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 29th of September 2025 at 10:55am

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

Apologies: Cllr. Aidan Campbell, Gemma Keenan, Senior Staff Officer

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

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr. Keelan requested a correction under "AOB" as follows:
"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".

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Gibbons, the amended minutes of the July 2025 monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Friday the 25th of July 2025, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Carthy:
Requested an update on repairs to the parking area in front of the courthouse and repairs to the area between Boylan's and Markey's on Main Street.
Reply – The required repairs have been placed on the essential repairs and maintenance list.
Queried if ramps will be done in the near future.
Reply – Following investigation, all ramps were found to be within tolerance. However, the executive will do their best to make accommodations in the future. Mullinary will be reviewed.

Cllr. Keelan:
Voiced concerns about the continued delay with the proposed CCTV Schemes for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney.
Suggested that the elected members should try to meet with Inspector McNally at a time of his convenience, should the October meeting not suit.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, it was unanimously agreed
"*That we write to the new Garda Commissioner, Mr. Justin Kelly, requesting that the proposed CCTV Camera Systems for Carrickmacross and Castleblayney be progressed as soon as possible., given the time delay on this very important issue".*

Requested an update on works on Bully's Acre.
Reply – It is hoped to have a suitable contractor engaged in the coming weeks.
Queried if there is an update on Lannat Bridge after it was hit by a vehicle.
Reply – the bridge has been assessed and is structurally sound. Repairs will be carried out as soon as possible.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Informed the elected members that he had liaised with Adrian O'Higgins, Special Advisor to Minister Jim O'Callagahn, regarding the CCTV issue. He received correspondence last week advising that the matter is currently with the Garda Commissioners Office.
Stated that he fully supports meeting with Inspector McNally at the October meeting.
Remarked that the elected members were informed at the last meeting that the issues at Bully's Acre will take some time.

Cllr. Keelan:
Wished to note that he and Deputy Carthy have met with Superintendent Pat O'Connell regarding the delay with the CCTV applications.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Requested an update on his query regarding the upkeep/maintenance of the graveyard at the rear of St. Mary's Hospital, Castleblayney.
Reply – This is the responsibility of the HSE.
Welcomed the application to TII regarding the N53, Brennan's Cross.
Advised there are a large number of potholes near Aughnafarcon School.
Congratulated all involved in the recent Big Tom Festival.
Noted the lack of suitable tourist accommodation in Castleblayney.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Complimented Cllr. Gibbons' role at the Big Tom weekend. Also expressed thanks to the MD staff, including Greg Boylan and his team, Cathal Flynn, Damien Thornton, Gary Toye and their team. The Town Team were also complimented for their role.
Spoke about the amazing sound of the pipe bands in the town and asked that a letter issue, through Cathaoirleach Gibbons, to all the bands involved over the weekend.
Remarked that he would have liked to have attended the opening of the new facilities at Donaghmoyne GFC but unfortunately it was not possible.

Cllr. Carthy:
Concurred with previous comments about the Big Tom weekend.
Commended Magheracloone Community Centre on their recent official opening.

Cllr. Keelan:
Wished to be associated with previous comments.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was unanimously agreed to send a letter of commendation to Donaghmoyne Fontenoys GFC on the opening of their new facilities, thanking them for their invitation and congratulating them on their new facilities.

Cllr. Conlon:
Spoke about the state-of-the-art facilities at Magheracloone Community Centre.
Wished to be associated with the comments about the opening of new facilities at Donaghmoyne GFC.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Stated that the pedestrian crossing at Magheracloone is a good job.
Noted safety issues remain in the vicinity and asked that these are investigated and to revert to the elected members with the findings.
Wished to also acknowledge Gyproc's role.

Cllr. Conlon:
Concurred with the above comments.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Asked that Robert Irwin be included in the correspondence to those involved at the Big Tom Weekend.

Cathal Flynn, Director of Service, remarked that the Big Tom Festival was a very special weekend and commended all involved, stating it was an honour for the MD to be involved.

Cllr. O'Hanlon proposed, Cllr. Gibbons seconded and the elected members unanimously agreed to also send a letter congratulating Magheracloone Community Centre.

Cllr. O'Hanlon informed the group that he had just received a message from Adrian O'Higgins confirming that the Carrickmacross CCTV Scheme is approved. Cllr. O'Hanlon advised that he would check whether the Castleblayney Scheme has also been approved and pass this information along.
Cllr. O'Hanlon acknowledged the role of all involved, including Matt Carthy TD, Senator Robbie Gallagher, Minister Jim O'Callaghan and Adrian O'Higgins.

