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 March 2025 at 10:25am

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

Apologies: Peter Conlon

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

Cllr. O'Hanlon opened the meeting by thanking all involved with the recent Carrickmacross St. Patrick's Day Parade, highlighting the role of MD staff, MC David O'Rourke, and Liam Connolly for providing the sound. All the elected members concurred with these sentiments and also acknowledged those involved with the running of the Inniskeen and Oram Parades.

Cllr. Gibbons requested that the appetite for a parade in Castleblayney be explored. Cllr. Keelan supported this suggestion. Cllr. O'Hanlon remarked that this item has been discussed before and while all members supported the notion, it had been felt that the existing Muckno Mania festival, the long-standing Carrickmacross Parade and the Parade in Oram needed to be considered. Cllr. O'Hanlon requested that a letter of thanks be issued to all local bodies and organisations that assisted on the day such as AGS and the Civil Defence.

Cathal Flynn, DOS, stated that he felt proud of the MD team's efforts, both indoor and outdoor staff and it was a great celebration of community life.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, the minutes of the February 2025 monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 24th of February 2025, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Carthy:

Requested an update on the temporary traffic lights on the Kingscourt Road.
Advised that the Ross Road has again fallen into disrepair.

Cllr. Keelan:

Requested the potential of purchasing the lands at the back of BOI in Carrickmacross be investigated and provide an update on same at the next monthly meeting.
Asked for an update on Bully's Acre at the next meeting.

Cllr. Campbell:

Sought an update on the public toilets at Lough Muckno.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Also sought an update on the public toilets at Lough Muckno.
Asked for an update on the public lighting issues on Main Street, Castleblayney.
Requested an overview on proposed road safety works on the Oram road.

Damien Thornton, MD Co-ordinator, advised that he shall respond directly to the elected members.

3.0 Storm Éowyn – Elected Representatives Feedback Form

The elected members were reminded to complete the above if not already done.

4.0 Confirmation of "Cois Locha" as name for proposed development of 16 houses units on lands at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan for Eakin Developments Ltd

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan the name "Cois Locha" was unanimously approved.

5.0 Consideration of Schedule of MD Works 2025

Damien Thornton, MD Co-ordinator, went through the draft schedule of works for 2025.

Cllr. Carthy:

Queried if it is possible to include a tabletop pedestrian crossing at the graveyard on the Dundalk Road.
Asked when the elected members will be sitting down to discuss/agree town event funding.

Reply – this will be discussed at the Roads Area meeting.

Cllr. Keelan:
Sought a date for the Roads Area Meeting.

The elected members agreed that the Roads Area Meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday 6th of May from 10am – 12.00pm. It was also agreed that the April MD monthly meeting will be held on the same date from 12.30pm - 2.30pm.

6.0 Correspondence

i. Correspondence from Mr. James Browne T.D., Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage

ii. Acknowledgment from Mr. Peter Burke T.D. Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment

Cllr. O'Hanlon advised the members that he has spoken directly with Minister Niamh Smyth, and she is aware of the Newbaze factory issue.

iii. Correspondence from Paul Bardin, Reginal LGBT+ Community Outreach Worker

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Gibbons, it was unanimously agreed to approve the use of the car park in principle, subject to the submission of necessary insurance and safety documentation to the MD office.

iv. Correspondence from Padraic Smyth, Manager Local Link Cavan Monaghan

Cllr. Keelan stated that he would prefer an MD specific presentation.
Cllr. O'Hanlon agreed that Local Link Cavan Monaghan are asked to consider an MD specific presentation at the May monthly meeting.

7.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

Cllr. Keelan:
Advised he will await the update on CCTV at the next monthly meeting.
Stated that the access roads into Donaghmoyne require works.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Suggested requesting a meeting with Jim O'Callaghan, Minister for Justice should there be no action following next month's update.
Advised that works are needed on the road to Donaghmoyne school and requested the Executive have a proposal/plan for same at the upcoming Roads Area Meeting.

8.0 Q&A

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for the March 2025 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

1. With the commencement of the masterplan for Lough Muckno, the Annex, and the surrounding area.
   (a) What is the update on this plan?
   (b) What is the time scale for this important plan for the Castleblayney area?
   (c) What plans are in place for the important part of public consultation with all the local stakeholders?

   Response:

   (a) Consultancy firm *Cunnane Stratton Reynolds* have been appointed as lead consultants to prepare the *Lough Muckno Masterplan and Development Framework*. The Consultants have carried out preliminary site visits and are now in the process of collating information to facilitate the development of the Masterplan.

   (b) The programme for the delivery of this enabling project anticipates a project duration of 12 months.

   (c) The Consultants are currently finalising a *Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan* for the project. The Plan will be shared with elected members in due course.

