Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan

Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain

Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
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 Thursday the 26th of March 2026 at 10:00am.

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

In Attendance: Cathal Flynn, Director of Services, Damien Thornton, District Coordinator, Gary Toye, District Engineer, Aoife Kelly, Senior Staff Officer, Julieann O'Reilly, Assistant Staff Officer

Press: Veronica Corr, The Anglo Celt, Sorcha Burke, Northern Sound

Cathaoirleach Gibbons opened the meeting by extending a vote of sympathy to the family of the late John Keenan (RIP). All elected members joined in expressing their condolences and paid tribute to John's significant contributions to the community. Members highlighted his long-standing involvement with the Fine Gael party, the Vintage Society, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and the Monaghan County Council Heritage Forum, among other notable roles. His dedication and service were warmly acknowledged by all present.

As a mark of respect, the meeting was adjourned at 10.20am.
The meeting resumed at 10.30am.

Roads Section Presentation

- Nial O'Connor, Director of Service, Kevin West, A/Senior Engineer, Bernadette McArdle, Senior Executive Engineer, Donal McElwain, Senior Executive Engineer

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Noted that the primary issue relates to funding from TII, and that this is no reflection on the Monaghan County Council Roads Section or the Municipal District.

Remarked that he had been seeking clarification on the disparity in funding allocations, which was provided today.

Wished to acknowledge the contribution of Kevin West, A/Senior Engineer, regarding the Reclaimed Asphalt Scheme, which is now being rolled out nationwide.

Noted that he and Cllr. Carthy have been advocating for the Carrickmacross–Dundalk Greenway for several years, further remarking that Carrickmacross has the fastest-growing population in the county.

Questioned why the Ulster Canal Greenway did not receive Shared Island Funding.

Acknowledged the role played by Cllrs. Campbell and Gibbons in progressing the Ballynacarry Bridge works and recognised the work of former Councillor Jackie Crowe.

Stated that he was shocked to hear that the Council is covering 100% of the costs and that they continue to await a response from Northern Ireland Planning.

Commented that while he supports cross-border initiatives, he believes it is unacceptable that the Ballynacarry works are being held up by those not contributing financially.

Questioned whether the current Roads Programme will proceed given the unrest in the Middle East and rising energy costs.

Queried whether additional funding will be made available and requested that the Roads Section revert to members on this matter.

Cllr. Keelan:

Noted that the elected members have sought a meeting with Minister Daragh O'Brien.

Remarked that severe weather events have impacted the state of our roads.

Advised that there are many complaints from the public.

Also queried if this year's Roads Programme will go ahead due to rising costs of materials etc.

Stated that intervention is needed from our national government regarding roads.

Commented that the Active Travel Unit (ATU) are dealing with a lot of moving parts, having to work with many different departments.

Commented on the Local Link Service available funding of half a million, remarking he has not seen evidence of this being spent on the ground. Mentioned the discontinued Dunard bus stop.

Concurred with comments made about Ballynacarry Bridge.

Noted the MD can only spend what they have.

Cllr. Carthy:

Concurred with previous comments regarding roads funding – not enough to deal with issues.

Noted the poor state of the Carrickmacross-Kingscourt Rd, impacted by severe weather events.

Voiced concern about the level of Active Travel funding allocated compared to cities like Dublin.
Asked if consideration could be given to locating a bus collection/drop off point at the proposed Park & Share/Ride facility.
Queried whether the Ross Road and Rockdaniel Road will be considered in the Local Transport Plan.
Noted it was 2018 when Cllrs. tried to progress the Carrickmacross – Dundalk and Carrickmacross - Kingscourt Greenways, stating that Carrickmacross has a busy cycling club, rambling and walking groups.
Remarked that Monaghan County Council are doing a good job with the resources given, but do not have enough funding.