All members expressed their delight at the news and wished to be associated with Cllr. O'Hanlon's comments.

3.0 Town Regeneration Update

- Kevin McNally, Town Regeneration Officer, Brian Annon, Executive Engineer

Cllr. Carthy:

Stated that the Drummond Close development is an issue and noted that it has been added to the Derelict Sites Register. Queried whether it remains on the register even though planning permission is now being sought by the developer.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Remarked that he found it strange that a planning notice appeared at the development shortly after the proposal at the CPG meeting, and that there was no request for a pre-planning meeting. Noted that he has a motion regarding the development submitted.
Acknowledged the role of Kevin McNally and his team.

Cllr. Conlon:

Echoed Cllr. O'Hanlon's comments.

Cllr. Keelan:

Commended the Town Regeneration and MD teams.
Commented that where possible, commercial properties should be brought back to commercial use.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Noted the huge amount of work occurring in Castleblayney, particularly on Muckno St.
Asked if the team has any thoughts on the challenges presented by old factories/warehouses/shopping centres.
Reply – The majority of properties being dealt with are one off houses. There is the possibility of replicating the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund application made for Monaghan Town to target such properties. Drummond Close has been split into four different sections on the Derelict Sites Register. A levy will apply from January 2026.

Cathal Flynn, Director of Service, commended Kevin McNally and his team and noted that the full support of elected members is crucial.

4.0 To Agree the first village that will be subject to a Village Plan within this Municipal District in accordance with objectives of SHO 5 and VIO 4 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was unanimously agreed to proceed with Inniskeen Village.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Stated that letters need to be issued to the other villages advising of the policy in the Development Plan.
Queried Corduff Village – which MD is responsible; will it be a joint effort?
Advised that the focus should not just be on one village.

Cllr. Conlon:
Echoed Cllr. O'Hanlon's comments.
Noted that Killanny is in a similar situation to Corduff.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Remarked that he hopes Oram will be the next village.
Noted that Annyalla is situated within three MD's.

5.0 Local Link Presentation
This presentation is rescheduled to the November 2025 Municipal District Meeting.

6.0 Proposal of New Housing Development names
Cllr. O'Hanlon wished to note that these placenames should have the English translation included so that people can understand it.

Cathal Flynn, Director of Service, advised that it is his understanding that An Coiste Logainmeacha have a policy on bi-lingual signage.

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, it was unanimously agreed to confirm the name of **"Sean Eaglais"** for the proposed development (by Eakin Developments Ltd.) of 25 housing units at Magheross, Ardee Road, Carrickmacross.

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, it was unanimously agreed to confirm the name of **"Gort an Choinicéar"** for proposed development (by Newvend Limited) of 26 housing units on lands at Railway Road, Connabury, Castleblayney.

7.0 Correspondence
i. Correspondence received from Inspector Colm McNally

Cllr. Keelan:
Wished to add the item "Garda Visibility" to the proposed Agenda for the October meeting.
Advised that there is a need to facilitate an October meeting.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Concurred with Cllr. Keelan's comments.

ii. Correspondence received from Dennis McGettigan, CEO McGettigan Group

All elected members agreed that this is a good news story for Carrickmacross, and complimented CEO Robert Burns, Tourism Officer Dympna Condra and the MD team on their efforts.

Cllr. O'Hanlon queried if a response has been received to the letter issued to the Director of Service for Human Resources (HR).
Reply – We have not received an official response to date.

Cathal Flynn, Director of Service, advised that a new Assistant Engineer is due to commence employment in the MD on the 20th of October coming, and clarified that the HR Department are responsible for managing HR matters.

Cllr. O'Hanlon advised that he will request that the HR Director of Service attend the following MD should the position not be filled on October 20th.
Cllr. O'Hanlon expressed his disgust that no response was received from our own organisation and indicated that he would like this matter to be brought to the attention of the CEO.

Cllr. Carthy noted that a request for a response was not mentioned in the letter that issued and suggested that this should be included in wording going forward.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that he did not accept this and does not want to raise this issue again.

Cllr. Keelan remarked that all elected members understand that HR matters are an Executive function and agreed that a response should have been received.

