Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan

Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain

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Monaghan County Council

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 26th of January 2026 at 10:00am.

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 Coordinator, Gary Toye, District Engineer, Gemma Keenan, Senior Staff Officer, Julieann O'Reilly, Assistant Staff Officer

Cathaoirleach Gibbons opened the meeting by extending sympathy to the family and friends of the late Mindszenty Finnegan (RIP). The elected members as a whole paid tribute to his community activism and works in Castleblayney. Cllr. Campbell remarked that the MD may need to step into the breach to cover a lot of the work he did.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon, the minutes of the December 2025 monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 15th of December 2025, were adopted.

2.0 Update Presentation on Bridewell Feasibility Study
- Cooney Architects Ltd: Frank Cooney, Nadine Buckley

Cllr. Conlon:
Noted has had been unaware of the existence of the courtyards at the back.
Welcomed this exciting project for the town.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Remarked that he was delighted to hear the word "sustainability" used.
Advised that there is an existing Artisan Food Centre at Market Square.

Voiced concerns re: accessing the premises. It would currently be on foot only. Wondered if there are any thoughts on solutions to this?
Mentioned possible uses such as a library or economic use similar to C:Tek.
Commented that the Carrickmacross population is going to be the biggest in the county in the coming years and does not want to spend before identifying the purpose of the building. It must be sustainable.

Cllr. Carthy:
Noted the huge potential of the building.
Remarked the next steps will determine viability – we need tenants in.
Requested to see the benefit analysis for each suggested option.
Advised the importance of having two potential uses in mind to avoid being pigeon-holed.

Cllr. Keelan:
Commented that the Bridewell area needs a lift.
Remarked he would be interested in seeing public expressions of interest.
Noted there is a public car park less than 100m away.
Spoke about the lands at the back of BOI.

Cllr. Campbell:
Thanked the Executive for acquiring the building.
Noted that Tidy Towns will be judged on buildings in the town.
Queried what public consultation took place, if any, stressing the importance of same.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Advised that all the elected members are behind this project.

Frank Cooney, Cooney Architects Ltd, stated that he agreed with the points made. He advised that the aim is to make the layout as flexible as possible – it is correct to try and conserve the existing rooms , however, the new build can be more flexible.

3.0 Féile Patrick Byrne
- update from Seán Ó Roideáin

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Complimented the work done and expressed delight at hearing that Carrickmacross will host the County Fleadh.
Commended the choir, remarking it is very inclusive.

Cllr. Carthy:
Noted that 20 years of the festival is a milestone and should be marked.
Requested that the executive liaise with the communication team to aid with promotion.

Cllr. Conlon:
Expressed congratulations and thanks for the hard work.

Cllr. Keelan:
Commended the festival for bringing awareness about Patrick Byrne.
Noted the good works carried out to date at Patrick Byrnes burial site (Bully's Acre).

Cllr. Campbell:
Concurred with previous comments.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Voiced support for the festival.

Mr. Ó Roideáin thanked the members and Executive for their support.

4.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Carthy:
Expressed delight at press member Veronica Corr continuing to cover the meetings.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Queried if there has been any advancement at investigating traffic calming measures at the turn off near the Old Coach Inn on the Dundalk Rd. due to speeding issues.

Cllr. Keelan:
Queried when works will be completed at the old Famine Graveyard, including the removal of ivy.
Reply – there are still exposed bones, and the MD are currently working with the Osteoarchaeologist on a solution. The ivy will be removed as soon as is possible.
Asked when tree trimming works will be completed in Dunard.
Reply – these will be trimmed during the cutting season.
Advised that there are bad humps on the access road to Killanny which require attention.
Reply – this will be investigated.
Advised that a short section of the access road to Donaghmoyne, just off the N2 requires urgent attention.
Reply – this will be investigated.
Remarked on available funding for the enhancement of bus stops and requested information regarding this, mentioning the Dunard area.
Reply – this has been included on the list for consideration.
Advised that the Dundalk Rd access to the Nuremore Estate is currently in complete darkness – public lighting is required.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Voiced his bitter disappointment at recent funding allocations in regard to housing and Active Travel Greenways, noting that €3m had gone to Monaghan alone.
Advise of his irritation in relation to Active Travel funding - €1.5m went to Monaghan MD, while this MD got €100,000 with no word about extending the footpath to the Nuremore.
Wished to acknowledge that this is not the fault of MCC Active Travel Unit.
Stated he would like Roads Section to be invited to a meeting to discuss what is happening with the Dundalk-Carrickmacross Greenway.
Noted that a commitment had been given regarding the footpath to the Nuremore.
Spoke about an East Border Region conference which has been arranged in Carrickmacross with approximately 100 people from Europe in attendance.
Asked for a commitment from the MD that this footpath will be completed for the safety of the people.

