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 Thursday the 19th of December 2024 at 11:55am

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

Apologies: Gary Toye, District Engineer

In Attendance: Carmel O'Hare, Director of Services, Damien Thornton, District Co-Ordinator, 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 November 2024 monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 25th of November 2024, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Campbell:
Enquired if there was any update on correspondence from the Department of Infrastructure, Northern Ireland regarding Ballynacarry Bridge.
Reply –Roads Section are awaiting submission of the planning application before making contact.

Cllr. Carthy:
Asked what the timeframe is for the report on street lighting in Carrickmacross.
Stated that current standards don't consider the issues at "head height" level.
Commented that the town of Cootehill looks beautiful at night.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Remarked upon the number of recent burglaries in the town.
Stated that we need to be more conscious of what the customer wants.
Agreed with Cllr. Carthy's remark about Cootehill.
Commented about the directive from Europe regarding the use of LED lights – they save money but are causing other issues.
Advised that the elected members need to be able to relay the information to members of the public as so many complaints/queries are being received.

Cllr. Conlon:
Concurred with Cllr. O'Hanlon's comments.
Remarked that the people of Carrickmacross are only looking for what they had before.
Commented that it is a women's safety issue, advising that the number of people walking socially has dropped.
Stated that more lights are needed.

Cllr. Campbell:
Stated that he wants Castleblayney to be included in this assessment, particularly towards the West Street end of the town – it is very dark, even with Christmas lights.
Advised that he has also received many complaints.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Remarked that approximately €19,000 is received per annum for public lighting when it would take around €250,000 to carry out required works.
Stated that proper lighting is needed for the towns and villages in the entire MD.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Concurred with the previous sentiments.
Remarked that it is a huge issue , people's health and safety is being affected and action is needed.

Cllr. Keelan:
Concurred with the previous sentiments.
Remarked that it is an on-going issue and very little has been done.
Commented that it is a solvable issue and stated that street lighting was the top issue raised at the recent Women's Assembly.

Cllr. Carthy:
Concurred with Cllr. Keelan's comments.
A recent walkabout showed that more lighting is needed as Carrickmacross.
Replacement of bulbs / replacement of heads and extra lights needs to be investigated.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was agreed to seek a presentation regarding street lighting in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney from Roads Section within the next few months. Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that if there is an issue with this, to revert to the members and it will then be raised at the full council meeting.

3.0 Correspondence

i. Acknowledgement from Minister Eamon Ryan TD re: Digital Displays at bus stops

ii. Correspondence from Uisce Éireann re: invitation to meeting

iii. Response from Minister Helen McEntee TD re: Carrickmacross Courthouse

Cllr. O'Hanlon wished to acknowledge the positive response and advised that it will need to be followed up on in a couple of months. Cllr. O'Hanlon proposed if it is decided not to use the Courthouse, the matter will need to be brought to Full Council with the proposal that the LA take control of the building.
Cllr. Conlon seconded the proposal and agreed it was a positive response, remarking that it is an iconic building and needs to be looked after.
Cllr. Carthy commented that the response is exactly what was asked for and agreed that the matter needs to be followed up.
Cllr. Keelan voiced his support for the proposal.

4.0 Municipal Coordinator's Report

Cllr. Carthy:
Looks forward to seeing how the feasibility study for the swimming pool is coming on.
Remarked on the fantastic job of work done at Rahans Lake.
Noted the update on the Bandstand and hoped to see this project pushed on.

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was unanimously agreed that the meeting go in-committee at 12.30pm.

On the proposal of Cllr. Campbell and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, it was unanimously agreed that the meeting come out of committee at 12.35pm.

Cllr. Keelan wished to congratulate Cllr. Gibbons on his recent election as Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council. All elected members expressed their good wishes and congratulations to Cllr. Gibbons.

Cllr. Keelan:
Asked that the Executive put pressure on regarding the on-going issue with the CCTV Schemes. Cllr. O'Hanlon remarked that this issue has been raised many times and queried whether the Chief Superintendent should be invited to a meeting to provide an update.

