

**Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin**



**The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council**

Minutes of proceedings of December 2017 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 18th December 2017 at 3.00 p.m.

Present: - Cathaoirleach McNally

Cllrs. Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Aidan Campbell, Colm Carthy

In attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services; Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator; John Lennon, District Engineer; Amanda Murray, Staff Officer; Caitriona Lazdauskas, Clerical Officer; Veronica Corr, Northern Standard.

Apologies: - Cllr. P J O'Hanlon

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Crowe the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 27th November 2017 were adopted.

2. Matters arising

Replies to queries:

- Cllr. McNally welcomed the news that the Ulster Bank building in Carrickmacross is up for sale. He enquired if there would be any reason for Monaghan County Council to purchase the building. Cllr. McNally also stated that he would like the future building use to be beneficial.
- Cllr. Carthy asked if there was any update on the IPB funding. Cllr. McNally stated that this will be on the agenda at the CPG December meeting.
- All the members unanimously approved the recommendations put forward by the LCDC in respect to RAPID funding allocations.

3. Correspondence

- **Correspondence received from Brendan Smyth T.D.** in relation to replies by the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment and by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to Parliamentary Questions tabled in Dáil Éireann following correspondence received in relation to Motions passed at November meeting of the Municipal District.
 - Cllr. McNally asked that this MD write to Brendan Smyth T.D. thanking him for tabling the parliamentary questions in Dáil Eireann and also to state that the government has a legal and moral obligation to supply broadband to households in the state.
 - All members agreed that the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment's response in relation to the Broadband issue is not acceptable.
 - Cllr. McNally asked that Cllr. Carthy draft a letter to Minister Katherine Zappone in response to her reply to the Parliamentary Question requesting an increase in funding to the Childcare sector.
- **Correspondence received from Marianne Brosnan, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment** acknowledging receipt of this Municipal Districts letter dated the 29th November regarding Eir and the National Broadband Plan.
- **Letter received from Lisa Hughes, Private Secretary to Minister Katherine Zappone T.D.** acknowledging receipt of this Municipal Districts letter dated the 29th of November concerning the need for an increase of funding in the childcare sector.
- **Correspondence received from Senator Joe O'Reilly** acknowledging receipt of this Municipal District's letter concerning the need for an increase of funding in the childcare sector and incorporating early childhood education into the education sector.
 - It was agreed by all members that this Municipal District write to Senator Joe O'Reilly thanking him for his correspondence.
- **Correspondence received from Senator Joe O'Reilly** acknowledging receipt of this Municipal Districts letter regarding Eir and the National Broadband Plan.
 - It was agreed by all members that this Municipal District write to Senator Joe O'Reilly thanking him for his correspondence.
- **Correspondence received from Derek Newcombe, Private Secretary to the Minister for Education and Skills** acknowledging letter received in relation to incorporating early childhood education into the education sector.
- **Correspondence received from Senator Robbie Gallagher** in response to letter received in relation to an increase in funding to both the childcare sector and childcare providers.
- **Correspondence received from Evan O'Reilly, Donal O Buachalla** in relation to the sale of the Ulster Bank building at 20 Main Street, Carrickmacross.

- **Letter received from Alan McGreevey, Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice and Equality** acknowledging receipt of this Municipal District's letter dated the 29th November 2017 in relation to the investigation report into the events surrounding the tragic death of Shane O'Farrell.
 - It was agreed by all members that a letter should issue to the Minister in advance of the January 2018 Municipal District meeting if no further correspondence is received before then.
- **Correspondence received from Lorcán MacCinna** giving an update on Magheross Housing Project from Tuath Housing.
 - The members welcomed the correspondence received from Lorcán MacCinna and the progress made in recent weeks. The members also thanked him and all the staff involved for working on this project.
 - Cllr. Keelan asked that this Municipal District get an update on this Housing Project from Lorcán MacCinna in advance of the February 2018 Municipal District meeting.