2. What roads are on the Carrickmacross - Castleblayney MD programme for this year and when will these works commence?

   Response:

   The following roads are scheduled for upgrade under the 2025 Restoration Improvement programme:

	PMS Rating	Road Class	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Start	End	District	Works Type	Year
1	Red	R	R-181-1	Creaghanroe			CMX-CBY	RI	2025
2	Red	R	R-178-7	Drummond Otra			CMX-CBY	RI	2025
3	Red	LP	LP-4400	Drumgoose	Drumgoose - 3 Roads	Longfield - 3 Roads North	CMX-CBY	RI	2025
4	Red	LP	LP-4040	Bocks Middle	Peaste - 3 Roads	Greaghlane - 3 Roads North	CMX-CBY	RI	2025
5	Red	LS	LS-8601	Tattyboy	Tattyboy - 4 Roads	Mullaghunshinagh - 3 Roads	CMX-CBY	RI	2025
8	Red	LT	LT-89031	Greaghlone	Greaghlone - 3 Roads East	Greaghlone - 4 Roads West	CMX-CBY	RI	2025

   Enabling drainage works to the roads identified commenced in February 2025.

3. With the recent announcements of funding for works on local bridges in the MD. When is it hoped to have the works commence on the following bridges?
   (a) Corcrin on the L4640
   (b) Lurganearly on the L77401
   (c) Cornacarrow on the L88201
   (d) Tiragarvan on the L8910

   Response:

   A contractor to complete works at the listed bridges has yet to be appointed. As such a detailed programme of start dates is not available. Based on previous years, it is envisaged that works on all bridges will be completed between Q2 and Q4 of this year.

4. With the funding received for the new 8km walking loop at Mullyash now going to design stage,
   (a) How and when will the local stakeholders be included in the design stage process?
   (b) When is it hoped to have a design ready?

   Response:

(a) Municipal District engineering staff have engaged with local landowners concerning the upgrade of the Mullyash walking loop.
(b) It is anticipated that the design will be completed in early Q2 2025.

5. With the recent announcement of funding for Safety Improvement Works in the Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD,
   (a) When will the works commence on the R182 Oram road at Lisdonny to install the safety barrier?
   (b) When will the works commence on the R180 at Laragh to provide the high friction surfacing and signage?

   Response:
   (a) It is anticipated that the installation of road safety barrier along the R182 Oram Road at Lisdonny will commence in Q2/Q3 2025.
   (b) High friction surfacing was installed on the R180 at Laragh in early March 2025. It is envisaged that complementary chevron signs will be installed within the coming weeks.

Questions raised by Cllr. Paul Gibbons for the March 2025 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

6. The cobble lock pavement on Main Street, Castleblayney has been in place for a considerable number of years and requires attention. I requested an audit be carried out assessing this paving in the context of areas like cleaning, condition of the paving bricks, presence of weeds, condition of kerbs, sections of subsidence, condition and location of manholes on the pavement and location and condition of access points to the pavement being particularly mindful of people with disabilities and people who are pushing children among other areas. Has the audit been completed and if so, what were the findings?

   Response:
   Assessments of the cobble lock paving on Main Street Castleblayney have been carried out periodically. Sections of footway requiring remedial works have been included for consideration under this Municipal District's 2025 Footway Programme. It is anticipated that a deep clean of the cobble lock paving shall be carried out in Q2 2025.

7. There have been break-ins in the Annalitten area. I have requested that additional public lighting be considered in this area and was informed that it was being assessed. Can an update on this assessment be provided?

   Response:
   The executive carried out a site inspection in the vicinity of Annalitten School and identified 3 No. operational public lights. The executive shall arrange for an assessment of the Lux and Lumen levels of these public lights to ensure they are operating effectively.

8. Some pathways on the White Island are in very poor condition with large potholes evident. I am aware of a recent incident where a child was injured after falling as a result. Can an overview of the maintenance programme for this area be provided?

   Response:
   The paths on White Island are subject to on-going review by Municipal District staff. Any required remedial works are scheduled on the essential repairs and maintenance list, and attended to as soon as is reasonably practicable.

9. The road L34104 is in extremely poor condition. Can an update on the status of the road and works planned to improve this road be provided?

   Response:

It is envisaged that maintenance repairs to the L-34104 Grig Road shall be carried out over the coming weeks.

10. There have been several requests for traffic calming measures in estates in Castleblayney in 2024 with an undertaking from the Council that assessments will be undertaken. Can the Council executive share the findings of road safety assessments undertaken including recommendations?

Response:

The assessment process is ongoing. It is envisaged that the findings from the assessment of the 5 No. largest estates in Castleblayney will be shared with the elected members at the April 2025 Municipal District meeting.

Questions raised by Cllr. Peter Conlon for the March 2025 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

11. What is the latest position with generating a feasibility study on the Bridewell?

Response:

It is envisaged that a tender request for the engagement of a suitably qualified consultant shall issue to the market within the coming weeks.

