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 Friday the 25th of July 2025 at 11:00am

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

Apologies: Cathal Flynn, Director of Services, Gary Toye, District Engineer, Gemma Keenan, Senior Staff Officer

In Attendance: Kevin McNally, A/Director of Services, Damien Thornton, District Co-Ordinator, Glenn O'Reilly, Assistant Engineer, 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 2025 AGM, held on Monday the 23rd of June 2025, were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Conlon, the minutes of the June 2025 monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 23rd of June 2025, were adopted

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Campbell, the minutes of the in-committee meeting concerning the proposed swimming pool & leisure complex, COAC and outdoor sauna facility, held on Monday the 23rd of June 2025, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan:
Wished to confirm whether there will be a CCTV presentation at the September meeting.
Reply – An invitation was issued to Inspector Colm McNally, and we are awaiting a response.

Sought an update on Bully's Acre Graveyard.
Reply – Currently reviewing a method statement received from the osteoarchaeologist.
Sought an update on the land at the back of BOI.
Reply – This property has been entered on the derelict property register.

Cllr. Carthy:
Sought an update on the footpath issue at Rock Chapel.
Reply – This MD has engaged with those concerned and will continue to work towards a solution.
Advised that works are needed at St. Macartan's Villas – rear access etc.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Advised he has spoken to Mr. Adrian Higgins who works in Minister Jim O'Callaghan's office, about the CCTV issue and hopes to have a response in the coming weeks.
Asked when this year's Roads Programme will be complete.
Reply – Early August 2025. Low-Cost intervention works will follow, however there is no timeframe available yet. The Former National Road scheme is due for completion in September 2025.
Requested that elected members are notified when low-cost intervention works are completed.

Cllr. Campbell:
Sought an update on removing the timber at Black Island.
Reply – No confirmed date. A realistic opening date is likely to be September.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Expressed disappointment that the Oram Traffic Calming application was unsuccessful and asked what was proposed.
Reply – A preliminary design was completed to inform a cost estimate. This application will be resubmitted.
Asked if MCC have a role in maintaining the graveyard at the back of St. Mary's.
Reply – this will be investigated.
Advised there are faded road markings in Castleblayney.

3.0 Correspondence

i. Response from Roads Section re: Contacting N. Ireland Executive – Ballynacarry Bridge

Cllr. Campbell:
Remarked that he is not inclined to agree that making contact is premature.
Queried how much has been spent so far on this project.
Wondered at what stage it will be appropriate to seek funding.
Requested further comment from Roads section as to why it is seen as premature.
Stated that he sticks by his original motion and will find out how much has been spent before the next meeting and revert back to members.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Supported Cllr. Campbell's comments.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Questioned the wisdom of carrying out ecological surveys that will likely requiring updating.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Wished to make a point of information regarding this correspondence: The elected members disagree with the statement made by the executive.

Cllr. Keelan:
Wished to note that people have a right to object.
Commented that there is no planning permission in place at this stage and advised he has no doubt that funding will be available when the time comes.

Cllr. Carthy:
Commented that Monaghan County Council are putting a plan in place to deliver a safe stretch of road.

4.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

Cllr. Conlon:
Sought clarification that an update on the proposed swimming pool will be provided at the September meeting and wondered if elected members will be advised of a preferred site.
Sought an update on Shirley House Lane car park.
Reply – It is hoped that the Shirley House Lane car park will progress to Part 8 planning in September.

Cllr. Carthy:
Welcomed the re-design of the Bandstand and hopes to see numerous tender responses.
The Executive were contacted about road ramps being too high for adapted vehicles and asked that this is investigated.

Cllr. Keelan:
Clarified that re-surfacing of the road adjacent to the school in Donaghmoyne will be done in the coming weeks.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Sought an update on the sensory garden in Castleblayney.
Reply – The contractor will return to look at the issue.
Advised that he will continue to campaign for improvement works at Brennan's Cross.
Sought an update on the Low-Cost Intervention works.
Reply – 8 routes have been identified for in-situ recycling works.

Asked if MCC has a role to play regarding concerns around the use of electric scooters in local areas.
Reply – It is understood that the Roads Section intend to undertake a publicity campaign in conjunction with AGS.