Director of Services Cathal Flynn shared the elected members frustrations, particularly in relation to the footpath to the Nuremore and the unbalanced Active Travel funding allocations. Mr. Flynn committed that the footpath will be completed in time for the previously mentioned conference.

Cllr. O'Hanlon clarified that we are honouring our word using a different funding stream.

Cllr. Carthy:
Remarked on the issues caused by Active Travel being administered by an office in Dublin and that we are stuck in the middle by being unable to access CLÁR funding because of the growing population.
Commended the MD for putting themselves under pressure to deliver projects that should be funded by Active Travel.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Queried if this will mean other projects in the MD may suffer.

Director of Services Cathal Flynn advised that there will likely be a trade-off.

Cllr. Keelan:
Commented that the Active Travel Unit have a difficult job.
Welcomed funding for bridges in Monaghan, very similar to the bridge in Inniskeen, remarking that the people of Monaghan deserve to be able to cross safely, as do the people of Inniskeen.
Sought a re-issue of a previous invitation sent to local TD's to meet, with a view to speaking about local issues.

Cllr. Conlon:
Concurred with previous comments.
Advised there are bad dips on the road at Coolderry, near the old post office.

5.0 Correspondence Incoming

i. Correspondence from the National Transport Authority

Cllr. Carthy:

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was agreed to submit the following motion to the full Council:

"**That Carrick–Blayney Municipal District requests Monaghan County Council to seek a meeting with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to discuss 'Local Link' services and existing bus routes within the county, as well as any future planned routes.**"

ii. Acknowledgement from Minister Jim O'Callaghan

iii. Correspondence from Hudson's Funfair

Cllr. Carthy:

Noted that the trading days is 5 full days and advised that Hudson's need to be reminded of the impact on local residents and businesses. Requested liaison with the affected residents. Suggested that, next year, Hudson's should meet in advance with the Executive.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Voiced concern at the total length of time and advised he will not support 10 days.
Suggested a time period of Wednesday 11th March – Wednesday 18th March with an increased fee of €3000 to allow for the extra day. (It was noted that this fee, as per usual, is set aside for projects in the Drummond Etra area).

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon, it was unanimously agreed to approve the use of the Drummond Etra car park, subject to compliance with the conditions outlined above.

iv. Correspondence from Garda Inspector Colm McNally

Cllr. Keelan:

Commented that the members are anxious to meet with Garda Inspector Colm McNally and requested that the invitation to meet be re-issued.

Cllr O'Hanlon:

Queried if the matters on the proposed agenda are being dealt with under the format of the Monaghan Local Community Safety Partnership (MLCSP)

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon it was agreed to make contact via a phone call.

v. Response from Roads Section – issues on N2

Cllr. Gibbons:

Stated there should be lights in advance of the off ramp on the N2 Shercock Road, also noting there is no sign for Castleblayney, only for Shercock.

vi. Correspondence from Monaghan Local Community Safety Partnership (MLCSP)

6.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

Cllr. Carthy:

Delighted to see progress on the swimming pool.
Asked for confirmation of the start date for works on the Oriel Road pedestrian crossing.
Reply -weather permitting, this should begin in the coming days.
Thanked the Executive for the advance notice given to those affected by proposed works on Mullinary Road during the summer.

Cllr. Conlon:

Welcomed the €500,000 Town & Village funding and queried if the MD have liaised with the Town Team.
Reply – there is on-going engagement with the Town Team.
Requested an update on Shirley Lane car park.
Reply – Part 8 submission within the coming weeks.
Queried the replacement bandstand project.
Reply – there are 3 proposals in mind.

7.0 Naming of Housing Developments in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, it was unanimously agreed to confirm the name of **Arda Droimnín (*Drumlin Heights)*** for development ref no. 25/60303, from B&C Contractors Ltd, Ross Carraig Road, Cloughvalley Lower, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan for 56 dwelling units.

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon and seconded by Cllr. Gibbons, it was unanimously agreed to confirm the name of **Eachlann an Locha (*Lake Mews)*** for development ref no. 21/239, from Park Haven Developments Ltd, Connabury, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan for 7 number units.

