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 28th of October 2025 at 11:08am

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

In Attendance: Cathal Flynn, Director of Services, Damien Thornton, District Co-Ordinator, Gary Toye, District Engineer, Gemma Kennan, Senior Staff Officer, Leona O'Brien, Clerical Officer

Cllr. Gibbons opened the meeting by extending his congratulations to the new President Elect, Catherine Connolly, and by thanking President Michael D. Higgins for his excellent service to the country. This sentiment was unanimously agreed by all present.

On the proposal of the Cllr. Gibbons and seconded by Cllr. Noel Keelan, it was unanimously agreed to send a letter of congratulations to the new President Elect, Catherine Connolly, and to invite the President Elect to future events in the Municipal District during her term as President.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gibbons and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, it was unanimously agreed to send a letter to President Michael D. Higgins to thank him for his service and to wish him well in his retirement.

Cllr. Keelan
Noted that there is a job at national level to review the number of spoilt votes, commenting that there is a disconnect there.

Cllr. O'Hanlon
Acknowledged Heather Humphreys for standing for election. Concurred that the rules and regulations need to be looked at.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, it was unanimously agreed to send a letter to former Councillor and TD Heather Humphreys to acknowledge her election campaign and to wish her well.

Cllr. Conlon
Concurred that a discussion around format is fundamental going forward. Concurred with the well wishes to Heather Humphreys.

Cllr. Campbell
Acknowledged the good campaign Heather Humphreys ran. Noted that a line was crossed with disinformation/misinformation during the campaign.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr. Keelan requested a correction under "Matters Arising" as follows:
"Cllr. Keelan wished to note that he and Deputy Carthy have met with the Superintendent Pat O'Connell regarding the delay with the CCTV applications".

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Conlon , the amended minutes of the September 2025 monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 29th of September 2025, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Carthy:
Requested an indicative timeframe for public lighting works in Carrickmacross.

A robust discussion ensued regarding public lighting works in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney. Cllr. O'Hanlon requested that the executive make a public statement in relation to the safety of the Main Street in Carrickmacross.
Reply – A commitment had previously been given at the start of the year to review public lighting in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney. Public lighting works in Castleblayney have been completed. There is a tender to commence works in Carrickmacross in the coming months and dark spots will be addressed.

Cllr. O'Hanlon sought clarity from the executive that the dark spots on the Main Street will be rectified before Christmas. Queried if works would interfere with Christmas business in the town. Enquired if the Chamber of Commerce and the Town Team have been consulted regarding the upcoming works.

Reply – No intention to cause disruption to Christmas business. The Chamber of Commerce and Town Team are aware of the proposed works. No definitive works programme has been confirmed as yet.

Cllr. O' Hanlon noted the importance of informing the Chamber of Commerce and the Town Team of the works to be taken place and that a schedule is provided to them.

Cllr. Keelan:
Requested that the executive investigate complaints over some materials that were placed alongside the River Fane at Lannat following recent construction works on the Blackstaff Road. May be a pollution/health risk.
Requested an update on works at Bully's Acre.
Reply – The site at Bully's Acres is secured. Works to commence on 10th November and is scheduled to take 3 weeks.
Queried if there is an update on Lannat Bridge after it was hit by a vehicle. Request for repairs to be carried out on large capping stones.
Queried if an invitation had been reissued to Local Link to present to the elected members.
Reply – Local Link are due to attend the November Municipal District meeting.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Warmly welcomed the new member of staff. Queried where the office was in terms of numbers. Noted the importance of having a full quota of staff. Queried if a response has been received to the letter issued to the Director of Service for Human Resources (HR).
Reply – No formal response has been received. Don't have full quota. A replacement is still required for the position of Assistant Engineer.

Cllr. O'Hanlon requested that a formal response to be sought from HR and in the absence of this, advised that he will raise the matter at full Council.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Requested an update on the proposed CCTV schemes for Castleblayney town.
Reply – The executive has yet to receive formal confirmation from the Garda Commissioner's Office that the proposed CCTV schemes for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney towns have received approval.
Queried when an update will be provided to members on the Lough Muckno Masterplan.
Reply – It is expected that an update presentation will be provided to elected members at the December meeting.