It was unanimously agreed to place this item on the agenda for the proposed meeting with Inspector McNally.
Cllr. O'Hanlon remarked that clarification is needed on the laws/regulations.
Cllr. Carthy voiced concerns about the dangers of electric scooters.
Cllr. Campbell remarked that personal responsibility is key.
Cllr. Conlon asked that the issue of cattle rustling also be added to the agenda and this was unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Keelan suggested that it would be a good idea to meet regularly with AGS in advance of the replacement of the JPC Committees.
On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon, it was agreed to send a letter to AGS.

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5.0 Q&A

Question (No.2) raised by Cllr. Paul Gibbons for the June 2025 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

1. **Can the possibility of establishing a local committee to help maintain and promote the twinning between Castleblayney and Marseillan be examined?**
   Response:
   Monaghan County Council has an established Twinning Committee. Following local elections every 5 years, Monaghan County Council nominate 4 no. elected members to this committee. The remit of this committee is to support communities to develop links with towns abroad to gain a better understanding of nationalities and cultures, develop partnerships with international communities and advance business opportunities for the twinned locations. Current members are Cllr. Pauric Clerkin, Cllr. Aidan Campbell, Cllr. Sinéad Flynn and Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon.
   Current Twinning arrangements are as follows:

Relevant Section or Municipal District	Responsible for Twinning's in
Governance & Corporate Affairs Section	• Prince Edward Island, Canada • Miramichi, Canada • Peterborough, Canada • Alytus Lithuania (Memorandum of Friendship)
Ballybay-Clones Municipal District	• Osterhofen Gergweis, Bavaria, Germany • Fivemiletown, Fermanagh, N. Ireland
Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District	• Carhaix-Plouguer, Brittany • Marseillan, Languedoc, France
Monaghan Municipal District	• Geel, Belgium

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

1. **Are there plans to increase the number of dog fouling bins and/or signage on this issue in Castleblayney?**
   Response:
   There are currently 5 No. dog fouling bins located in and around Castleblayney Town. The executive will examine the need for additional bins at other suitable locations. New signage, promoting the *Green Dog Walkers* initiative, has recently been erected in Castleblayney Town.

2. **Can an update be provided on the proposed CCTV camera systems for Castleblayney and Carrickmacross?**
   Response:
   The executive continues to await approval or otherwise from the Commissioner's Office to implement both CCTV schemes.

3. **Can details be provided on plans being developed by the Executive for the provision of additional sporting facilities in Castleblayney and the surrounding area?**
   Response:
   A new funding stream, entitled *Participation Nation Fund* was announced by Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in 2024 to support the provision of 'barrier-free' outdoor sport on publicly owned lands. Subsequently, in late May 2025, the Municipal District executive was advised that Monaghan County Council had been successful in securing funding of €60,000 towards the construction of a 3x3 basketball facility in Lough Muckno Park. It is proposed to site the facility adjacent to the exiting playpark, to the rear of the Library carpark. It is anticipated that works will commence in late Q3 2025.

   Eleswhere, under the PEACEPLUS Programme, Monaghan County Council has secured funding for the provision of a standalone BoxUp Unit at Drumillard Community Playpark and the provision of recreational exercise equipment in Oram Village.

4. **I note the recent commitment to improve lighting levels in The Crescent, Castleblayney. When is it envisaged that works will commence?**
   Response:
   It is anticipated that upgrade works to the public lighting in The Cresent will take place in early September 2025.

5. **Have vehicle speeds going through the village of Oram been assessed recently and appropriate traffic calming measures considered? I would have particular concerns about the number and speed of vehicles including a marked increase in the numbers of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) using this road in recent years and am being mindful of this traffic in the vicinity of the playground and on the Blayney Road outside the GAA field, creche and school where there would be a lot of children playing and alighting from vehicles.**
   Response:
   Traffic and speed surveys were completed on the R182, Oram Village, in late 2023. On foot of the outcome of this assessment, the executive submitted a funding application under the *Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads* programme to facilitate the installation of suitable traffic calming measures. Unfortunately, this funding application was unsuccessful. The executive shall continue to explore all potential sources of funding to progress the installation of appropriate Traffic Calming measures at this location.

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

6. **When is the old Ardee Road from Highfield to the Drumcondra Road to be resurfaced?**
   Response:
   It is anticipated that resurfacing works on the Old Ardee Road will commence in late Q3 2025.