Cllr. Campbell asked what public consultation took place regarding the development of the Old Fire Station, noting that a 4-storey building is being placed there. Asked the Executive to revert regarding this.
Cllr. Gibbons suggested it would be useful to have a meeting with local residents to provide information.

Director of Services Cathal Flynn advised that this MD will write to Housing Section to highlight concerns.

8.0 Q&A

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for the January 2026 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

1. **When is it expected works will commence on the proposed pedestrian crossing to Oriel Road, Carrickmacross?**
   Response:
   Works to install the proposed pedestrian crossing on the Oriel Road, Carrickmacross are scheduled to commence on Monday the 26th of January 2026.

2. **The next project being delivered by Active Travel in Carrickmacross is the Dundalk & Oriel Road scheme – when is it proposed to open up design proposals for public review and commentary?**
   Response:
   The Dundalk & Oriel Road Active Travel Scheme is being progressed in two distinct phases:
   Phase 1 – Oriel Road (R927) to Steadfast Junction
   Phase 1 runs along the northern side of Oriel Road (R927) from the roundabout to the pedestrian crossing at the Steadfast Junction.
   - The statutory process for this phase is being progressed under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994.
   - The proposals were presented to the elected members in July 2025.
   - The design team was appointed in November 2025.

   Subject to agreement with members, the Section 38 process may be advertised in February 2026. This will facilitate certainty in programme to advance the scheme through detailed design and the tender process.

   Phase 2 – Dundalk Road (R178), Lough na Glack to Cemetery
   Phase 2 extends from Lough na Glack to the cemetery on Dundalk Road, connecting to the existing footpath which continues to the L4700.
   - This phase requires land acquisition, which is currently being progressed.
   - The statutory process for this phase will be undertaken under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Act 2001.
   - Preliminary design previously carried out in 2022 requires updating to meet current design standards.
   - The appointed design team has been requested to submit a fee proposal to carry out the updated preliminary design and planning documentation.
   - Once received, a change order can be issued to progress this phase to planning stage.

   Public consultation for each phase will take place as part of the relevant statutory process, and members and the public will be afforded the opportunity to review and make submissions at that stage.
   Monaghan County Council remains committed to progressing both phases of the Dundalk & Oriel Road Active Travel Scheme in a phased and deliverable manner, subject to statutory approval, land acquisition, and funding.

3. **When is it expected that the 2026 Safety Improvement Works funding will be announced and is the executive prioritising the Kingscourt road, Carrickmacross, and highlighting the high growth in housing in the area, as a factor in the urgency of this work, to the Department?**
   Response:
   Funding allocations under the *2026 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads* scheme are expected to be announced in early February 2026. The Municipal District executive prioritised safety improvement works on the R179 Kingscourt Road when submitting its funding application.

4. **When is it expected that works will commence on the design and delivery of a water feature in the Market Square in Carrickmacross?**
   Response:
   The executive intends to commence the procurement of a suitably qualified Design and Build contractor within the coming weeks, with a view to having the proposed water feature installed by mid to late Q2 2026.

5. **When are works due to begin on the upgrading of the Cloughvalley MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) courts and will the council be doing both courts together or one at a time (to allow continued use of one)?**
   Response:
   It is anticipated that the proposed upgrade works will commence in late Q1/early Q2 2026. The timing and phasing of works to each court will be subject to risk assessment, taking account of health and safety requirements and the nature of the proposed works. These details will be confirmed once a suitably qualified works contractor has been appointed.

Questions raised by Cllr. Paul Gibbons for the January 2026 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

6. **Can a pedestrian crossing be considered at the entrance to Íontas, Castleblayney? Many children (both primary and post primary) from several estates cross the road at this location just before and after school and access and exit their schools through Íontas. It is important that we provide safe walking routes to schools as part of active travel and to give parents assurance to allow their children walk to school and minimise traffic congestion at these very busy times.**
   Response:
   The Municipal District executive will assess the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing close to the Íontas Centre, Castleblayney. Pending the outcome of this assessment, the executive will explore all potential sources of funding to progress the proposal.

7. **There are 2 estates in Castleblayney which are in the process of being taken in charge, but where the lighting is abysmal - Crescent Hill and Bramley Crescent. This is having a massive impact on health and safety, security and people's sense of pride and contentment in where they live. This is a massive issue for the residents affected. Can the lighting levels in these estates be reviewed and consideration given to options/pathways around the possibility of taking the lighting in these estates in charge?**
   Response:
   Lighting levels in the Crescent Hill and Bramley Crescent estates will be assessed as part of the Taking In Charge process. Any identified deficiencies must be rectified to the satisfaction of the local authority before the estates are formally taken in charge. Under Monaghan County Council's *Taking in Charge Procedures*, individual elements (footways, lighting, public spaces etc.) of a development are generally not taken in charge in isolation.