Cllr. Campbell:
Welcomed the clarification in terms of funding.
Noted that all members are lobbying for additional funding.
Concurred that there are many incoming complaints from members of the public.
Expressed disappointment that there is no contribution from the Northern Ireland Executive for Ballynacarry Bridge, noting previous motions raised regarding this matter and advised that he will continue to work on this matter.
Noted that some landowners are unhappy regarding the Ballybay – Castleblayney Greenway, advising that this needs to be revisited.
Remarked on Active travel funding for Castleblayney - €10,000 for one school and commented that the process seems convoluted following discussions with the school in question.
Queried when an Urban Mobility Plan will be completed for Castleblayney.
Asked if it is possible to have MCC staff carry out works on Bust Stops instead of employing consultants.
Expressed an interest in hearing more about PRO potholes repairs.

Cllr. Conlon:
Expressed thanks for clarifying the funding figures.
Concurred that all members continually lobby for additional funding.
Stressed the importance of consulting with residents regarding noise for the Park & Share/Ride facility.
Commented that there is no issue with the Active Travel Unit – the issue lies with allocation of funding.
Advised delight at seeing disability issues being addressed for bus stops.
Remarked that landowners need to buy in at an early stage for the Greenway projects.
In the context of disability issues, advised that there may be a template available for an Urban Mobility Plans as one was completed for Monaghan Hospital.
Noted that PRO was trialled in Louth County Council and voiced concerns that Monaghan has different ground terrain.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Voiced concerns about engagement with locals, particularly Mile Hill residents, regarding the Ballybay – Castleblayney Greenway.
Queried what the realistic output is for bus stops and commented that he hoped Annyalla will be a priority.
Noted that recent Active travel works seem to heavily focus on North Monaghan and there does not seem to be anything for the wider Castleblayney communities.
Queried if there is an increased budget for road repairs.
Remarked that Ballynacarry is a very dangerous road, noting that Stormont do not have fund raising powers as they rely on grants from Westminster.

Cllr. O'Hanlon raised a Point of Information regarding Ballynacarry Bridge:
Stated that the money is there and that Planning in Northern Ireland is holding the project up. Cllr. O'Hanlon asked that the Sinn Féin elected members contact their colleagues in Northern Ireland about the matter.
Cllr. Carthy stated that there is no guarantee that funding will be allocated from either jurisdiction and voiced his opinion that he felt this was "petty and political" commentary from Cllr. O'Hanlon.
Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that, given the significant investment already made, he would be surprised if the Department did not provide funding once planning approval has been secured. He added that he would have no issue raising the matter with Minister Darragh O'Brien at that stage and asked that Sinn Féin representatives similarly raise it with the relevant Minister in Northern Ireland to help ensure the project proceeds.
Cllr. Campbell added that the issue was not political but simply a matter of stating the facts.
Cllr. Carthy responded that the governance structures in Belfast differ from those in Dublin. He stated that repeated references to "our SF colleagues" were unhelpful, as decision-making processes are not comparable between the two jurisdictions.

Kevin West, A/Senior Engineer, stated that TII are advising that the Northern Ireland Executive need to bring something to the table. Monaghan County Council has engaged with the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) in Northern Ireland, who have indicated that they currently have no available funding. He further noted that the planning process in Northern Ireland is progressing more slowly and that approval is hoped for by year-end, after which funding sources must be identified.

Nial O'Conor, Director of Services, confirmed that TII has funded the project up to its current stage. He reiterated that there is presently no confirmed funding from DFI. Further negotiations will take place once planning approval is secured, with funding expected to be sought from both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Responses from Roads Section:

- *Nial O'Connor, Director of Services*

- Monaghan County Council use a significant amount of their own resources to fund roads.
- Highlighted the administrative and bureaucratic challenges that arise when engaging with multiple organisations and agencies.
- MCC are unable to use Bus Stop funding to pay own staff.
- Acknowledged the strong views regarding Ballynacarry Bridge and will bring this back to the Department.
- Advised that delivery of Greenways for Carrickmacross is a significant time away but will continue to push.
- Expressed thanks for positive feedback from the Disability Forum.
- Advised that he has asked the team to investigate pothole repairs in general with a view to improving processes – take a more strategic approach.

Cllr. Campbell asked if the traditional approach of tabling roads can be investigated.

- *Kevin West, A/Senior Engineer*

- Advised there is no increase in funding for Greenways or Active travel. Views will be taken on board. Commented that Landowner issues occur with all Greenway projects.
- There are expected price increases of approximately 25%. Low-Cost Interventions may help to offset this.

