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 23rd of February 2026 at 10:00am.

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

Apologies: Cllr. Colm Carthy

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 a vote of sympathy to Cllr. Colm Carthy and Deputy Matt Carthy on the death of their uncle, Seamus Carthy (RIP). All elected members expressed their sincere condolences.

Cathaoirleach Gibbons raised the issue of road safety, commenting on the recent deaths on our roads, voicing frustration at the deterioration of the roads and the reduction of the budget for local roads by €800,000.
Cllr. Keelan remarked that driver behaviour and policing also impact road safety and Local Authorities also have responsibility – signs, lines etc. He advised that all members campaign for more funding and noted that the MD team can only spend what they have. Cllr. Keelan commented on the havoc that recent weather events have caused and suggested a pothole blitz be implemented.
Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that senior politicians need to be more responsible. He sought clarification that an extra €1.8m will be provided, remarking that senior politicians had debated the matter of funding without the full facts, as there was no mention of the extra €1.8m. Cllr. O'Hanlon requested that a breakdown of the additional €1.8m be provided, if not now, at the next full council meeting.

Director of Services Cathal Flynn advised that there was significant discussion at CPG level recently and it was indicated from the Department that an additional €1.8m will be provided. This will be discussed fully at full council level.
Cllr. Gibbons warmly welcomed the additional funding.
Cllr. Conlon concurred and remarked on the confusion caused by the announcement.
Cllr. Campbell voiced disappointment with the current funding announcement, noting that he and his colleagues will continue to lobby for more funding.
Cllr. Conlon queried specific funding for destruction resulting from Storm Chandra.
Director of Services, Cathal Flynn, advised that the Roads Department are in contact with the Department of Transport regarding this.
Cllr. O'Hanlon commented that the CEO of MCC advised at the last full council meeting that this will happen. Cllr. O'Hanlon wished it noted that the persistent rain over the last 8 weeks had impacted pothole repair works. He further wished to put on the record that he had contacted District Engineer Gary Toye on Saturday evening about a pressing issue, which was dealt with promptly.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon, the minutes of the January 2026 monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 26th of January 2026, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan:

Commended District Engineer Gary Toye on recent Dunard works.
Stated that he wished to keep the matter of public lighting along the link road from the Dundalk Road to the Nuremore Hotel on the agenda to seek potential funding.
Sought an update on the €500,000 available funding for bus stop enhancements.
Advised that the side of the access road to Donaghmoyne village, off the N2, has fallen away.
Advised of bad bumps/humps on the access road to Killanny (from the Dundalk Road).
Remarked that the elected members remain anxious to meet with Inspector Colm McNally.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Sought clarification regarding the provision of public lighting from the Dundalk Road roundabout to the Nuremore Hotel link road, noting that commitment was given.
Reply – Commitment was given regarding this.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Advised that he will follow up with Planning Section regarding the lighting of estates that are not TIC, noting that similar situations were addressed in Rockcorry and Monaghan were estates had not been fully TIC.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Acknowledged Director of Services Cathal Flynn, for honouring the commitment made regarding Carrickmacross Main Street lighting.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Acknowledged the lighting works in Castleblayney.

Cllr. Keelan:
Stated there is a serious need for a pedestrian crossing at the graveyard on the Dundalk Road.

Director of Services Cathal Flynn informed the members there will be an opportunity to make submissions, from March 4th - April 7th, as part of the public consultation process on the R178, Dundalk Road/R179, Oriel Road Active Travel scheme.

3.0 Scheme for the completion of Community Plans and Tier 4 Village Plans for the period 2026 – 2030
- Carol Lambe, Administrative Officer, Community Development

Director of Services, Cathal Flynn, clarified that it is being proposed that Community Plans are completed alongside Spatial Plans and it is up to the elected members to decide which towns are next.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Queried why Donaghmoyne is not on the list.
Reply – Donaghmoyne is not a Tier 4 Village, as set out in the County Development Plan.
Queried Lisdoonan identifying as part of Donaghmoyne, and whether it is part of this MD's remit or not, as it is located within Ballybay-Clones MD.
Reply – Community Section can be much looser when it comes to boundaries. Lisdoonan are doing their own plan.
Stated that he believes that the location should be dealt with by the MD responsible as he does not want the Village "falling between two stools".
Noted the excellent example of Scotshouse.