Cllr. Keelan agreed with issuing a letter and advised that the matter should be revisited in the new year.
Cllr. Keelan acknowledged the works done in the MD.
Acknowledged the ongoing work on the Inniskeen Bike Rental Scheme.
Welcomed funding for the Park and Ride Facility and asked if the design can be brought to the members in January.
Welcomed TII and the Executive preparing a plan for Tullyvaragh Junction.
Remarked that he hopes to see progress on the N2 Ardee – Castleblayney with the new Government.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Noted the number of presentations at monthly meetings and queried whether they need to be scheduled on a separate day.

Cllr. Conlon:
Concurred with the previous comments regarding Rahans Lake.
Advised that he feels hopeful about the Inniskeen Bike Rental Scheme.
Asked when the results for the Creevy Lough survey will be discussed.
Reply – February / March 2025.
Enquired if car parking has been considered in relation to the sensory playground in Cloughvalley.
Reply – there is provision for car parking in the overall plan.

5.0 Q&A

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

1. When is it expected that works will commence on the repairing/replacing of fencing along the Convent Lands housing estates (Plas Fionn Barra, Corran Fionn Barra etc.)?
   Response:
   It is anticipated that remedial works to the existing fence at Corran Fionn Barra and Plas Fionn Barra shall commence in Q1 2025.

2. When is it expected that we will be notified of funding for the 2025 Low-Cost Safety scheme and has this council stressed the urgency of a pedestrian crossing for the Oriel Road (which services Lough na Glack, Convent Lands, Convent Avenue, Primary Care Centre, shops etc.)?
   Response:
   It is expected that funding allocations under the *2025 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads* scheme shall be announced in early to mid-February 2025. The Municipal District Executive prioritised the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing on the Oriel Road when submitting funding applications under this scheme.

3. What is the latest update on the Bandstand project for Carrickmacross and has there been any further proposals looked at to provide a water feature for the town?
   Response:
   Bandstand:
   Further to a progress meeting with the appointed design consultant, held on the Monday the 9th of December last, it is expected that tender documents for the engagement of a suitable works contractor shall issue to the market in January 2025.

   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 early 2025.

4. When is it expected details will be provided on the Masterplans for Gallows Hill and Convent Avenue, Carrickmacross?
   Response:
   Gallows Hill:
   The appointed design team are currently developing preliminary concept options. As part of that process, it is intended to arrange focused workshops with individual groups, including Elected Members, in early 2025. Dates for the proposed workshops shall be confirmed in early January 2025.

   Convent Lands Landscape Concept Masterplan:
   The Municipal District Elected Members are to be provided with an update presentation on the *Convent Lands Landscape Concept Masterplan* immediately in advance of this December's Municipal District meeting.

5. When is it expected an audit of road markings will take place with a view to touching up those that have faded, especially in our towns and villages?
   Response:
   Existing road markings are subject to on-going review by technical staff. Any required remedial

works are scheduled on the essential repairs and maintenance list, and attended to as soon as is reasonably practicable.

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

6. Can the Executive please advise when the zebra crossing at St Marys Church will be reinstated?
   Response:
   It is anticipated that the road markings at the zebra crossing shall be reinstated within the coming days.

7. 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:
   The Executive shall arrange for the completion of the audit of the cobble lock pavement on Main Street, Castleblayney in early Q1 2025.

8. I understand there are plans for a zebra crossing In Oram village on the main road through the village. In Oram Village, children from Cois Cill and Sruth an Ilur among other areas are crossing the main road to access the playground adjacent to An Corran. I have requested a traffic survey last month due to concerns around speeding vehicles and a proliferation of HGVs using this road. Can the executive confirm if there are there plans for the provision of a pedestrian crossing at this location?
   Response:
   Subject to funding availability, it is hoped to provide a controlled pedestrian crossing on the R182 in Oram village, in the vicinity of the existing playground. It is further intended to complete traffic and speed surveys along the R182 in Oram village in early Q1 2025.