Cllr. O'Hanlon requested that MD Engineers are involved at an early stage once tenders are in.

- Advised that PRO is suitable for any Bitmac road, not stone roads.
- Advised that the Local Transport Plan for Carrickmacross should be finalised this year. Stated that, by the looks of things, Carrickmacross will get the majority of Active travel funding next year.

- *Bernadette McArdle, Senior Executive Engineer*

- Advised that Urban Mobility Plans normally apply to populations over 5,000. Informed the members that a pilot was completed for Clones, and it has been agreed that plans will be done for Ballybay and Castleblayney, subject to funding becoming available.
- Advised that safety is the priority for bus stops – safe to wait, board, alight and lighting.
- Advised that local residents will be consulted.
- Welcomed comments on disability issues.
- Noted that the €10,000 for the school in Castleblayney refers to Safe Routes to School. The baseline assessments are done by various Government bodies. The €10,000 funding won't be spent until works begin.

- Advised that it is hoped to bring 20 bus stops in the county up to standard this year, including Annyalla.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, the minutes of the February 2026 monthly Municipal District Meeting, held on Monday the 23rd of February 2026, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan:

Asked for an update on funding for public lighting on the Dundalk Road - Nuremore Hotel route.

Reply – Public Lighting requirements will be brought to the elected members at a scheduled meeting.

Asked for the Donaghmoyne Access Roads to be investigated.

Sought an update on an invitation issued to Inspector Colm McNally to meet with the elected members.

Reply – this will be followed up.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Commended the recent wreath laying ceremony for the 50th Anniversary of the Castleblayney bombing.

Advised that New Street, Castleblayney is in an appalling state.

Reply – this will be investigated.

Queried why the public lighting at Bramley Crescent and Crescent Hill cannot be TIC, as this has been done in similar situations within the county. Also noted there are three lights out at Killycard Manor.

Cathal Flynn, Director of Services advised there is no technical reason for lighting on its own not to be TIC. A comprehensive response will be provided at the next meeting.

3.0 Schedule of Works

Damien Thornton, MD Co-Ordinator highlighted the cost of the CCTV for Carrickmacross, which is only a quotation.

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan, the Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District Schedule of Municipal District Works 2026 was unanimously adopted.

4.0 Correspondence

i. Response from Office of the Minister for Enterprise re: Newbaze

ii. Response from IDA Ireland re: Newbaze

Cllr. Carthy welcomed both responses regarding Newbaze.
Cllr. Conlon spoke about the Newbaze facility and requested the Executive investigate the possibility of acquiring this premises.

iii. Letter from Carrickmacross Festival Committee – 2026 Public Area Permit

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan it was unanimously agreed to approve the use of the following public areas in Carrickmacross over the June Bank Holiday weekend:

- *Car park in front of Courthouse*
- *Market Square*
- *Drummond Etra car park*
- *Parking area along Main Street from Market Square up to Markey's Bar*
- *Cloughvalley Park (on Monday 1st June)*
- *Monaghan Street (Southside – on Monday 1st June)*

iv. Response from Planning Section re: Bramley Crescent and Crescent Hill

5.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

Cllr. Conlon:
Queried what the next steps are for Carrickmacross Swimming Pool.
Reply - 8 No. Tender Submissions were received. These will be reviewed by a Tender Assessment Panel. It is hoped a preferred supplier will be identified in the next 2-3 weeks.
Asked for an update on Creevy Lough Part 8 Planning
Reply – Residents have requested a final consultation event. Elected members will be informed once a date has been confirmed.

Cllr. Carthy:
Stated he was glad to see the number of tenders submitted for the Swimming Pool design.
Reply – MCC will progress with appointment of a design team as soon as possible. The plan is to get a detailed design to be as shovel ready as possible.
Welcomed the Oriel Road Pedestrian Crossing. Advised that members of the public have informed him they feel the ramp is too high.
Advised there are significant potholes on the L-4910. Queried the possibility of bringing this road forward on the Roads Programme.

Cllr. Campbell:
Sought an update on the CCTV at Lough Muckno.
Reply – This was recently inspected by AGS. There is a small issue to be resolved regarding the outside lock.