9.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

Cllr. Conlon:

Asked if residents have been consulted regarding the Ardee Road footpath.
Reply – A Section 38 was published, and meetings 6organised for residents.
Thanked the MD office and Carrickmacross Workhouse for the recent screening of "How to Defuse a Bomb".
Spoke about the positive impact Carrickmacross Workhouse has on Carrickmacross.

Cllr. Carthy:

Concurred with previous comments regarding Carrickmacross Workhouse.
Commended Farney Development Group for their work.
Welcomed the commencement date for the Oriel Road pedestrian crossing.
Advised that the road surface is in a poor state in the vicinity of the bend on Ross Road.
Reply – the contractor is coming back to this location in late October.
Several residents from the Magheraboy Road area have raised concerns about the poor road surface and number of potholes. Can low-cost interventions or inclusion onto a pilot scheme be investigated.
There are overgrown hedges and potholes on Leitrim Lane. Also, potholes on Annahean Lane.

Cllr. Keelan:

Acknowledged and welcomed works in the MD and hopes to see Inniskeen Public Realm works commence before the end of the year.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Remarked that a lot of issues on the Magheraboy Road seem to be caused by Shirley's and commented on the lower temperatures at this time of year hindering works.

Asked if there is funding available for patching works.

Reply – Patching opportunities are limited coming into this time of year.

Queried if the continuation of the footway at Lough Na Glack is resolved.

Reply – The Active Travel Unit has advised that the NTA are agreeable to it going ahead, but as a Phase II.

Commented that he believes the people at Nuremore need to be informed about this.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Asked if the contractor has been appointed for the Market House.

Reply – this is currently going through the approvals process with the Department.

10.0 Q&A

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

1. **Is there any further update on the upgrading/improvement to lighting along Carrickmacross Main Street in advance of the winter months of increased darkness?**
   Response:
   The executive is currently progressing the design of enhancements to the public lighting along Main Street, Carrickmacross. It is anticipated that works will commence within the coming weeks.

2. **Will the MD Executive consider a couple of additional Dog Foul bins for Carrickmacross – one up the Convent Lands close to playground, and one near the tunnel on the Convent Avenue?**
   Response:
   The executive will examine the provision of additional dog fouling bins at the Covent lands, in close proximity to the playground, and on the Convent Avenue near the tunnel.

3. **In welcoming the Taking in Charge of the Lough na Glack estate in Carrickmacross, can I request a safety review of the boundary of the site adjacent to the Convent Avenue as well as a review of the playground equipment?**
   Response:
   The executive will conduct a safety/condition survey of the boundary fencing at Lough Na Glack estate. An inspection of the playground equipment shall also be arranged.

4. **What is the latest update on the broken/cut bollards along the footpath on the Drumconrath Road at St. Patrick's Church and when does the executive envisage this issue will be resolved?**
   Response:
   The elected members will be provided with an update on this issue in advance of September's Municipal District meeting.

5. **Has there been any further update to the selection of a suitable site for the Swimming Pool for Carrickmacross and when is it expected the preferred site will be presented to Councillors?**
   Response:
   The assessment of potential sites for the proposed swimming pool and leisure complex in Carrickmacross is ongoing. The executive is currently communicating with property owners

regarding the proposed acquisition of potential sites. It is envisaged that the site evaluation process will be completed before the end of the year. Once complete, the findings and proposed recommendation from this process will be presented to the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney elected members.

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

6. **The roads in the vicinity of Annafarcon school are in extremely poor condition. Potholes have been filled but the road requires resurfacing along with the reinstatement of traffic calming road markings which are very important adjacent to a school. In addition, the nearby road at Finncairn/Lackafin is also in very poor condition and requires resurfacing. I raised this at the April MD meeting and a commitment to carry out an assessment was given. Can the results of this assessment be shared along with details of planned remedial works (if any)?**
   Response:
   A survey of these roads was conducted in May 2025. Both the Aghnafarcon and Lackafin roads have a condition rating between 4-6, meaning, structural overlays are required in both cases. The executive will explore all potential sources of funding to improve the condition of these roads. In the short term, these roads have been added to the essential repairs and maintenance list for patching.

7. **Can an update on the examination of parking in the vicinity of Market Square leading into Muckno Street (i.e. at Ginos Diner leading down to Muckno Street) in Castleblayney be provided? There are issues with sight lines of cars and lorries driving on the road, parked cars and their impact on same, placement and suitability of double yellow lines in this area and incidences of parking on pavement hindering progress of people with disabilities and parents with prams among other issues.**
   Response:
   The executive is currently examining the modification of double yellows at this location. Any such change will require an amendment to the adopted Parking Control Scheme for Castleblayney Town. It is anticipated that any proposed revisions to the Parking Control Schemes for each of Castleblayney and Carrickmacross Towns will be brought before the members in early Q1 2026.