3.0 Correspondence Incoming

iii. Response from Insp. Colm McNally re invitation to attend proposed October monthly meeting

Cllr. Keelan:
Noted the importance of meeting with the Inspector directly. Expressed that there should be some flexibility to meet with the Inspector outside of hours. Proposed for a further letter to issue to Insp. Colm McNally inviting him to the next meeting with a note regarding flexibility.

Cllr. Carthy:
Noted if any person wishes for a proportion to be held In Committee, it will be supported.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Confirmed for a letter to be issued to Inspector McNally inviting him to the next meeting with an additional note of flexibility.

4.0 Correspondence Outgoing
Noted.

5.0 Date for the December 2025 Meeting
It was unanimously agreed for the December meeting to be scheduled for Monday 15th December at 11am in the Meeting Room, Castleblayney Library.

6.0 Municipal Coordinators Report
Cllr. Carthy:
Welcomed the funding towards the upgrade of the two sports courts at Cloughvalley. Noted that local clubs use it for their benefit.
Asked if funding has been approved for Shirley House Lane Carpark.
Reply – The executive confirmed that funding is still available under RRDF.
Welcomed the resurfacing works scheduled on the Ardee Road.
Asked if the executive have implemented measures to reduce traffic disruption when installing the pedestrian crossing on the Oriel Road.

Cllr. Conlon:
Requested an update on site selection for the proposed swimming pool and leisure complex in Carrickmacross town.
Commended the executive on the work involved on the Convent Lands Masterplan.
Inquired as to the timeframe for completion of Stage 1 of The Bridewell project.
Reply – It is anticipated that Stage 1 will be completed before the end of the year.

Inquired whether the elected members will have engagement on Creevy Lough before going to tender.
Reply – The executive confirmed that it is going to Part 8. The executive is currently reviewing cost options.

Queried if the drawings for the Carrickmacross Workhouse, Community Tourism & Arts Hub could be displayed in the Workhouse for one week.
Reply – Drawings are available to view at the Civic Offices.
Thanked the executive for facilitating concerns over the footpath on the Ardee Road.

Cllr. Campbell:
Requested an update on the current position of the Market House.

Reply – A report has been submitted to the Department. It is expected that the Department will come back with queries regarding submissions.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commended the Executive on their level of work.

Noted that he is hopeful that official correspondence will issue from the Garda Commissioner regarding the Community CCTV Schemes for the next meeting.

Requested an update from the executive on the site at the rear of Bank of Ireland. Expressed how this would complement work at the Bridewell.

Reply – The landowner has reached out to the local authority, and it is anticipated that a meeting will take place in November.

Commended the engineering staff for the progress on the roads. Noted that major investment is needed at national level. Commended the recent resurfacing works on the Lisagore Road.

Welcomed the appointment of a designer for the proposed works at Tullyvaragh Junction. Noted that a progressive design will be required to make the junction safer. Commented that it is probably one of the most dangerous junctions on the N2.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Asked the executive to confirm the position in relation to the speed limit on the Oriel Road; will the speed limit be reduced to 30km or remain at 50km? Noted that the road has a high volume of traffic and footfall due to its access to local amenities, Convent Land houses, Primary Care Centre, grocery stores.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Commended the recent works in Inniskeen village.

Stated that there are no play facilities in Annyalla.

Complimented recent works on Black Island. Noted that the snagging list was very well done.

Requested an update on CCTV for Lough Muckno.

7.0 Q&A

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

1. **Car parking has become a major issue at Bree Upper, Castleblayney. Can this area be examined with a view to additional car parking spaces being provided?**
   Response:
   The executive will review the current parking arrangements at Bree Upper and assess the feasibility of increasing the available car parking capacity. Pending the outcome of this assessment, the executive will explore all potential sources of funding to support any proposed enhancements.

2. **I have previously requested a speed survey be carried out at Lakeview, Castleblayney as cars approach this area from the Keady/Oram road at considerable speed. Can the installation of a pedestrian crossing be considered here? There are many older people residents in this area who are challenged crossing the road. In addition, many children and visitors cross the road to visit the excellent and popular recreation facilities at Mindszenty Park. The installation of a pedestrian crossing may also assist in traffic calming at this location.**
   Response:
   Following the completion of a speed survey, the provision of traffic calming measures, including consideration of a pedestrian crossing, on the R181 Muckno Street, in the vicinity of Lakeview Terrace, has been included in this Municipal District's funding application under the *2026 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads* programme.