Cllr. Gibbons:
Queried when the Lough Muckno Masterplan will be available for public consultation.
Reply - Cunnane Stratton Reynolds are currently introducing changes following the recent meeting with the elected members. It is hoped a draft will be presented before the summer months and public consultation will follow this.

Cllr. Keelan:
Welcomed funding for Flood Mitigation works in Donaghmoyne.
Queried when works will progress at Corcrin Bridge.
Reply -This MD will revert with this information.

6.0 Q&A

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

1. **I have been advised previously that following a speed survey essential traffic calming measures are planned for Thorndale and Rosevale estates in Castleblayney. Can you please advise the nature of traffic calming planned and proposed timelines for implementation? The survey identified a real safety issue in these estates, and parents are particularly concerned as children will be outside more as the weather improves.**
   Response:
   In October 2025, the Municipal District executive submitted a funding application under the *2026 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads* programme, which included proposals for the provision of traffic calming measures in both the Thorndale and Rosevale housing estates. Unfortunately, neither scheme received funding. The executive shall continue to explore potential funding opportunities to advance these traffic calming proposals.

2. **There are houses under construction at Radharc an Bhri, Castleblayney. Can timelines be provided on the estimated completion date of this development?**
   Response:
   The executive will follow up with the developer to ascertain the estimated completion date.

3. **I understand lighting only has been taken in charge in estates in both Monaghan MD and Clones Ballybay MD. 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 as I previously requested? If so, what are the findings and are there any engineering or other reasons differentiating these estates from other estates where the lighting only has been taken in charge by Monaghan County Council in other Municipal Districts?**
   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 the Cresent Hill and 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.

4. **Can an update be given on the taking in charge process for Killycard Manor, Castleblayney?**
   Response:
   There remain defects relating to roads and footpaths, storm water drainage, public lighting and open spaces. Engineering staff are currently preparing update reports on same. It is intended that the estate will be formally taken in charge upon the resolution of these outstanding issues and the securement of agreement with Uisce Éireann.

5. **The Churchill Road, Oram from the Frankfort Bridge to the border is busy with many people walking, running and increasing vehicular traffic. Can the Churchill Road at Tullyharnett be assessed from a road safety and speeding perspective, and any appropriate safety measures implemented. There are several historical house and farm entrances near a bend on the road, and I have been advised of several near misses at these locations.**
   Response:
   The executive shall investigate the feasibility of a road safety assessment, incorporating speed and traffic surveys, at this location.

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

6. **Has the NTA provided any response to the traffic survey completed over the river Fane in Inniskeen to facilitate a pedestrian bridge?**
   Response:
   The temporary traffic trial and survey at the River Fane bridge were carried out to assess whether a shuttle system with traffic lights on the existing bridge could improve safety for people walking and cycling. The NTA has reviewed both the report and the traffic survey results. They noted that the trial had to be cut short due to significant negative feedback locally. Based on this response, it is considered likely that any planning application for a permanent shuttle system at the Fane River Bridge would attract similar objections.

   The Active Travel Department also notes that the Planning Department is preparing a Village Plan for Inniskeen. This plan may include objectives that will guide future transport and mobility improvements within the village.

7. **With the reopening of the County Development plan for the additional zoning of lands. Is it possible to review the number of a similar type of shop / service provided in one town or is there a mechanism to determine / control the number of shops providing a similar service.**
   Response:
   The County Development Plan is proposed to be varied to reflect the requirements of the Ministerial Guidelines and the revised Housing Growth Targets. Objective RTO 1 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025–2031 provides for the preparation of a new Retail Strategy for the County within two years of the Plan's adoption.

At present, there are no statutory mechanisms available to limit or control the number of similar retail outlets within towns, such as phone shops, vape shops, or takeaways. Furthermore, where an existing retail use is replaced by another retail use within the same premises, planning permission may not be required if both uses fall within the same use class. In such cases, the change can occur without planning intervention.

8. **When is it anticipated that the repairs to the roads infrastructure as a result of the recent storms will commence?**
   Response:
   The executive has submitted a request to the Department of Transport for additional storm-related funding. To date, we have not received an allocation.