7. **The Creevy Lough masterplan was to be back out for public consultation; do we have an update on its progress?**
   Response:
   A further 3-week public consultation process on the draft Masterplan commenced on Friday the 11th of July last. The draft Masterplan, and associated on-line survey, is available for inspection on Monaghan County Council's Public Consultation webpage at https://consult.monaghancoco.ie/ The closing date for submissions is Thursday the 31st of July 2025.

   The Consultation was publicised on Monaghan County Council's social media channels and a poster sign advertising same was also installed on site at Creevy Lough. The poster includes a QR code that facilitates access to the on-line survey. To date, 49 No. submissions have been received. Subject to the review of feedback and any subsequent amendments to the Masterplan, it is envisaged that the Masterplan shall be completed in Q3 2025.

8. **What is the update on the Public Realm design for Main Street and the Bridewell Lane Area?**
   Response:
   The executive is currently undertaking the tender evaluation process for the appointment of a suitably qualified multidisciplinary design team. Pending the outcome of this process, it is anticipated that a design team shall be appointed by late Q3 2025.

9. **What is the update on the Convent Lands Masterplan?**
   Response:
   Monaghan County Council appointed *The Paul Hogarth Company* to prepare a concept landscape masterplan for the Convent Lands area to the south of Carrickmacross Town Centre. The terms of reference of the proposed Masterplan are centred on the provision of improved foot and cycle linkages to the town centre, the accommodation of the potential expansion of the St. Louis Secondary School and the consolidation of recent investments in sports facilities.

   Subsequent to several 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 improved linkages. These discussions are ongoing, and it is hoped that a preferred solution may be identified by mid Q3 2025.

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

10. **When is it expected repairs will be carried out on parking area (paving stones) in front of the courthouse & the street/carpark (potholes/dips in roadway) in front of area between Boylan's and Markey's on main street, Carrickmacross?**
    Response:
    The section of paving to the parking area in front of the Courthouse footway that requires repair has been included for consideration on this Municipal District's 2025 Footway Programme. The executive will carry out an assessment of the street/carpark area fronting the building line between Boylan's and Markey's on Main Street, Carrickmacross. Any required remedial works shall be scheduled on the essential repairs and maintenance list, and attended to as soon as is reasonably practicable.

11. **Will the MD Executive consider repairs to footpath that runs along the front of the Workhouse in the Shercock road, Carrickmacross?**
    Response:
    The executive will carry out an assessment of the footway that fronts the Carrickmacross Workhouse site. Any sections of footway in need of repair shall be included for consideration under this Municipal District's 2025 Footway Programme.

12. **When is it expected works will be carried out to replace barrier to Clos na Droimainne (unfinished) estate's barrier adjacent to the Ardee Road, Carrickmacross, which was damaged during Storm Éowyn?**
    Response:
    The executive has contacted 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.

13. **When is it expected that traffic calming measures will be put in place on the Kingscourt and Ballybay road out of Carrickmacross to reduce excessive speeding and, if funding is not provided by central government under 'cost safety' is the executive looking at other measures?**
    Response:
    The installation of traffic calming measures on the R179 Kingscourt Road and the R180 Ballybay Road is contingent on securing adequate funding. The executive will explore all potential sources of funding to progress both schemes.

14. **What is the latest update on the site selection process for the proposed Swimming Pool and Leisure Complex in Carrickmacross?**
    Response:
    The appointed consultants, *S3 Solutions*, are continuing to progress the assessment and evaluation of potential sites for the proposed swimming pool and leisure complex in Carrickmacross. It is envisaged that the site evaluation process will be completed in August 2025. The Executive expect that the findings of the site selection process and proposed recommendation will be presented to the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Elected Members at the September Municipal District meeting.

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

15. **What is the update on the public lighting on Main Street particular the lower end at West Street and towards the Market House in Castleblayney?**
    Response:
    A public lighting specialist has been engaged to upgrade the existing public lighting on West Street, Castleblayney. It is anticipated that these works will commence in September 2025.

16. **In welcoming the tender documents being issued for the works on the Market House in Castleblayney. What is the proposed timeline for works to commence?**
    Response:
    Having regard to relevant time periods for the tender process and subject to DRCDG approval timelines under Stage 3 (Decision Gate 3: Approval to Proceed) of the project approval process, it is envisaged that project construction may commence in Q4 2025.