3. **The pathway in Drumillard from the playground to Oliver Plunkett Park is very narrow and unlit. This pathway is very busy as it's used by people accessing the Blayney Rovers pitch and residents from Lakeview/Muckno Street accessing Lidl and the Monaghan Road/Main Street. Can this path be examined to make it wider, accessible to wheelchairs and parents with prams and lighting provided for both personal safety and health and safety reasons.**
   Response:
   The executive will assess the feasibility of enhancing the accessibility of the pathway that runs from the playground in Drumillard to Oliver Plunkett Park. The installation of public lighting along this pathway will be included for consideration under this Municipal District's Public Lighting Programme for 2026.

4. **I have been advised previously that following a speed survey traffic calming measures are being considered for Thorndale and Rosevale estates. Can you please advise the nature of traffic calming planned and proposed timelines for implementation.**
   Response:
   The provision of traffic calming measures in both Thorndale and Rosevale estates, has been included in this Municipal District's funding application under the *2026 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads* programme. Any proposed traffic calming measures shall be in line with Monaghan County Council's adopted Traffic Calming Policy and, subject to funding, implemented in 2026.

5. **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:
   The executive is currently progressing the development of a 3x3 basketball facility in Lough Muckno Park. The initial proposal to site the facility adjacent to the exiting playpark, to the rear of the Library carpark, is being reviewed in the context of the emerging *Lough Muckno & Environs Masterplan and Development Framework*. It is anticipated that works will commence in late Q4 2025/early Q1 2026.

   Monaghan County Council has also secured funding for the provision of a BoxUp Unit at Drumillard Playpark and the provision of recreational exercise equipment in Oram Village. It is anticipated that the BoxUp unit will be installed before year end and that works in Oram will commence in early Q1 2026.

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

6. **Any update on the Bandstand project for Carrickmacross?**
   Response:
   The elected members will be provided with an update on the Bandstand project in advance of October's Municipal District meeting.

7. **When is it expected that repair works will take place on LT88312 potholes as well as a clean-up of the junction between this road and the LT88313?**
   Response:
   The executive shall undertake an assessment of the LT88312, including its junction with the LT88313, 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. Weather permitting, it is envisaged that patching works will take place in the coming weeks.

8. **When is it expected works will commence on the new pedestrian crossing for the Oriel Road, Carrickmacross?**
   Response:
   It is anticipated that works on the new pedestrian crossing on the Oriel Road will commence in mid-November 2025.

9. **Has the proposed traffic review (parking, safe access) around Cloughvalley schools (including Patrician High School) taken place and when will its findings be presented to members?**
   Response:
   It is anticipated that the proposed traffic review in the vicinity of the Cloughvalley schools (including Patrician High School) will be completed in November 2025. It is hoped that the outcome report from this assessment will be available for circulation to elected members before year end.

10. **Has the OPW responded to the Council Executive regarding the Proules river, Carrickmacross, and do they intend to carry out a clean-up of it?**
    Response:
    The executive has received correspondence from the Office of Public Works (OPW) advising that maintenance works to the Proules River, Carrickmacross are scheduled for November/December 2025.

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

11. **What is the up to-date position in relation to the proposed public realm plan for Inniskeen?**
    Response:
    Following discussions with the Department, funding for the detailed design element of the project has been ringfenced. In tandem with on-going engagement with community stakeholders, the executive is amending the draft detailed design. Further consultations with key stakeholders will take place on completion of the design amendments. It is hoped to have the detailed design agreed and completed by the year end. Thereafter, the executive intends to apply for funding under *Measure 2,3* of the *Town and Village Renewal scheme* to

implement the scheme.

12. **In relation to the Donaghmoyne village area, Is the council still on track to have a detailed design for the proposed flood mitigation plan by year end, when is it hoped to see works commence on the ground?**
    Response:
    It is anticipated that a Part 8 planning application for the flood alleviation scheme will be submitted in January 2026. Subject to the outcome of the Part 8 public consultation process, it is anticipated that detailed plans and costings will be completed by the end of Q1 2026. Thereafter, the executive shall explore all potential sources of funding to advance the implementation of the scheme. It is envisaged that the interventions identified will be implemented on a phased basis.