8. **The roads in the vicinity of Annafarcon school are in extremely poor condition. Potholes were filled last year 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. Can plans to improve these road surfaces be provided?**
   Response:

The executive surveyed these roads in May 2025. The Aghnafarcon, Fincarn and Lackafin roads have Pavement Surface Condition Index ratings between 4 and 6, indicating that structural overlays are required for all three. The executive will explore all potential sources of funding to improve the condition of these roads and renew traffic calming line markings in the vicinity of the school. In the short term, these roads have been added to the essential repairs and maintenance list for patching.

9. **Can the traffic situation at Annalitten National School be assessed and appropriate traffic calming measures be introduced?**
   Response:
   The Municipal District executive will arrange for a traffic survey in the vicinity of Annalitten School. Pending the outcome of this assessment, the executive will explore all potential funding sources to implement any recommended traffic calming enhancements.

10. **Can details of the project that received €300,000 funding for the internal fit out of a community building at Mindzenty Park in December area be provided?**
    Response:
    Monaghan Sub Aqua Club (SAC), and the 5th Monaghan Castleblayney Scout Group made an application to complete an internal fit-out of an existing community building in Castleblayney, with the goal of transforming it into a vibrant, multi-functional facility for a wide range of community groups.
    Key elements of the proposed works include:
    • Internal fit-out of both the ground and second floors.
    • Construction of an internal staircase to provide access to the upper level.
    • Installation of additional toilets and shower facilities to support active and youth-focused use with the accessibility of Lough Muckno.
    • Completion of insulation, heating, electrical, and lighting systems.
    • Wall finishes, flooring, painting, and other internal works to make the space safe and welcoming.
    • Basic furnishings and community-use fittings.
    • Fittings for the storage of waters ports activities for the clubs using the building.

    It is envisaged that works will be completed in Q1 2027.

<u>Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for the January 2026 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:</u>

11. **What is the up-to-date position in relation to the public realm plan for Inniskeen village. When is it hoped to see works commence on the ground?**
    Response:
    Following discussions with the Department in late 2025, 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 in Q1 2026. Thereafter, the executive intends to apply for funding under Measure 2,3 of the Town and Village Renewal scheme to implement the scheme.

12. **What is the up-to-date position in relation to the proposed flood mitigation plan for the Donaghmoyne village area. When is it hoped to see works commence on the ground?**
    Response:

It is anticipated that a Part 8 planning submission for the flood alleviation scheme will be submitted within the coming month. Subject to the outcome of the Part 8 public consultation process, it is anticipated that detailed plans and costings will be completed by early Q2 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 proposed new signage for Lisdoonan Village?**
    Response:
    The Municipal District executive has secured a design mock-up for the proposed welcome signage in Lisdoonan Village. This proposal will be shared with community representatives for their consideration in the coming days.

14. **What is the up-to-date position in relation to the proposed Park and Ride/Share facility for the Carrickmacross town area?**
    Response:
    TII has granted approval to progress this project, albeit funding allocations are yet to be released. Projected programme is as follows:
    - Design complete and approved by end of April 2026.
    - Statutory Process i.e. Part 8 planning consent obtained by end of August 2026.
    - Detailed design, preparation of tender docs and appointment of construction contractor by end of 2026.
    - Construction in 2027, subject to funding.

15. **What is the up-to-date position in relation to the proposed upgrading of Corcrin bridge including the replacement of the parapet wall. What funding is available for these works?**
    Response:
    Rehabilitation works to Corcrin bridge are scheduled for completion this year. Monaghan County Council is awaiting the announcement of funding allocations under the *2026 Bridge Rehabilitation Works on Regional and Local Roads* programme.

Questions raised by Cllr. Peter Conlon for the January 2026 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

16. **Can the "Crocodile teeth" on the ramps in our villages be painted at the earliest opportunity?**
    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.

17. **The L4623 from Inniskeen joins the R178 (Main Dundalk – Carrickmacross road) at Channonrock. Can Monaghan County Council liaise with Louth County Council to have the Louth section of the L 4623 added to a salting route. This road is particularly dangerous and is a main artery for commuters travelling from south Monaghan to Dundalk. It is also a route for the Local link bus from Shercock to Dundalk, the 171.**
    Response:
    Monaghan County Council's Winter Service Plan was agreed in October last, based on the resources available to the Council. With the resources available, the priority is given to

National and Regional routes, and a number of highly trafficked Local Primary routes, which cover 610km, taking eight gritter lorries to complete each call out. These routes account for 24% of the county's road network and exceeds the 18% national average which is provided by other Local Authorities. It is not intended to amend the agreed Winter Service Plan mid-season, but it will be reviewed at the end of the season. Any submissions made, will be considered in this review, in the context of available budgets.