8. **Can the road from The Alms Houses at Conabury leading to Tullynacrunnat be examined? There is no white line in the centre of the road and there are concerns about the location and effectiveness of the ramps in slowing traffic approaching Conabury Hill estate to allow traffic exiting the state to do so safely.**
   Response:
   The executive shall arrange for an assessment of the section of the road leading from Conabury Hill (behind the Alms Houses) to Tullynacrunnat in Castleblayney, to determine the necessity for new road markings and establish the effectiveness or otherwise of existing ramps, having regard to Monaghan County Council's adopted Traffic Calming Policy. Any identified remedial/upgrade works shall be scheduled on the essential repairs and maintenance list and subject to funding availability, addressed as soon as is reasonably practicable.

9. **Can an update be given on plans to upgrade the lighting in The Cresent, Castleblayney?**
   Response:
   Enhancements to the existing public lighting in The Cresent were completed in early September last. Additionally, a new lighting column is to be installed at the eastern entrance to The Cresent in the coming weeks.

10. **There have been break ins in the Annalitten area. I have requested that additional public lighting be provided 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. A subsequent assessment confirmed that the Lux and Lumen levels of these public lights are to standard. There are currently no plans to install additional public lighting at this location.

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

11. **In welcoming the planned works for the new lighting on Main Street in Castleblayney. When will this work start and how long will it take?**
    Response:
    The planned enhancement works to the public lighting along Main Street, Castleblayney commenced on Tuesday the 22nd of September last. It is anticipated that these works will be completed by the end of October 2025.

12. **With the recent announcement of further funding to enhance the sensory garden at Muckno Park. When is it hoped to have this work completed?**
    Response:
    It is anticipated that Phase 2 works shall be completed in early Q1 2026.

13. **What is the update regarding the Muckno Master Plan?**
    Response:
    The consultant team presented an Emerging Options report to the executive on the 28th of August last. The executive is currently liaising with the consultants to refine this report. It is expected that an update presentation will be provided to elected members at the November Municipal District meeting.

14. **When is envisaged to have the works complete at the Black Island at Muckno in Castleblayney?**
    Response:
    Upgrade works to the access bridge to Black Island commenced on the 22nd of September last. It is anticipated that these works will be completed within a 2-week period. These works will conclude the overall enhancement works.

15. **With the Black Island, Muckno Park and the new library having so much use now. Can the MD investigate the upgrading of the parking in the old Orchard?**
    Response:
    The upgrade of the car park in the old orchard in Lough Muckno Park has been incorporated into a broader plan to renovate the entire Walled Garden area. In July last, the Municipal District executive submitted a funding application under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, Project Development Measure, for the procurement of consultancy services to develop a restoration plan for the Walled Garden. It is anticipated that successful funding applications will be announced towards the latter end of the year.

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

16. **What is the up to-date position in relation to the roll out of the public realm plan for Inniskeen village, when is it hoped to commence works on the ground?**
    Response:
    In tandem with on-going engagement with community stakeholders, the executive is reviewing 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 any design amendments. The implementation of these plans is reliant on the community's endorsement of the proposed public realm enhancements.

17. **What is the up to-date position in relation to the proposed flood mitigation plan for the Donaghmoyne Village area?**
    Response:
    The Design Team is currently developing a suite of costed emerging options for consideration by the executive. It is anticipated that the elected members will be provided with an update presentation on the preferred solution(s) at the October Municipal District meeting, Subject to the endorsement of any affected landowners, it is hoped that the detailed design of the preferred solution(s) will be completed by November 2025. Thereafter. The executive shall explore all potential sources of funding to advance the implementation of the scheme.

18. **What is the up to-date position in relation to the Creevy Lough masterplan?**
    Response:
    The appointed design team is currently developing a cost plan for the emerging preferred option. Following stakeholder review, it is envisaged that a Part 8 planning application for the project will be submitted in Q4 2025.

19. **When is it hoped to commence works on Corcrin bridge on the L- 4640, what funding is available, what works is it hoped to carry out with the funds available?**
    Response:
    Subject to funding, it is hoped that construction works will commence in early 2026. At this stage, it is anticipated that repair works will consist of vegetation removal, re-jointing and mortar renewal, replacement of lost masonry and collapsed parapet wall.