4. Consideration of Co-ordinators monthly report

Issues Raised Discussed

- Cllr. McNally and Cllr. Carthy voiced their concerns in relation to the new public lighting in Carrickmacross as they have received a number of complaints that the lights are not as bright as the previous lights. Gareth McMahan, Co-ordinator stated that a design process was used for the installation. Gareth McMahan, Co-ordinator stated that the Municipal District will liaise with Vincent McKenna, Assistant Engineer to investigate the lighting and report back to the members.
- Cllr. Crowe commended the new public lighting installed in Castleblayney.
- Cllr. Campbell stated that marketing is required to get people to visit the Kavanagh Centre when refurbishment is complete. Gareth McMahan, co-ordinator stated that the Kavanagh Centre will be available for hosting small events and performances when complete.
- Cllr. Campbell welcomed the grant aid of €111,000 from Inland Fisheries for additional fishing facilities at South Lodge, Lough Muckno. Cllr. Campbell complemented Dymrna Condra, Tourism Officer for the work involved in acquiring the grant aid.
- Cllr. Campbell stated that he is looking forward to the imminent Consultants Report on Hope Castle.
- Cllr. Campbell thanked Gareth McMahan, Co-Ordinator and John McKernan, Roads Section for their effort on the Kinnegan Junction issue and also stated that he was disappointed with the TII.
- Cllr. Campbell welcomed the LIS funding in 2017 and hoped that the scheme will be open next year also.
- Cllr. Keelan acknowledged the refurbishment works at the Kavanagh Centre and also the work of those promoting Patrick Kavanagh's works. Cllr. Keelan stated that more work is needed to enhance Inniskeen Village.
- Cllr. Keelan stated that he is looking forward to seeing the Market Square in Carrickmacross when refurbishment works are complete.
- Cllr. Crowe stated that he is looking forward to the Consultant's Report on Hope Castle.

- In answer to a query from Cllr. Crowe, Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that John McArdle, Project Leader IS, is working at upgrading the CCTV and extending it to the car park at Lough Muckno.
- Cllr. Crowe thanked the Municipal District and Roads Section staff for their continued efforts on the Kinnegan Junction issue.
- Cllr. McNally commended all those involved in the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Patrick Kavanagh's death.
- Cllr. McNally welcomed the imminent Consultants Report on Hope Castle and stated that Monaghan County Council should look at installing a more permanent ski club facility in the future.
- In relation to the traffic management issue in Cloughvalley, Cllr. McNally asked that the Municipal District and Roads Safety Officer liaise with the Gardaí, Doctors Surgery, Schools and Parents Committees. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that a report will be completed and full support will be required from parents to support the initiative. Cllr. McNally asked that a preliminary report be presented at the February 2018 Municipal District meeting.
- Cllr. McNally asked if the Part 8 Plan for Ivy Lane can be displayed in Carrickmacross Town Centre. Amanda Murray, Staff Officer, stated that the plan can be posted on the Councils website and also in the Municipal District office. Cllr. McNally stated that the car park should be made available for bringing business to the town centre rather than for those commuting to Dublin. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that a study will be completed and a method for traffic parking management will be established.
- Cllr. Carthy thanked Oliver Callan for his role in promoting Patrick Kavanagh.

5. Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for December 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. **What is the up-to-date position on my previous request for traffic calming and safety measures to the Ross Road, specifically between Inver Park and the Barford Meats site?**

Response:

A traffic counter was installed on the Ross Road between the 29/09/17 and the 13/10/17. The count results have been analysed and they indicate a level of speeding violations above the norm. Monaghan County Council is currently drafting a Traffic Calming policy. The aims of this policy is to address the traffic calming needs of existing roads and estates and to set design guidance for traffic calming. Until this policy has been adopted by the elected members there is a suspension of the installation of traffic calming measures.

2. **Will the executive consider the repair and repainting of the wall along the old Castleblayney Road (LS08150) in Lisgall, Carrickmacross, during 2018 and can you confirm if a review mentioned earlier this year (in response to a question from Cllr. Noel Keelan), on whether a crash barrier is required, has been carried out?**

Response:

The District Office has no plans to repair/repaint the wall in the townland of Lisgall in 2018. A review of this section of road has been carried out and it is deemed that there is no necessity for a crash barrier at this location.

3. Has the engineering section completed its proposed design for the addition of a small section of footpath to the Pearse Avenue estate to connect residents to the Carrickmacross end & can you confirm how this could be funded when design is agreed?

Response:

The District Office has completed a design proposal for Pearse Avenue, incorporating a pedestrian crossing on the Dundalk road. A Low Cost Safety application was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. No decision regarding this application has been received by this Office. This design option may change due to the request of the elected members to review the Steadfast Junction.

4. Has the engineering section completed its proposed design for a ramped pedestrian crossing at the access to St. Joseph's Terrace on Farney Street?

Response:

Traffic counts were carried out on Farney Street between from the 27/01/17 to the 10/02/17. No speeding violations were recorded. Therefore no traffic calming measures are required at this location. The District Office will continue to monitor driver's behaviour on Farney Street.

5. Notwithstanding the awaited confirmation from IPB on its refund to MCC, has the MD a budget for the repair of footpaths around Carrickmacross, and if so, will it be addressing any of the areas highlighted as being dangerous?

Response:

The District Office estimates that the cost to repair the footpaths in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney Towns at €70,000. The District receives approximately €42,000 for sign, lines and footpaths each year and it is expected that the funding level for 2018 will remain the same. The District will continue to repair areas of deficit footpaths as part of its maintenance programme.