17. **When it hoped for work to commence on the Walking Loop at Mullyash?**
    Response:
    Subject to the tender process for the engagement of a suitably qualified works contractor, it is anticipated that works will commence on the Mullyash Walking loop in late Q3 /early Q4.

18. **When will work recommence on the bridge rehabilitation in the MD and in what order?**
    Response:
    The provisional County Bridge Programme is due to commence on the 5th of August 2025. The programme includes 7 No. bridges, 4 No. of which are located in the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District. The bridges located in Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District, and the intended date for commencement of works to same is as follows:

    1. Tiragarvan L-8910 - works to commence on the 8th of September 2025
    2. Cornacarrow L-88201 – works to commence Mid to late October 2025
    3. Corcrin L-4640 - Commencement date of works TBC
    4. Lurganearly L-77401 - Commencement date of works TBC

    In relation to the bridges at Corcrin and Lurganearly, a consultant has been appointed to prepare the repair strategy for both these structures. Given the requirement to undertake a Bird and Bat survey and an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, which, depending on the outcome of both, could have an effect on the works programme, and the restrictive nature of the IFI's permitted instream works season of July to September, it is unlikely that works will commence in 2025 and will therefore be completed in 2026 subject to funding. All endeavours will be made to commence the works in 2025.

19. **Can the MD carry out an audit on Parking in Muckno Street with a view to looking for more parking for the area?**
    Response:
    The executive will conduct a comprehensive audit of the existing parking provision along Muckno Street and will examine the feasibility of additional parking spaces.

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

20. In relation to the roads programme for this year, what date are these works starting and when will they be completed?

Response:

Enabling works (drainage, tabling etc.) for the Restoration Improvement (RI) programme are complete. The restrengthening (resurfacing) aspect of the RI programme commenced on the 15th of July last. Weather permitting, it is anticipated that the restrengthening works will be completed in early August 2025.

21. Following on from the question I asked previously in relation to the letter that the elected members received from Carrickmacross Emmets GFC requesting a meeting, when is this meeting scheduled to take place?

Response:

It is intended to convene a meeting with representatives from Carrickmacross Emmets GFC within the coming weeks.

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

22. What is the up-to-date position in relation the public realm plan for Inniskeen village. When is it hoped to commence works?

Response:

The executive is currently amending 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 will take place on completion of the revised design. The implementation of these plans is reliant on the community's endorsement of same. It is hoped that works will commence in late Q3/early Q4 2025.

23. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the proposed flood mitigation plan for the Donaghmoyne Village area?

Response:

The flooding baseline model for the scheme has been developed, and it is anticipated that the optioneering process (the identification of the contribution of sub-catchments, the identification of constraints, and the development of hydraulic solutions) will be completed by the end of August 2025. Thereafter, and subject to the endorsement of any affected landowners, it is hoped that the detailed design of the preferred solution will be completed by October 2025, with a planning application for the scheme submitted in Q4 2025.

Following the detailed design of the preferred flood mitigation solution, the executive shall explore all potential sources of funding to advance the implementation of the scheme. The executive intends to undertake significant resurfacing works to the access roads entering Donaghmoyne Village in conjunction with the implementation of flood mitigation measures.

24. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the Creevy Lough masterplan?

Response:

A further 3-week public consultation process on the draft Masterplan commenced on Friday the 11th of July last. The draft Masterplan, and associated on-line survey, is available for inspection on Monaghan County Council's Public Consultation webpage at

https://consult.monaghancoco.ie/ The closing date for submissions is Thursday the 31st of July 2025.

The Consultation was publicised on Monaghan County Council's social media channels and a poster sign advertising same was also installed on site at Creevy Lough. The poster includes a QR code that facilitates access to the on-line survey. To date, 49 No. submissions have been received. Subject to the review of feedback and any subsequent amendments to the Masterplan, it is envisaged that the Masterplan shall be completed in Q3 2025.

25. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the proposed Park & Share / Ride facility for the Carrickmacross area?

Response:

Monaghan County Council commissioned a procurement process to engage a consultant to take this scheme through planning, detailed design and construction supervision however, TII as the funding authority deemed the most competitive quote to be excessively high. As such, the executive is currently exploring various ways of descoping the project brief and enter into negotiations with the consultant with a view of reducing the submitted quotation. These negotiations are currently ongoing.

26. In relation to roadways that have flooding issue. Has the council applied for funding under the flood resilience measure to address these issues. How many schemes have we applied for and at what locations?