Director of Services Cathal Flynn noted that this MD only have two Tier 4 villages: Inniskeen and Oram.

Cllr. Keelan:
Commented that the plans will provide the basis for funding.
Welcomed the progress.

Cllr. Conlon:
Advised that there is a need to ensure that villages not classified as Tier 4 are captured.

Cllr. Campbell:
Noted that Inniskeen is this year, followed by Oram and Mullyash.
Proposed moving forward with Oram and Mullyash.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Supported Cllr. Campbell's proposal to move forward with Oram and Mullyash next.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Queried which MD is responsible for Annyalla, stating that he cannot see why this MD would propose this.
Stated that he will make a proposal at the next full Council meeting regarding MD boundaries. Advised that he does not wish to cause delays, however, will defer supporting Annyalla as it is not within the MD. Stated that he will fully support the proposal in conjunction with the other MDs, once they have been notified.

Director of Services Cathal Flynn clarified that it was agreed that Oram and Mullyash will follow Inniskeen.

It was agreed to defer Annyalla, with the suggestion that Annyalla/Cremartin will follow, subject to agreement.

4.0 Naming of Housing Development in Carrickmacross

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon it was unanimously agreed to confirm the name of **Páirc Ghleann Droimnín *(Drumlin Valley Park)*** for development ref no. 25/60311, from B&C Contractors Ltd., Naffarty, Cloughvalley Upper, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan for 39 number dwelling units.

5.0 Correspondence Incoming

i. Letter of acknowledgement from Office of the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism & Employment – Newbaze

ii. Correspondence from Office of the Minister for Justice, Hime Affairs & Migration – Castleblayney CCTV Application

iii. Response from MCC Roads Section – Lighting and signage on N2 Shercock Road, Castleblayney

6.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

Cllr. Conlon:
Queried if Main Street, Carrickmacross falls under the old N2.
Reply – it does

Cllr. Gibbons:
Advised that New Street, Castleblayney is in a poor state.

Cllr. Keelan:
Welcomed progress on both the CCTV in Carrickmacross and on the Inniskeen Public Realm Plan.
Queried when the applications for the Building Frontages Enhancement Scheme will be open.
Reply – it is intended to roll this out the scheme out within the coming weeks.
Welcomed progress on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience works for the Donaghmoyne village area.
Welcomed progress on the Park and Ride facility.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:
Asked that improvements to the Kingscourt Road junction be considered.

Cllr. Conlon:
Welcomed progress on the Bridewell.
Welcomed safety improvement works funding for Magheracloone.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Asked for an update on marking the 50th anniversary of the Castleblayney bombing.

Director of Services Cathal Flynn advised that the MD have ensured that the memorial in place is in good order. There is no event planned.

Cllr. Gibbons stated he believes that there should be an event to mark the occasion. This was unanimously supported by the elected members.

7.0 Q&A

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

1. **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:
   The Municipal District (MD) executive has conducted traffic and speed surveys in Oram Village in the vicinity of the playground, GAA field, creche and school, and subsequently submitted a funding application, under the *2026 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads* programme, for the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing and associated

Traffic Calming measures. Unfortunately, this application was unsuccessful. The MD executive shall continue to explore all potential sources of funding to progress the installation of appropriate Traffic Calming measures at this location.

2. **The cobble lock pavement on Main Street, Castleblayney has been in place for a considerable number of years and requires attention. I requested an audit be carried out assessing this paving in the context of areas like cleaning, condition of the paving bricks, presence of weeds, condition of kerbs, sections of subsidence, condition and location of manholes on the pavement and location and condition of access points to the pavement being particularly mindful of people with disabilities and people who are pushing children among other areas. I note cleaning and repair work is planned. Has a date been set for these works?**
   Response:
   Assessments of the cobble lock paving on Main Street Castleblayney have been carried out periodically. Sections of the footway identified as requiring remedial works shall be included for consideration under this Municipal District's 2026 Footway Programme.

3. **The road surface at New Street, Castleblayney is in very poor condition. I have previously asked that it be assessed and repaired. Do the Executive have plans to resurface this section of road in the centre of our town in 2026?**
   Response:
   This section of road is not included on this Municipal District's currently adopted Roads Programme. The executive shall endeavour to complete localised surfacing repairs along this section of road as part of the essential repairs and maintenance programme.

