sq. m fee. She also advised that an application will still need to be submitted for review/approval.

**7.0 Director of Service Orders**

Order Cmx-Cby 39/2024 was noted.

**8.0 VOS/VOC**

*Votes of sympathy* were extended to Rose McMahon on the death of James McArdle (RIP); The family of Bridgie Connor on the death of Bridgie Connor (RIP); Raymond Kirk & family on the death of Hugh Kirk (RIP); The O'Reilly family on the death of Eamon O'Reilly (RIP); Rosie Callan & family on the death of Gerry Callan (RIP); Anita & Eamon Ruddy on the death of Gerry Callaghan (RIP) and Kenneth Callaghan & Family on the death of Gerry Callaghan (RIP).

*A Vote of congratulations* was extended to Siobhan McArdle on being appointed CEO of McArdle Skeath.

**9.0 A.O.B**

<u>Cllr. Carthy:</u>

There is overgrown grass on the footpath on the Shercock Road, near the Workhouse, causing problems with sightlines.

*Reply – this will be investigated.*

Cllr. Keelan:
Advised of an incident where a car recently went into the embankment at the access to the east of Inniskeen Pitch and Putt course, and queried if there are any plans to deal with this dangerous area.
*Reply – remedial works to this area are scheduled for July/August.*

Cllr. Conlon:
Queried the possibility of children at play signage for the Coalpit Road.
*Reply – this will be investigated.*

Cllr. Gibbons:
Thanked MCC staff for the recent fire outdoor education work.
Commented on Coill Darach and Bree green area maintenance , noting that a child was hit by a car last year.
*Reply – the executive will review the grass cutting.*

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Remarked on the positive news about the €32 million investment at the wastewater treatment plant in Carrickmacross and stressed the importance of having this infrastructure.
Cllr. O'Hanlon wished to acknowledge the role that Cathal Flynn played.
On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Carthy it was agreed that Uisce Eireann be invited to meet with the elected members at the Sept/Oct meeting with a view to providing details about the project.

Cllr. Conlon:
Concurred with Cllr. O'Hanlon's comments about the water treatment plant.

The meeting concluded at 11:00.

_____ _____
Cathaoirleach Date

_____
Meeting Administrator