20. **What is the up to-date position in relation to the proposed, Park and Share / Ride facility for the Carrickmacross area?**
    Response:
    After successful negotiations with the tenderer, TII has approved the appointment of a design consultant to prepare a detailed design and planning application. The executive has requested a services programme from the consultant, setting out milestones for submission of Part 8 docs, preparation of tender docs, procurement of construction contractor, commencement/completion of construction. Subject to funding, it is hoped that construction will commence in Q4 2026.

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

21. **What is the update on the development of the Shirley House Lane car park?**
    Response:
    The Municipal District executive is currently reviewing the draft Part 8 planning submission in advance of internal stakeholder review. It is anticipated that a Part 8 planning application for the project will be submitted in October 2025.

22. What is the update on the provision of a footpath to link the Dundalk Road roundabout to the L4700 Killanny/Nuremore Hotel Road?

Response:

The Active Travel team has discussed further with NTA, the proposal of Phase 2 of the active travel scheme from Lough na Glack to Cemetery on Dundalk Road to connect to the existing footpath (which continues on to the L4700). The NTA has given a positive response to the continuation of the scheme at this location but noted the requirement for land take to facilitate this section of footway. An options selection report was completed for this section of the overall scheme in 2022. This section was not approved to proceed to preliminary design due to land take requirement. This would have delayed the preliminary design and preparation of documents for phase 1. A meeting was held on site on the 18th of September 2025 with the one affected landowner and discussions are ongoing on this. Once land can be secured for the scheme, preliminary design can be progressed.

In relation to Phase 1, the NTA gave approval to proceed to preliminary design in 2024 and for statutory process and public consultation in 2025 by way of Section 38. This scheme which is on the northern side of Oriel Rd R927 to the roundabout, into the pedestrian crossing at the Steadfast Junction, is expected to commence construction in 2026. Detailed design can only commence once the Section 38 process is completed.

11.0 Motions

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

"Members of the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Council call on Bus Eireann to introduce more stops along their Route 170 (Cavan-Dundalk) service within the Magheracloone area between Kingscourt and Carrickmacross (specifically at the Clonseady road crossing and Drumgossatt). Note: There is ample space in the vicinity of the Community Centre and Church Car Park in Drumgossatt to facilitate a large vehicle turning.

Also, that this motion be sent to the Minister for Transport, Darragh O'Brien TD, requesting a review of existing Bus Eireann and Local Link services to expand their accessibility (by introducing more strategic stops) to people living in rural Ireland."

Cllr. Keelan referred to the bus stop which had been in place for many years.

Cllr. O'Hanlon noted that there is an existing bus stop close by, commenting that he understands the issue, however he does not want to give the impression there is no bus stop at the location. He further remarked that safety needs to be considered, particularly on the main roads.

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

"That this Municipal District requests Monaghan County Council to commence the CPO process in relation to the acquisition of Drummond Close estate, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross. This is an estate that has been an eyesore in the town of Carrickmacross for over twenty years."

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, the following motion was unanimously agreed:
"That this Municipal District issue a letter to Monaghan County Council requesting that the Council contact the Minister for Finance, Mr. Paschal Donohoe TD, seeking that monies collected from the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) are retained locally, to develop infrastructure and serviced sites."

Cllr. O'Hanlon further requested that, should this motion be successful, Monaghan County Council forward it to every Local Authority in the country.

Cathal Flynn, Director of Service, clarified that this motion will be brought to the Full Council.

12.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to Ciaran Gartlan & family on the death of Mary Gartlan (RIP); Francie & Carmel Carroll on the death of May Carroll (RIP); Jacqui Marron on the death of Oran Marron (RIP) and Brenda Kieran on the death of Gerry Kieran (RIP).

Cllr. Carthy spoke about Gerry Kieran (RIP) and his excellent service to MCC as a past outdoor staff member. All members wished to be associated with these comments.

13.0 A.O.B

Cllr. Carthy:
Noted algae growth on Lisanisk Lake and requested that a water feature/fountain be investigated as a potential solution.
Requested that a letter issue to Cristina Costescu, commending her and the stall holders at the Carrickmacross Farmers and Craft market following its one-year anniversary.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Advised there are overgrown trees affecting the footpaths on the Ballybay Road, near the High School and queried if there is a policy in place to cut these. Requested that a review take place.

The meeting concluded at 13:30pm.

_____ _____

Cathaoirleach Date

_____

Meeting Administrator