12. Has there been any follow up with the Department of Justice on the position of the Courthouse in Carrickmacross and the possibility of Monaghan County Council taking ownership of the courthouse?

Response:

The most recent correspondence received from Department of Justice was on the 9th of January 2025, wherein the Department advised as follows:

"Discussions on its future use as a court venue are ongoing and it is expected a decision will be made shortly. If it is decided not to resume court sittings at Carrickmacross, then the Courts Service would welcome an approach from the Office of Public Works or local authorities that would see the building being put back into public use or community use."

A letter, seeking clarification on the outcome of the discussions referenced in the Department's correspondence of the 9th of January 2025, shall issue within the coming week.

13. Has Monaghan County Council any proposal to deal with the legacy issue of "Stone Roads" which are of particular relevance to the Carrickmacross / Castleblaney MD?

Response:

Where stone roads are identified under the roads programme for rehabilitation, these will receive a bituminous overlay. The legacy roads that are not on a road programme will be addressed under the road 5-year road maintenance strategy for low-cost intervention works.

14. Can we get a breakdown on the usage of the Pop-up pool?

Response:

The most recent pool usage data available to Swim Ireland, covering the period September 2024 to December 2024, is as set out in the table below:

	16/9 - 21/9	23/9- 28/9	30/9- 5/10	07/10- 12/10	14/10- 19/10	21/10- 26/10	**6 week programme totals**
Bookings (Admin+Schools+ Community Groups	291	322	311	323	320	304	**1871**

Halloween Camp	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri		Total
	15	15	15	15	15		**75**

	4/11 - 9/11	11/11 - 16/11	18/11 - 23/11	25/11 - 30/11	2/12 - 7/12	9/12 - 14/12	**6 week programme totals**
Bookings (Admin+Schools+ Community Groups	360	371	377	371	331	387	**2197**

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for the March 2025 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

15. Has there been any response back from the Garda Commissioners office in relation to the provision of a CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney town? Could the executive please furnish the members with a record of how many requests have been made to the office of the Garda Commissioner for response, also when was the first request made for a response to this very important issue?

    Response:

    An Garda Síochána are scheduled to provide an update on the application for the proposed CCTV schemes at the March 2025 Municipal District meeting.

    Two letters were issued to the office of the Garda Commissioner, the first of which was dated the 13th of September 2021. Additionally, two letters were issued to the office of the Chief Superintendent for the Cavan/Monaghan/Louth division of An Garda Síochána.

16. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the public realm plan and parking strategy plan for Inniskeen village, when is it hoped to see the implementation of these plans in conjunction with the agreement of the local community?

    Response:

    Following submissions from community groups in the Village, the Executive undertook a review of the draft detailed design for public realm enhancements to the Village Heart and St. Mary's Space areas in Inniskeen Village. Further consultations with key stakeholders are scheduled for early April. The implementation of these plans is heavily reliant on the community's endorsement of the proposals.

17. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the proposed park and ride facility for Carrickmacross town and the surrounding area when is it hoped to seen work commence on this facility which will be of great benefit to those using public transport and wishing to park their car safely or for those sharing a vehicle to travel for work?

    Response:

    Preliminary Design has been approved by TII and an allocation of €1.1m has been provided to progress this scheme through detailed design and construction. The executive is currently procuring a consultant to undertake the detailed design of this facility, apply for planning consent

via Part 8 procedures and prepare tender documentation for the engagement of a construction contractor. It is envisaged that Construction will commence in 2026.

18. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the request from residents of Deery Tce and Dunard estates in Inniskeen village to have some trees trimmed back and removed where necessary in the interest of public safety and general convenience?

Response:

An arboricultural assessment of the trees at Deery's Terrace has been completed. The Executive is currently awaiting receipt of the outcome report.

It is intended that the large trees in Dunard estate will receive a light pruning during the tree trimming season.

19. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the implementation of this year's road programme 2025? will the council be in a position to add in any extra roadways that are in much need of repair and a complete overlay?

Response:

Enabling drainage works to the roads scheduled for upgrade under the 2025 Restoration Improvement (RI) Programme commenced in February 2025. The procurement process for the engagement of a suitable contractor to implement the resurfacing aspect of the RI Programme is currently underway. The number of roads that may be resurfaced under the 2025 RI Programme shall depend on the tender rates submitted by the eventually appointed works contractor.

Questions raised by Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon for the March 2025 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

20. In relation to the question that I submitted recently regarding the Convent Lands Masterplan, is there any of this work to be completed this year?