18. **Is there an update on the Affordable housing application for Carrickmacross?**
    Response:
    The Affordable Housing Application for Sean Ghairdín has now moved to the Housing Agency for final analysis. The Affordable Housing Team is expecting an approval from the Department in the coming weeks and will begin a marketing campaign upon approval.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for the January 2026 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

19. **Will the MD carry out an audit on all the pedestrian crossings in Castleblayney town as a number of them are in need of more lighting particular the one on lower main street and also the crossing at Saint Marys Church?**
    Response:
    The Municipal District executive shall arrange for an assessment of the public lighting in the vicinity of the pedestrian crossings located on Lower Main Street and St Mary's Church, York Street, Castleblayney.

20. **In welcoming the recent announcement of €300,000 for works to take place in the Sub Aqua building at Midszenty Park Castleblayney. What is the timeline for works to take place and the exact scope of works?**
    Response:
    Monaghan Sub Aqua Club (SAC), and the 5th Monaghan Castleblayney Scout Group made an application to complete an internal fit-out of an existing community building in Castleblayney, with the goal of transforming it into a vibrant, multi-functional facility for a wide range of community groups.
    Key elements of the proposed works include:
    • Internal fit-out of both the ground and second floors.
    • Construction of an internal staircase to provide access to the upper level.
    • Installation of additional toilets and shower facilities to support active and youth-focused use with the accessibility of Lough Muckno.
    • Completion of insulation, heating, electrical, and lighting systems.
    • Wall finishes, flooring, painting, and other internal works to make the space safe and welcoming.
    • Basic furnishings and community-use fittings.
    • Fittings for the storage of waters ports activities for the clubs using the building.
    It is envisaged that works will be completed in Q1 2027.

21. **In relation to the Market House in Castleblayney, when is it expected to hear from back the Department regarding this project?**
    Response:
    Monaghan County Council's submission under *Decision Gate 3 - Approval to Proceed*, remains under consideration by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG). The executive is continuing to engage with the DRCDG in relation to

the project. The DRCDG has not confirmed a timeline for issuing a response to the Council's DG3 submission.

22. When is it hoped that the work will start to engage suitable consultants to begin work on the Orchard Car Park at Hope Castle?

Response:

Funding allocations under the *2025 Town and Village Renewal Scheme Project Development Measure*, were announced on the 22nd of December last. This Municipal District was successful in securing €50,000 to procure consultancy services to develop a restoration plan for the Walled Garden, adjacent to Hope Castle, and the Annexe buildings in Lough Muckno Park. The executive intends to commence this procurement process within the coming weeks; the timeframe for the delivery of this enabling project is twelve months.

23. When is it envisaged the final works of this phase will be complete at the Black Island?

Response:

The Black Island recreational enhancements project was substantially complete in late October 2025. The project is now in the contractual Defects Period (12 months). Weather and ground conditions permitting, any defects that have arisen to date will be addressed as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Questions raised by Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon for the January 2026 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

24. Is there any update on the completion of a feasibility study into the provision of a food hub in Carrickmacross Town?

Response:

The concept of a food hub is being considered as part of the current enabling project to refurbish *The Bridewell* building; however, initial findings suggest that the building and overall site may not be suitable for consideration. The executive has also engaged with Enterprise Ireland surrounding potential funding opportunities to progress a feasibility study and longer-term, design and implementation, should the need be identified. Enterprise Ireland has advised that funding available under Stream 4 (Feasibility and Priming Grants) of the Smart Regions Fund is not a suitable option for the case in hand. Consequently, the executive, through the Local Enterprise Office, is exploring alternative sources of funding to progress the proposed feasibility study.

25. 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 provision of a footway between the Dundalk Road roundabout and the L4700 Killanny / Nuremore Hotel Road forms **Phase 2** of the Dundalk Road Active Travel Scheme. Following discussions between Monaghan County Council and the National Transport Authority (NTA) in August 2025, the NTA have indicated support in principle for the delivery of this section of the scheme. However, the NTA reiterated that land acquisition is required along the R178 (Dundalk Road) to facilitate the construction of a compliant footway and associated active travel infrastructure.