9. **With the recent flooding in Inniskeen, is there a plan to review how this could be alleviated in future?**
   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.

10. **In the recent past the rivers / drains were cleaned / cleared, Which Government body completed this work, why has it stopped, and can this be revisited?**
    Response:
    The primary public body with statutory responsibility for maintaining, cleaning, and deepening designated rivers to improve drainage and manage flood risk is the Office of Public Works (OPW). The executive will contact the OPW to establish their current maintenance programme as it affects County Monaghan and specifically the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District.

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

11. **What plans are in place to repair the cobble stone paving in the Courthouse Parking area, Carrickmacross?**
    Response:
    The Executive will carry out localised repairs to the cobblestones in the public car park to the front of the courthouse/Shirley Arms Hotel as soon as is reasonably practicable.

12. **When is it expected design details for Kingscourt road safety measures will be presented to elected members and the public?**
    Response:
    The executive is advancing plans to demolish the derelict building located on the western edge of the R179 Kingscourt/Magheraboy Road Junction to facilitate design surveys. It is anticipated that the design details of the proposed road safety measures will be presented to elected members and the public in late Q2 2026.

13. **Is there any update on road safety works for the Ballybay Road, Carrickmacross, specifically on the length of road that runs adjacent to Emmet Park and Gleann Droimnin?**
    Response:

There is currently no funding available to progress the design and implementation of road safety measures along the section of the Ballybay Road adjacent to Emmet Park and Gleann Droimnin. The executive will explore all potential sources of funding to progress the scheme.

14. **Following the success of the replacement of light-heads to the Carrickmacross Main Street Lighting, is the executive looking to roll out improvements to our other streets to improve visibility throughout the town?**
    Response:
    There is currently no plan for the review of public lighting along other streets in Carrickmacross Town. Reported areas of concern will be included for consideration under this Municipal District's 2026 Public Lighting Programme.

15. **When is it expected works will commence on the Carrickmacross Water Feature and can the elected members be given design details before works begin?**
    Response:
    The executive is currently preparing tender documentation for the engagement of a suitably qualified Design and Build contractor, with a view to having the proposed water feature installed by mid to late Q2 2026. Emerging options/proposals will be shared with the elected members before detailed design commences.

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

16. **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, early Q2 2026. Thereafter, the executive intends to apply for funding under Measure 2,3 of the Town and Village Renewal scheme to implement the scheme.

17. **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 continues to delay 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 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.

18. **What is the up to-date position in relation to the Creevy Lough Masterplan?**
    Response:
    It is expected that a Part 8 planning application for the scheme will be submitted in late April 2026. Higher-than-anticipated water levels have made it impractical to complete the

required environmental assessments. Additionally, directly affected landowners have requested a final information event prior to the submission of the proposed Part 8 planning application. Date TBC.

19. **What plans have the council to extend the public lighting from the Dundalk Road (R178) into the Nuremore Hotel access on the L4700, given the obvious road safety concerns for all pedestrians using this unlit footpath Link?**
    Response:
    The installation of new public lighting along the L4700, from R178 Dundalk Road junction to the Nuremore Hotel entrance, will be included for consideration under this Municipal District's 2026 Public Lighting Programme.

20. **Following on from a motion in my name some years ago in relation to this MD working with Louth County Council to improve and upgrade the roadway from Inniskeen village out to the Dundalk regional road (R178) at Channonrock, what was the outcome of our engagement with Louth County Council given the importance of this very busy route?**
    Response:
    The executive issued correspondence to Louth County Council on the 19th of October 2022 regarding the unanimously agreed motion requesting a collaborative feasibility study to examine potential road improvements that could reasonably be undertaken along the L-4623, from Inniskeen Village to the R178 Dundalk Regional Road at Channonrock, Co. Louth.

    To date, Monaghan County Council has not received a response from Louth County Council in relation to this request. The executive will issue further correspondence to Louth County Council seeking their consideration for a joint feasibility study to assess possible improvement works along the L-4623.