4. **I understand lighting only has been taken in charge in estates in both Monaghan MD and Clones Ballybay MDs. I have raised on several occasions the deplorable levels of lighting in Crescent Hill and Bramley Crescent. Have the Executive assessed lighting levels in these Castleblayney estates and explored possibilities around taking the lighting in charge or carrying out repair work in these residential areas.**
   Response:
   Under Monaghan County Council's Taking in Charge Procedures, individual elements (roads and footpaths, lighting, sewers, watermains and service connections in agreement with Uisce Éireann, stormwater drainage, playgrounds, open spaces and green areas, car parks etc.) of a development are generally not taken in charge in isolation.

   Public Lighting in Bramley Crescent will be assessed as part of the Taking In Charge process. Any identified defects must be rectified to the satisfaction of the local authority before the development is formally taken in charge.

   Monaghan County Council has not received a Taking In Charge application for Crescent Hill from the developer or a majority of the homeowners in the development.

5. **Can the locations of footpaths that received repair under the 2025 footpath maintenance programme be provided?**
   Response:
   The executive will endeavour to compile a complete listing of repairs carried out under this Municipal District's 2025 Footway Programme as soon as is reasonably practicable. Upon completion, the record of repairs will be shared with the elected members.

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

6. **What footpaths are due to be repaired in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney in 2026?**
   Response:
   Municipal District staff shall undertake surveys of the footways in Towns and Villages in the Municipal District to identify sections of footway requiring repair. Any sections of footway so identified shall be included for consideration by the elected members under this Municipal District's 2026 Footway Programme.

7. **Has the executive commenced a design proposal to relieve traffic congestion on the Kingscourt road junction, Carrickmacross, including both the old Ardee road section and the Magheraboy road junction?**
   Response:
   The executive has not progressed a design proposal to relieve traffic congestion on the Kingscourt Road junction, Carrickmacross, including both the Old Ardee Road section and the Magheraboy Road junction. Such an undertaking would, in the first instance, require an in-depth analysis of existing conditions by way of classified junction turning counts, queue length surveys, speed and visibility surveys, pedestrian and cyclist surveys, traffic modelling etc., and should ideally be developed in the context of a Local Transport Plan (LPT) for the Town as a whole. The Municipal District executive will liaise with the Planning and Roads departments to establish a realistic timeframe for the preparation of a LTP for Carrickmacross Town.

8. **Has the MD executive an update on the traffic, parking and safe access issues around the schools in Cloughvalley (including secondary schools along Patrician Drive/Rockdaniel Road/Castleblayney Road)?**
   Response:
   The executive engaged a consultant to undertake an initial review of the traffic, parking and safe access issues around the schools in Cloughvalley, including secondary schools along Patrician Drive, Rockdaniel Road and the Castleblayney Road. The Consultant has since advised that successfully addressing these long-standing issues will require the development of a dedicated transport plan for the Cloughvalley area. Ideally, any such plan should be developed in the context of a Local Transport Plan (LPT) for the Town as a whole. The Municipal District executive will liaise with the Planning and Roads departments to establish a realistic timeframe for the preparation of a LTP for Carrickmacross Town.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for the February 2026 meeting of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District:

9. **What is the up to-date position in relation to the public realm plan for the Inniskeen village area?**
   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.

10. **When is it hoped to have the works completed at the old famine graveyard (Bully's acre) on the Donaghmoyne road including the removal of the ivy from the adjacent wall?**
    Response:
    Upon completion of Phase 1 works in November last, the appointed osteoarchaeologist, in consultation with the executive, submitted proposed alternative methodologies to the National Monument Service (NMS) for the sensitive reinstatement of the upended tree root balls and the disarticulated remains entangled within the root fibres. The executive is awaiting confirmation from the NMS, as to the most appropriate strategy. It is hoped to receive confirmation within the coming weeks.

11. **What plans have the council to repaint the signs and lines throughout the Carrickmacross/Castleblayney area given that many of these, important road markings have faded away?**
    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.

12. **What is the up to-date position in relation to the Creevy Lough Masterplan?**
    Response:
    It is envisaged that a Part 8 planning application for the project will be submitted in late Q1 2026.