Response:

The Municipal District executive applied for funding under the *2025 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works* programme for the following schemes:

Location	Description	Road No.
Annadrummon Castleblayney	Flood Relief Scheme	LP3720
Donaghmoyne Village	Upgrade of existing Storm Water Drainage Collection System	LP4510-0,L45102-0
R179 Regional Road	Provide structural support to the R179. Due to the rising water levels of the river running parallel the road embankment and foundation is being eroded.	R179
Donaghmoyne	Installation of drainage pipes/culvert adjacent to the exisiting roadway in an effort to prevent erosion of the exisiting road foundation	LP4510
Ascail Dubh	Upgrade exsiting Surface water drain which is cicra 120 years old and is in poor structural condition. This drainage system is the main surface water collection system for West and South West of the Carrickmacross include roads network and high density housing developments in the area.	n/a
Lisagore, Broomfield	Raise the existing road levels for 280m to prevent flooding	LT41102
Drumbroagh/Coolfore	Upgrade existing drainage infrastructure	LT40011
Carrickmacross	CCTV Survey to inspect intergrity of strom drainage in urban area	n/a
Castleblayney	CCTV Survey to inspect intergrity of strom drainage in urban area	n/a
Inniskeen	CCTV Survey to inspect intergrity of strom drainage in urban area	n/a

6.0 Director of Service Orders

Orders Cmx-Cby 29/2025; Cmx-Cby 30/2025 and Cmx-Cby 31/2025 were noted.

7.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to Denise Monaghan Martin on the death of Sean Monaghan (RIP); Martina & Colm Birdy on the death of Sean Monaghan (RIP); Eilish Finnegan on the death of Michael finnegan (RIP); Susan Funcheon on the death of Barry Connor (RIP); Cathal Birdy & family on the death of Madeline Birdy (RIP), Christopher and Sandra Duffy on the death of Megan Duffy (RIP) and to the family of Tom McManus (RIP).

A Vote of congratulations was extended to the Ward family, Matilda's Bakery on the achievement of being listed as one of Ireland best independent shops.

8.0 A.O.B

Cllr. Campbell:

Formally proposed sending a letter to Muckno Mania Committee to commend them on the recent successful Muckno Mania Festival.
Noted numerous upcoming events in Castleblayney:
10-mile race, Castleblayney Show and the Country Music Festival.

Cllr. Keelan:

Voiced concerns regarding the re-designed junction at the Church in Inniskeen, advising it may need to be re-visited.
Advised that Lannat Bridge needs attention after it was recently hit.
During recent reconstruction works on the Blackstaff Road, some materials were placed alongside the River Fane at Lannat. Members of the public have voiced concerns that this may pose a potential pollution risk. Can this be investigated.
Enquired about the proposed presentation by Local Link.
Reply – this is currently scheduled for the September meeting.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Requested that the MD team liaise with the elected members regarding any Active Travel projects.
Proposed that a letter is issued to the new owners of The Nuremore Hotel from the Cathaoirleach of Carrickmacross – Castleblayeny MD, inviting them to meet with the elected members so they can offer their full support.
All unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Carthy:

Spoke about the previously mentioned junction design:- Elected members were advised by the Executive that it would work, despite disagreement from those who drive large haulage

vehicles. This design now requires amendment. Remarked that the Executive need to take on board advice given from such people in these situations.
Sought an update on pilot scheme works on the Mullantlavan Road.
Sought an update on the addition of a bin as part of the Gallows Hill Masterplan works.

Cllr. Conlon:
Concurred with comments regarding the junction at Inniskeen Church.

Cllr. Campbell:
Wished outgoing Assistant Engineers Micheal Broderick and Niall Mooney well in their new roles and thanked them for all their work.
Damien Thornton, District Co-Ordinator, advised the members that a new staff member, Niall Cadden, has replaced Michael Broderick. The MD is awaiting Niall Mooney's replacement.

Cllr. O'Hanlon proposed, and it was unanimously agreed by all members, to send a letter to the Director of Services for Human Resources regarding the allowance of a proper handover to replacement staff.
Cllr. Carthy remarked that an internal move should allow time for a proper handover.
All members agreed.

The meeting concluded at 12:40pm.

_____ _____
Cathaoirleach Date

_____
Meeting Administrator