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

21. **RE housing developments in the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross MD.**
    a) **How many developments are waiting to be taken in charge?**
    b) **What is the main hold up on the taken in charge process with these developments?**
    c) **What timeframe is it expected to have all these issues resolved and taken in charge completed?**

    Response:
    a) There are currently 33 No. residential developments not Taken in Charge in the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District. Of these 33 No. developments, Monaghan County Council has received 7 No. written requests for Taking in Charge (TIC).
    b) The main delays to the Taking in Charge process surround the satisfactory resolution of defects relating to roads and footpaths, storm water drainage, public lighting and open spaces, and securing agreements with Uisce Éireann.
    c) Timeframes for TIC are determined on a case-by-case basis, and elected members will be updated accordingly.

22. **With the Market House in Castleblayney having gone through the tender process. What is the latest update on getting this project started?**
    Response:
    Monaghan County Council's submission under Decision Gate 3 (DG3), 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 Department on the

matter, however the Department have not confirmed a timeline for a decision on the DG3 submission. The commencement of construction works is contingent on DRCDG approval to proceed to contract award.

23. **When can the MD address the road surface which has completely deteriorated on upper Main Street leading to Laurel Hill?**
    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.

24. **With the completion of the works to Castleblayney Library at the entrance to Lough Muckno. Can the MD now look at placing a flagpole where our National Flag can be raised on special occasions?**
    Response:
    The executive will explore the feasibility of erecting a flagpole in the vicinity of the entrance to Lough Muckno Park.

25. **What is the update on the proposed consultation works which was recently funded to progress works on the old orchard on the grounds of Hope Castle?**
    Response:
    It is intended that a tender for the engagement of suitable consultancy services will issue to the market in mid Q2 2026. The timeframe for the delivery of this enabling project is twelve months.

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

26. **In relation to Shirley House Lane, what is the update on the project?**
    Response:
    The Part 8 "planning pack" for the Shirley House Lane Car Park Development has been circulated to relevant Council departments for review/comment prior to submission. It is anticipated that the Part 8 planning application for the scheme will be submitted within the coming weeks.

27. **At what stage is the Workhouse project now?**
    Response:
    The Part 8 planning report was approved by the elected members at the January 2026 meeting of Monaghan County Council.

    The scope of this Category 2 enabling project provides for the completion of detailed plans and costings for the restoration and re-development of the workhouse site. It is anticipated that the detailed design, and associated specifications and contract documents will be completed within the coming weeks.

    The executive is proposing to apply for funding under the current RRDF Category 1 call to implement the scheme. The closing date for receipt of proposals is the 28th of July 2026.

8.0 Director of Service Orders

Noted.

9.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to The Christy Family on the death of John Christy (RIP), The Keenan Family on the death of John Keenan (RIP), Derek & Regina Wallace on the death of Declan Wallace (RIP), Rosaleen Kearney on the death of Patrick Kearney (RIP) and the Dooley Family on the death of Martin Dooley (RIP).

Votes of congratulations were extended to Maisie Flanagan on her success in the All-Ireland Boxing Final and to Yves Michel on his re-election as Mayor of Marseillan, France.

10.0 A.O.B

Cllr. Carthy:

Asked that a concrete surface for the Oriel Road is investigated.

Mentioned the recent road marking placed in Carrickmacross without consulting the elected members. Stated his awareness that no malice was intended, however would appreciate consultation in future.

Reply – there were no changes made to the Parking Control Scheme which is why elected members were not consulted. Discussions have been held with affected parties to resolve any issues.

Cllr. Gibbons:

Congratulated all involved in the recent Carrickmacross, Inniskeen and Oram St. Patrick's Day Parades.

Cllr. Keelan:

Queried whether it is possible to tar a small green area, located between the pedestrian crossing and St. Daighs Tce in Inniskeen.

Requested that the executive investigate the possibility of extending the yellow box at Cloughvalley/Donaghmoyne junction.

Cathal Flynn, Director of Services formally welcomed Aoife Kelly, Senior Staff Officer to the MD team.

Damien Thornton, MD Co-Ordinator informed the members that Swim Ireland are seeking to extend their stay in Carrickmacross until September.

It was agreed to hold the Area Roads Meeting on the 27th of April 2026, following the monthly MD meeting.

The meeting concluded at 1:00pm.

_____ _____

Cathaoirleach Date

_____

Meeting Administrator