13. **What is the up to-date position in relation to the flood mitigation plan for the Donaghmoyne Village area?**
    Response:
    The recent unprecedented levels of rainfall and associated poor ground conditions has delayed the completion of topographical check surveys and the close out of environmental assessments. It is anticipated that the Part 8 planning application for the scheme will be submitted within the coming month, and that detailed plans and costings will be completed by early/mid Q2 2026. Thereafter, the executive shall explore all potential sources of funding to advance the implementation of the scheme on a phased basis. In this regard, the Municipal District executive has successfully secured funding of €178,000 under the *2026 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works* programme. The nature and scope of works to be undertaken shall be considered in the context of the detailed elemental cost plan for the scheme.

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

14. **What is the list of roads in the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross MD to be completed this year?**
    Response:
    The roads to be completed under this Municipal District's 2026 Restoration Improvement programme are as follows:

    - R181-2 Killygola Castleblayney
    - R-179 Kingscourt Road – Carrickmacross
    - L-4102 Lisdoonan Village
    - L-4930 Mullinary Road Carrickmacross
    - L-4931 Mullinary Road Carrickmacross
    - L-8500 Lisnamoyle Otra Donaghmoyne

15. **What projects are planned for the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross MD under "Active Travel" for this coming year and what is the planned timescale for these projects?**
Response:
Current planned Active travel schemes in the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD are as follows:

Ross Road/ Castleblayney Road	Active travel unit are currently tendering for a design consultant develop prelim and detail design for a shared surface running from the Shercock road roundabout to the entrance to Nexus business park. It is planned that design and procurement will be completed in 2026 with construction commencing in 2027 depending on funding.
Dundalk Road/ Oriel Road	Active travel has appointed a design consultant to completed detail design and procurement for a shared surface extending from the Donaghmoyne Rd junction to Convent Lands Road junction. It is intended that detail design and procurement will be completed mid 2026 with construction commencing Q3/4 of 2026.
Carrickmacross Local Transport Plan	Active travel has recently appointed a design consultant to complete a local transport plan. This plan is to help identify sustainable and effective Active Travel projects in Carrickmacross, the NTA has provided funding for the preparation of a Local Transport Plan (LTP) in 2026, similar to the plan completed for Monaghan Town. The LTP will outline investment priorities for Carrickmacross and will inform future funding allocations from 2027 onward.
Convent Junior School Safe Routes to School	The NTA have provided funding for a safe routes to school scheme for Convent Junior school Castleblayney. MCC Active travel unit are currently waiting for NTA/ An Taisce to complete survey and report on the current arrangements and travel patterns of the school and provide recommendation. ATU intend to procure a design consultant to complete design proposals based off An Taisce's recommendations.

16. **When is it hoped to have the first public draft of the "Emerging Options" regarding the Master Plan for Muckno and what is the next stage to progress this masterplan?**
Response:
A presentation on 'Emerging Options' will be provided to the Municipal District elected members immediately following February's Municipal District meeting. Thereafter, it is intended that a presentation will be provided to the Muckno Development Committee in early March 2026, with a public consultation event to take place before the end of March 2026.

17. **What is the update on the CCTV in Castleblayney?**
    Response:
    Following an application presentation on the proposed CCTV scheme to the National CCTV Advisory Committee on the 19th of May 2023, the Committee advised that they would be recommending the approval of the scheme to the Garda Commissioner's Office. The application documentation, specifically the Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA), advised that the proposed CCTV scheme for Castleblayney comprised two circuits (Castleblayney town centre and Lough Muckno Park), with recording equipment housed in both the machinery yard building, located next to Castleblayney urban carpark, and in a locked comms cabinet adjacent to Lough Muckno playpark. At the time of application, both storage locations were deemed acceptable by the Garda Crime Prevention Officer (CPO).

    On the 24th of November last, the Municipal District executive received an updated security report from An Garda Síochána advising that the storage facility in Lough Muckno Park was deemed inadequate. Accompanying correspondence further advised that "this application cannot progress until an updated Garda CPO Report is provided outlining that either satisfactory security upgrades to the location outlined have been implemented or a newly designated suitable location has been identified.". The executive is working with the Garda CPO to address the issues raised and has since completed substantive security enhancements to the storage facility in Lough Muckno Park. It is hoped that the matter will be resolved within the coming weeks.