13. **What is the up to-date position in relation to the roll out of the CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross & Castleblayney towns?**
    Response:
    The executive has yet to receive formal confirmation from the Garda Commissioner's Office that the proposed CCTV schemes for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney towns have received approval. Notwithstanding same, the executive is progressing the engagement of a suitably qualified contractor to complete enabling civil and electrical works.

14. **In welcoming the commencement of works at the old famine graveyard (Bully's Acre) on the Donaghmoyne Road, what works will be undertaken, when is it hoped to see works completed and the graveyard back open again to the public?**
    Response:
    The works consist of site clearance and groundworks to enable the dignified and respectful reinstatement of disturbed burial ground associated with fallen trees that were uprooted during Storm Éowyn. The disturbed root boles dislodged human remains and exposed further human bone at the bases and sides of the tree root holes. The planned reinstatement is being undertaken under the supervision of an osteoarchaeologist and the guidance of the National Museum of Ireland. Works are scheduled to commence on the 10th of November 2025, and whilst expected to be completed within a 3-week period, this period may be extended depending on conditions encountered.

15. **In relation to the Creevy Lough Masterplan. Is the council still on track to submit a part 8 planning application for this project by year end?**
    Response:
    The executive is currently reviewing a cost plan for the emerging preferred option. Following internal stakeholder review, it is envisaged that a Part 8 planning application for the project will be submitted in December 2025.

<u>Questions raised by Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon for the October 2025 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:</u>

16. **Now that we are in storm season, is the MD carrying out all practical mitigation works? Are storm drains and watercourses being inspected and cleared to reduce potential flooding?**
    Response:
    Council staff are carrying out practical flood mitigation works at known locations, prone to flooding, throughout the Municipal District. Additionally, the OPW has committed to carry out maintenance works on the Proules River during November/December 2025.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell O'Hanlon for the October 2025 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

17. **With regards to the upgrade and enhancement of the lighting on Main Street in Castleblayney. When will these works be completed and commissioned?**
    Response:
    It is envisaged that the enhancement works to the public lighting along Main Street, Castleblayney, will be completed and commissioned within the coming days.

18. **With regards to the upgrades to the walking loop in Mullyash. What is the proposed schedule of work to complete this project?**
    Response:
    The schedule of works for the development of the standalone walking loop in Mullyash is as follows:

    - Site Clearance
    - Installation of new a walking trail through the bog, linking the L-7631 road to the forestry trail leading to the Mullyash Cairn (megalithic tomb).
    - Installation of trail head and wayfinding directional signage

    Works commenced in mid-October last, and it is anticipated that the scheme will be completed in Q4 2025.

19. **With the tender reports now in with Monaghan County Council for the works to be completed on the restoration of Market House in Castleblayney. What's the next stage and when is it expected work will commence?**
    Response:
    Following completion of the tender process, Monaghan County Council lodged a submission with the funding Department (DRCDG) on the 10th of October last, under Decision Gate 3 *Approval to Proceed*, seeking approval to award the construction contract. Having regard to relevant time periods for assessment of the submission by the funding Department, and subject to approval timelines under Decision Gate 3, is it is envisaged that project construction may commence in Q1 2026.

20. **With the recent storm damage causing more damage at Black Island. When now are we expecting to have all the works completed?**
    Response:
    The original contract works are now substantially complete and Coillte has cleared the fallen timber which impeded the walking trails following Storm Amy. The contractor has committed to returning to the site to undertake remedial works to a section of pathway impacted by timber harvesting and localised flooding. It is anticipated that all additional works will be completed by the 7th of November coming.