9. Have the effectiveness of the streetlights in Castleblayney been reviewed particularly in the West Street and Market Square area. Are there plans to improve nighttime visibility for motorists and pedestrians?
   Response:
   Mindful of the planned Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration Phase II Project, the Executive shall seek to engage a suitably qualified consultant to undertake an assessment of the lumen levels of the public lighting in the West Street and Market Square area, with a view to determining feasible solutions to address any issues identified.

10. Is there any update on the Castleblayney Town Centre First Plan which was hoped to be completed by Q2 2025?
    Response:
    The progression of the Castleblayney Town Centre First Plan is dependent on funding. Unfortunately funding for this project was not received in 2024. The Council is hopeful that funding will be made available in 2025 to progress this plan.

    The Council received funding in 2024 to complete a Town Centre Health Check for Castleblayney. Funding was also received to undertake Town Team capacity building with the newly formed

Castleblayney Town Team. The Council is currently engaging with the Castleblayney Town Team to finalise these projects.

In addition to these projects, the Council appointed Shaffrey Associates to develop a Castleblayney Town Centre Lands Regeneration Plan for the lands bordered by Muckno Street, Main Street and McGrath Road. The aim of the study is to deliver a series of design solutions identifying opportunities for development in this area as well as provide a guidance document for future development in this area.

A draft document has been received and the Council and its consultants are continuing to engage with key landowners, with further information events being held on the 18th of December 2024 (online), and on the 19th of December 2024 (in person). It is envisaged that the report will be finalised in early 2025 and will be presented to the Elected Members for their review and consideration.

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

11. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the Donaghmoyne Village area and the engagement of a design consultant to prepare a flood mitigation plan?
    Response:
    JBA Consulting has been appointed to progress the design of feasible flood mitigation measures. Initial site surveys and data collection works have commenced.

12. In advance of the access roads into the village been upgraded and resurfaced, what is the expected timescale for a plan to be completed and for works to commence on the ground?
    Response:
    It is anticipated that the design of feasible flood mitigation measures shall be completed in late Q1 2025. Subject to funding availability, and thereafter the engagement of a suitable works contractor, it is hoped that works shall commence in mid-late Q2 2025.

13. Given the length of time it has taken for the Garda Commissioners office to approve the roll out of a CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney towns, will the executive make contact again with the Garda Commissioners office to express the council members dissatisfaction at the time it has taken to receive a response and hopefully approval to move forward with the two schemes?
    Response:
    The Executive shall contact the Garda Commissioner's Office to relay the Elected Members' dissatisfaction at the length of time it is taking to arrive at a decision on the approval or otherwise of the proposed Community CCTV Schemes for each of Carrickmacross and Castleblayney Towns. The Executive shall further seek to obtain a definitive timeline for that decision.

14. What is up to date position in relation to the provision of additional car parking facilities and improvements to the entrance at Deery Terrace in Inniskeen as requested by the local residents?
    Response:
    The Executive shall continue to explore all potential sources of funding to facilitate the enhancement of existing parking arrangements, and improvements to the entrance, at Deery's Terrace in Inniskeen.

15. What is the up-to -date position in relation to the council executive's engagement with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the Local Link Service regarding the putting in place extra bus stops throughout the area including at Ballymackney, and also the re-establishment of the very important bus stop at the Dunard estate in Inniskeen?
    Response:
    Awaiting a response from Roads Section.

16. When is it hoped to commence the road improvement and resurfacing programme for the coming year 2025?
    Response:
    Enabling works (drainage and tabling etc.) for the Restoration Improvement (RI) programme have commenced. It is anticipated that the restrengthening (resurfacing) aspect of the RI programme shall commence in this Municipal District in late Q2/early Q3 2025. Similarly, it is envisaged that the Restoration Maintenance (surface dressing) programme shall commence in this Municipal District in early Q3 2025.