Response:

It is hoped that the finalised *Convent Lands Landscape Concept Masterplan* shall provide the basis for successful funding applications under relevant future calls for funding e.g. the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) and the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS). The Masterplan is a high-level strategy comprising a series of complimentary interventions, each requiring further detailed design and development to enable construction. Most recently, an application for funding has been submitted under the ORIS *Project Development Measure* for the engagement of design consultancy services to prepare a construction-ready subplan aimed at maximising the recreational amenity of Lough Naglack.

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Cathy for the March 2025 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

21. Has the executive been able to establish areas in need of clean-up on Proules river, Carrickmacross, and has the Environment section been included in discussions?

Response:

The Proules river falls under the remit of the Office of Public Works (OPW). The Executive has contacted the relevant OPW personnel to ascertain the feasibility of a clean-up and is awaiting a response.

22. Has the council any plans to deal with the damage, caused by storm Éowyn, to the boundary fencing to Clois na Droimainne (Ardee road, Carrickmacross) which was previously installed by MCC?

    Response:

    The Executive shall contact the property owner concerned with a view to having any storm damage to the boundary fence along the Ardee Road repaired as soon as is reasonably practicable.

23. What is the latest update on the Bandstand project for the Civic Offices?

    Response:

    A tender for the engagement of a suitable works contractor has issued to the market. The closing date for tender submissions, originally set for the 20th of March 2025, has been extended until the 28th of March 2025 owing to technical issues that arose with the eTenders platform. It is anticipated that a suitable works contractor will be formally appointed by late April/early May 2025.

24. Has there been any further update on the review of Street Lights along Main Street, Carrickmacross, and when is it expected to be presented to Municipal District Elected Representatives?

    Response:

    It is envisaged that the finalised assessment report will be shared with the elected members in early Q2 2025.

25. What is the latest update on the process of reviewing traffic, parking, and safe access issues around the schools in Cloughvalley (including similar items around access to secondary schools along Patrician Drive/Rockdaniel Road/Castleblayney Road)?

    Response:

    It is anticipated that a suitably qualified design consultant will be appointed within the coming week to undertake traffic management assessments at the areas outlined.

9.0 Notice of Motions

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

"Following on from the motion that I submitted in September 2024, that was unanimously adopted by the Municipal District elected members, and the responses that were received from the then Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee TD, in both December 2024 and January 2025, I now call on the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District to request a meeting with the new Minister for Justice, Jim O'Callaghan TD, in relation to the future use of the Courthouse in Carrickmacross Town."

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

"That this Municipal District calls on the Minister for Education, Helen McEntee TD, to provide funding for all schools that suffered damage as a result of Storm Éowyn, as these schools have no budget to cover these repair costs."

Cllr. Keelan queried is insurance would not cover such costs.

Cllr. O'Hanlon advised that all schools have insurance in place, however, this is not covered.

10.0 Director of Service Orders

Orders Cmx-Cby 10/2025; Cmx-Cby 11/2025; Cmx-Cby 12/2025 and Cmx-Cby 13/2025 were noted.

11.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to Alice Kelly on the death of Seamus Kelly (RIP); Eamonn Boylan on the death of John Bosco Boylan (RIP); the McKevitt family on the death of Kathleen McKevitt (RIP); the Kellett family on the death of Johnny Kellett (RIP); Aidan & Elaine Slevin on the death of Bernadette Slevin (RIP); Michéal Magee & family on the death of Fintan Magee (RIP).

Cllr. O'Hanlon also expressed condolences to the family of Seamus Kelly (RIP) and spoke about his contribution to Carrickmacross and its community as past chairperson of Carrickmacross Emmets.

A Vote of congratulations was extended to Kaiden McKenna on winning an All-Ireland title in boxing.

12.0 A.O.B

Cllr. Carthy:

Repeated his request for an update on the Kingscourt Rd works.
Had previously asked for consideration to be given for a name boulder at Ard an Radhairc – has since received complaints about the surface of the roads (manholes). Planning section have been informed and the estate in not TIC. Requested that the MD investigate.
Sought an update on the poor lighting/dark spot located at the Scout Hall on O'Neill St.

Cllr. Keelan:

Spoke about "Make Way Day" which was held in the past and requested that this is investigated with a view to it happening again. Advised that a complaint was made regarding disability access to Farney St – Convent School.
Requested that a "pothole blitz" occur due to the current good weather conditions.

Cllr. Campbell:

Advised that there has been a lot of burglaries in the Castleblayney are recently and advised all to be vigilant.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Re-highlighted the current lack of public toilets at Lugh Muckno .
L-3711 is currently in a bad state again after recently being patched.

Cllr. Campbell and Cllr. Gibbons agreed that they would look into the proposal for collaboration on a Youth Project in 2025, sent by Laetitia Hadji, Mairie de Marseillan.

Cllr. Carthy suggested a welcoming reception could be held, similar to the one held for the Carrick rovers event last year.

The meeting concluded at 12:27pm.

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Cathaoirleach Date

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Meeting Administrator