18. **With the recent announcement of funding for works to refurbish the Jetty at the outdoor adventure centre at Muckno. When is hoped that this work will commence?**
    Response:
    Municipal District engineering staff are currently assessing suitable materials for the refurbishment of the jetty. The executive will engage with the current tenants over the coming weeks to agree an appropriate start date.

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

19. **The footpath from Churchview to the group practice (Doctors surgery) is very well travelled by all ages of our community, this services two national schools, an allotment, a doctor's surgery and a large housing estate. Is this footpath on the footpath repair list.**
    Response:
    Municipal District staff shall undertake surveys of the footways in Towns and Villages in the Municipal District to identify sections of footway requiring repair. Any sections of footway so identified shall be included for consideration by the elected members under this Municipal District's 2026 Footway Programme.

20. **With the unprecedent rain in the last month resulting in the further deterioration in out road network is there a plan / funding in place to repair damage as a result of recent storms.**
    Response:
    Currently, there is no dedicated funding to repair damage to the road infrastructure resulting from recent severe weather events however, a submission in this regard has been made to the Department of Transport.

21. **Has the review of traffic, parking, and access to the schools in Cloughvalley and Patrician drive been completed?**
    Response:
    The executive engaged a consultant to undertake an initial review of the traffic, parking and safe access issues around the schools in Cloughvalley, including secondary schools along Patrician Drive, Rockdaniel Road and the Castleblayney Road. The Consultant has since advised that successfully addressing these long-standing issues will require the development of a dedicated transport plan for the Cloughvalley area. Ideally, any such plan should be developed in the context of a Local Transport Plan (LPT) for the Town as a whole. The Municipal District executive will liaise with the Planning and Roads departments to establish a realistic timeframe for the preparation of a LTP for Carrickmacross Town.

22. **With the river Fane having reached record levels during the recent storm, damage was caused to a bridge accessing property and pitch and putt course in Inniskeen. Can a study / review on flood mitigation measures be instigated to identify measures that can reduce this risk going forward?**
    Response:
    The executive has commenced exploration of feasible flood mitigation measures at this location, and the identification of potential sources of funding to implement same. Further updates will be provided in due course.

8.0 Motion

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

"That this Municipal District issue a letter to Monaghan County Council requesting that, as a matter of urgency, a road safety assessment be undertaken on the Castleblayney Road/Ross Road junction in Carrickmacross Town, as I have serious concerns with articulated lorries being able to safely exit from the Ross Road without stalling in the middle of oncoming traffic on the Castleblayney Road. This MD received funding in 2021 for road safety improvements at the Ross Road junction. We were since told that these safety improvements would be incorporated into the proposed Active Travel Scheme. 5 years later nothing has happened."

Cllr. O'Hanlon reiterated his wish for Monaghan County Council Roads Section / Active travel Unit to be invited to a meeting to explain why funding, which was approved, has not been actioned and to further explain why this MD were allocated one tenth of what Monaghan MD received.

9.0 Director of Service Orders

None.

10.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to Mary Loughran on the death of Anthony Loughran (RIP) and to Derek & Regina Wallace & family on the death of Declan Wallace (RIP).

12.0 A.O.B

Cllr. Gibbons:

Advised that Cllr. Carthy asked if the March meeting can be deferred to March 30th.

It was decided that Cllr. Gibbons will revert to the members. Possible alternative dates were suggested: Wednesday the 25th of March or Thursday 26th of March.

The elected members and executive extended their best wishes to staff member Gemma Keenan on her recent promotion, and a presentation was made to her.

Cllr. Keelan:

Advised that he received correspondence from concerned residents regarding issues in the vicinity of the Coalpit Road and The Red Door. He requested that the executive investigate the issues, including overhanging trees and ash dieback .

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Advised that he has also received the above-mentioned correspondence.
Highlighted the new affordable housing development at Sean Ghairdin, Carrickmacross, which comprises 10 homes (4 two-bedroom and 6 three-bedroom units). An Open Day will take place on March the 5th from 4pm to 6pm, followed by a presentation from the Housing Team at 7pm in the Workhouse.

The meeting concluded at 12:25pm.

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Cathaoirleach Date

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Meeting Administrator