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

17. With the lack of meaningful cooperation from the landowner, will the council commit to trimming the trees on the convent hill that are causing a safety concern?
    Response:
    The Executive shall arrange for an arboricultural survey of the trees concerned to determine the extent of any safety issues. Thereafter, the Executive shall, in the first instance, notify the landowner with respect to their legal obligation to address any safety issues that may be identified. Failing any such required action on the part of the landowner, the Executive shall arrange for the necessary remedial works to be carried out and accordingly, seek recompense from the landowner concerned.

18. With the allocation of €300,000 towards the progression of the swimming pool / Leisure centre for Carrickmacross, how far in the development process is this expected to bring this project?
    Response:
    Monaghan County Council expect the findings of the Draft Feasibility Report to be presented to the Elected Members at the Municipal District Meeting in January 2025. The information and data provided in the Feasibility Study & Strategic Assessment Report will allow the Council to make an informed and reasoned decision on whether to advance the proposal to the next stage in the project lifecycle. Subject to positive feasibility findings and agreement to advance the proposal, the Executive will then commence procurement of professional services to develop a preliminary business case for the proposed project.

Questions raised by Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon for the December 2024 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

19. Now that the construction of the new community centre in Magheracloone is completed, what is the up-to-date position in relation to providing much-needed safety measures for pedestrians, including children, in the area? When will the proposed new footpaths and pedestrian crossing be completed? When or is the speed limit going to be reduced in Magheracloone Village?
    Response:

A site assessment and topographical survey have been completed. Engineering staff are currently progressing detailed design. It is anticipated that works shall be completed in the second half of Q1 2025. The speed limit shall be considered as part of national speed limit review process currently underway.

20. When is it expected that the lights of the pedestrian crossing at Cloughvalley Stores will be repaired? I reported this issue some weeks ago. Also, the main traffic lights in Castleblayney town have been out for some time. When will these be repaired?
Response:
Repairs to both the main traffic lights in Castleblayney Town and the lights of the pedestrian crossing at Cloughvalley Stores in Carrickmacross Town have been completed.

6.0 CE Orders

Orders Cmx-Cby 61/2024; Cmx-Cby 62/2024; Cmx-Cby 63/2024; Cmx-Cby 64/2024; Cmx-Cby 65/2024; Cmx-Cby 66/2024; and Cmx-Cby 67/2024 were noted.

Cllr. Keelan wished to welcome the appointment of consultants for the Donaghmoyne Flood Risk Assessment.

9.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to Andrew O'Rourke & family on the death of Eileen O'Rourke (RIP); The Laide family on the death of Brian Laide (RIP); PJ Murray & family on the death of Paddy Murray (RIP); Fr. Adi Walshe & family on the death of Michael Walshe (RIP); Sean Jones on the death of Margaret Reilly (RIP) and Mary McDaniel & family on the death of Tommy McDaniel (RIP).

10.0 A.O.B

Cllr. Keelan:

Asked if there is a plan in place to carry out emergency patching works if needed?
Reply – there are sufficient resources in place to ensure that roads are safely passable.
Welcomed improvements made to Breffni House, acknowledging MCC and staff and the property owner.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Concurred with the comments about Breffni House.

Cllr. Carthy:

Commended the Executive at MD level regarding working towards the re use of the craft workshop.

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon, it was unanimously agreed that the meeting go in-committee at 12.50pm.

On the proposal of Cllr. Campbell and seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was unanimously agreed that the meeting come out of committee at 12.55pm.

Cllr. Conlon:
Stated he wishes to arrange to show the short film "How to Diffuse a Bomb" in Carrickmacross.

A presentation was made to Carmel O'Hare, Director of Service, as this was her last meeting in the role of Director of Service for Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD.

Cllr. O'Hanlon expressed thanks to all MD staff and wished all a safe, peaceful, and happy Christmas.

The meeting concluded at 13:05.

_____ _____
Cathaoirleach Date

_____ _____
Meeting Administrator Date