21. **What is the update on the bridge repairs works in the Carrickmacross - Castleblayney MD?**
    Response:
    The current status of the *2025 Bridge Rehabilitation Works on Regional and Local Roads* programme is as follows:

2025 Bridge Rehabilitation Works on Regional and Local Roads				
Project Code	**Road No.**	**Scheme**	**Status/Anticipated completion date**	**Allocation**
Emergency Works	R179	Derrylavan	Substantially complete	TBC
MN/BR/25/002	L8910	Tiragarvan	Contractor appointed. Works to commence in late 2025/early Q1 2026. 4-week construction programme.	€70,000
MN/BR/25/008	L88201	Cornacarrow	Contractor appointed. Works to commence in late 2025/early Q1 2026. 4-week construction programme.	€65,000
MN/BR/25/009	L77401	Lurganearly	TBC	€70,000
MN/BR/24/003	L4640	Corcrin	TBC	€30,000
			Total =	**TBC**

8.0 Notice of Motions

Motion by Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon "That the Municipal District commissions a feasibility study into the development of a Food Hub in Carrickmacross Town, to service the needs of start-up and expanding food businesses in the south Monaghan area."

Cllr. O' Hanlon:

Highlighted the need for a feasibility study to be carried out on the need to expand and develop the food business in Carrickmacross. He noted that there is a golden opportunity to start developing the food business in the town, to support small and medium enterprises and to increase employment statistics for the town.

Cllr. Conlon:

Concurred with Cllr. O'Hanlon. He noted how Carrickmacross is strategically placed for a unit like this.

Cllr. Keelan:

Expressed his support of the motion. He noted how a trick was missed with C-Tek I and C-Tek II whereby a design mechanism should have been incorporated to allow for research and development around food production. Noted that there is an opportunity there particularly if a C-TEK III hub is built.

All members unanimously lent their support to Cllr. O'Hanlon's motion.

The executive advised that funding is required to deliver on any feasibility. A discussion will be made with Leo regarding funding.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hanlon, and seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was unanimously agreed that the Municipal District commissions a feasibility study into the development of a Food Hub in

Carrickmacross town, to service the needs of start-up and expanding food businesses in the South Monaghan area.

9.0 Director of Service Orders

Noted.

10.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to Mark Rooney on the death of Ann Rooney (RIP); Paddy & Roisin Malone on the death of Philomena Malone (RIP); Michael & Sinead McEntee on the death of Maura McEntee (RIP); Marie Gorman & extended family on the death of John Gorman (RIP); Brian Finnegan on the death of Alice Finnegan (RIP); Peadar Callan & family on the death of Joseph (Joe) Callan (RIP); Eamon McCabe on the death of Sandra McCabe (RIP).

Cllrs. O'Hanlon, Conlon, Keelan and Carthy spoke about the recently deceased Maura McEntee (née Swinburne) (RIP), remembering her involvement with St. Vincent de Paul and other organisations and acknowledging the huge contribution she made to the town.

Votes of congratulations were extended to Carrick Emmets on winning the Intermediate Football Championship.

11.0 A.O.B

Cllr. Carthy:

Observed that Annaheen Lane needs attention.
Highlighted the corner outside C & M Cold Stores, Ross Road as needing attention.

Cllr. Keelan:

Requested an update on Taking in Charge Steadfast Industrial Estate.
Sought an update on Gorteens, Culloville.
Noted that tree pruning is required at Dun Ard Estate and Deery Terrace.
Requested that the access into Donaghmoyne village from the N2 be reviewed.
Requested that the junction at Inniskeen Church is revisited and that the flooding at the pedestrian crossing is addressed.

Cllr. Conlon:

Concurred with Cllr. Keelan. Requested a follow up on the commitment by Active Travel to revisit the junction at Inniskeen and the drainage issue at the pedestrian crossing.
Advised that the footpath at Mullinary Estate on the Kingscourt Road requires maintenance.
Advised that the stone capping at the public toilets in Market Square, Carrickmacross requires remedial action.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Spoke on the Sisters of St. Louis, acknowledging the contribution that they have made to the town of Carrickmacross over the years. Requested for a letter to be issued to the Sisters, acknowledging their contribution and to wish them well.

Cllr. O' Hanlon expressed his delight at the reopening of the Nuremore. He acknowledged the role of the Council and noted that it is a big benefit to the town economically.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Concurred on the brilliant news of the reopening of the Nuremore.

Noted that the trees are overgrown at Corrintra.

Requested the reinstatement of the weight restriction (3T) signage on Church Street.

Overgrown trees noted on the Park Road, Drumillard.

The meeting concluded at 12:41pm.

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Cathaoirleach Date

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Meeting Administrator