An options selection report for this section of the scheme was completed in 2022. At that time, progression to preliminary design was deferred due to the land-take requirements and the priority given to progressing **Phase 1** of the scheme without delay. Since September 2025, a number of meetings have been held on site with the affected landowner and their

representative, and discussions regarding land acquisition are ongoing. The Council's legal process for land acquisition is currently being advanced, and the conditions of sale are being finalised.

Once the necessary lands have been secured, the scheme can proceed to updated preliminary design, which will be required to reflect current active travel design standards. The statutory process for this phase will be undertaken under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Act 2001, as the scheme extends into third-party lands and will involve new boundary treatments and alterations to existing entrances.

Cllr. Gibbons advised that he understands the process of Taking in Charge and remarked that the Taking in Charge of lighting only has occurred in other circumstances.
Asked if this can happen in the cases of Bramley Crescent and Crescent Hill.
Cllr. Carthy remarked that developers have a responsibility, noting that some tenants who transferred to the Kingscourt Road have no lighting in place.
Cllr. Gibbons stated that legacy issues has left residents with the problem.
Cllr. O'Hanlon commented that there needs to be balance, commenting that it cannot be expected that MCC will take control outside their remit. He suggested that MCC need to look at funding and requested that the Executive provide the elected members with an estimate of the costs, including maintenance costs, for Taking In Charge estates. Cllr. O'Hanlon advised that this MD has a budget of €17,000 for lighting and it costs €3000/4000 per light.
Cllr. Gibbons wished to note that it is likely the cost of bulb replacement only in the estates previously mentioned.

Director of Services Cathal Flynn advised that there is a bond in place with developers regarding deficiencies. MCC try not to inherit liabilities.
It was agreed that the Executive will investigate this.

Cllr. O'Hanlon requested an update on Carrickmacross Main St. lighting.
Reply -works are expected to begin at the end of January/early February.

9.0 Motion

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, the following motion was unanimously agreed:
"The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District calls on the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Peter Burke TD, and the Chief Executive Officer of IDA Ireland, Michael Lohan, to outline the steps that have been taken to secure tenancy for the former Bose/Newbaze plant in Carrickmacross including progress that has been made so far and processes that are being followed to avoid any delays."

Cllr. Keelan:
Queried if the Executive could investigate the Local Authority purchasing this.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Wished to state that Nimah Smyth TD is keeping the pressure on Enterprise Ireland regarding this issue and is also looking at the Old Barford Meats site.
Advised importance of remembering it is owned by a private individual and that the equipment alone cost in the region of €12-15 million.
Informed the members that Enterprise Ireland are in discussions with the owner.

Cllr. Conlon:
Concurred with Cllr. O'Hanlon, noting that he has met with Minister Peter Burke about the issue.

Cllr. Campbell:
Reiterated the issue regarding the high value of the equipment/plant.

9.0 Director of Service Orders
Noted.

11.0 VOS/VOC
Votes of sympathy were extended to Adrian & Kathryn McCrossan on the death of Don McCrossan (RIP) and The Kenna family on the death of Bernadette McKenna (RIP).
A *Vote of Congratulations* was extended to Hannah and Caoimhe Quinn on winning the Senior Group, Biological & Ecological Category and the Intellectual Property Owners of Ireland Special Award at this year's Stripe Young Scientist Awards.

12.0 A.O.B
Cllr. Gibbons:
Asked the Executive to investigate commemoration ideas for the upcoming 50th anniversary of the bomb in Castleblayney on March 7th.
Cllrs. O'Hanlon and Carthy fully supported this idea.

Cllr. Carthy:
Advised that a re-design of the route at Mullinary/Callans/Suite Dreams junction needs to be investigated, noting that a significant volume of this traffic is for Kingscourt and Main Street.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Noted the increasing population of Carrickmacross and suggested that a By-Pass is needed in the long term.

Director of Services Cathal Flynn confirmed that Monaghan County Council are investigating a link from the Kingscourt Road – Shercock Road – Ballybay Road.

Cllr. Keelan:
Advised that the Executive need to take on board small things regarding improving road safety – signs/lines/hedge cutting.
Asked that debris in the River Fane is investigated.
Asked for flood alleviation measures to be investigated for the Rassan/Killabrick Rd (L-4520), off the N2.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Requested that the issue with the speed warning sign on the Ballybay be resolved.

The meeting concluded at 13:15pm.

_____ _____
Cathaoirleach Date

_____
Meeting Administrator