Questions raised by Cllr. Pdraig McNally for December 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. Following the installation of traffic bollards, signs and road markings to improve safety on the N2, can this MD check with the TII to establish if there is a contract in place to keep these repaired, replaced and cleaned as there are a number of the bollards already missing.

Response:

This question has been forwarded to the Roads Section, Monaghan Co. Council and we are awaiting a response.

7. Has this MD received any further correspondence from Louth County Council regarding the addition of two lights at Killanny Church which are needed within the Monaghan boundary as they have an existing scheme in place and it would be more economic for us to connect to same.

Response:

Monaghan County Council contacted Louth County Council requesting that two additional public lights be added to their existing network at Killanny Church. The following response was received from Louth County Council "Unfortunately Louth County Council has no plans or budget for additional public lighting at Killanny Church. Current policy is no additional lighting in the county"

8. Can this MD state how many vacant sites i.e. residential/commercial in the towns of Carrickmacross and Castleblayney and can this list be made public?

Response:

Currently there are no sites in Carrickmacross or Castleblayney on the Vacant Sites Register. The Council will undertake an assessment of Vacant Sites in the towns in 2018. The earliest date that Vacant Sites can become liable for the Vacant Sites Levy is 1st January 2019.

9. How much land is available for recreational purposes in and around the running track and the proposed soccer development site, Carrickmacross, still in the ownership of Monaghan Co. Council?

Response:

This question has been reverted to Monaghan Co. Council and we will circulate a response when in receipt of same.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for December 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

10. What is the up to date position in relation to the resurfacing and up grading of a small area at Dunard estate in Inniskeen village as requested by the residents association over many years?

Response:

The District Office plans to complete the wearing course in Dunard estate in early 2018.

11. In relation to the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney municipal district area how many local roads is it hoped to upgrade and resurface in 2018 approximately how many local roadways are in need of upgrading and resurfacing in this area?

Response:

The number of roads that will be completed under the Restoration Improvement Grant in 2018 will be dependent on the allocation received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. No decision regarding this allocation has been received by the District Office. In 2017 the District Office, drained and overlaid, 2.5km of the regional network and 10km of the local network, with an allocation of €1,264,518. Structural pavement ratings carried out by Monaghan County Council, has identified approximately 75km of local roads and 11km of regional roads with a pavement rating less than 4 and therefore requiring full structural overlay.

12. How much funding is available to upgrade and extend the Council's public lighting programme across the area including Lisanisk, Lisdoonan and Inniskeen village and how much funding is needed to carry out the current public lighting requests across the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney District area?

Response:

The public lighting allocation for 2017 was €13,330. The allocation required to address all the public lighting requests made by the elected members is estimated at €232,000

13. What plans have this Council to upgrade and resurface parts of the Main St. in Carrickmacross and the other roads in and around the town including the Castleblayney road; all of which are in a poor state of repair?

Response:

The District Office has compiled a schedule of defects for Carrickmacross Town. The Municipal District is seeking to have the pavement defects rectified by the contractor commissioned to install the sewage network in 2011.

14. In relation to the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the Lisanisk, Carrickmacross/Culloville Road junction and the application process; when is it hoped to have a response from the Department in relation to funding for this project?

Response:

A Low Cost Safety Improvement funding application was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 13th October 2017. No decision regarding the application has been received by the District Office.

6. Notice of Motions

Motion by Cllr. Carthy for December 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

'The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District calls on the Minister for Health to legislate for a 'soft opt-out' system for organ donation and to confirm a timeline for same. We also call on the support of all Local Authorities in the State.'

- The motion was unanimously agreed by all members.

7. Director of Services Orders

The Directors orders 109/2017 to 110/2017 attached to the agenda were noted.

8. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:

- Majella O'Hanlon Shields on the death of her husband Vincent Shields.
- The McCluskey family on the death of Father Joe McCluskey.
- Briege Martin and family on the death of her brother Peter Brennan.

9. Any Other Business

- Cllr. McNally asked that the Municipal District Council contact Louth County Council in relation to the addition of two lights at Killanny Church. Cllr. McNally asked that the MD reiterate to Louth County Council that an annual payment will be made by Monaghan County Council for the lights.
- Cllr. Keelan asked that the roundabout on the Killanny road off the Dundalk road be tarred, chipped and a non slippery surface be put in place. Cllr. Keelan also asked if it is possible to do salting in the area.

- Cllr. Keelan asked that Monaghan County Council investigate taking in charge the road to Mannan Castle. Cllr. Keelan asked that a report on this be brought to the January 2018 Municipal District meeting.
- Cllr. Campbell stated that a fence and sign are damaged at the Shercock Junction on the Castleblayney Bypass.
- Cllr. Crowe acknowledged the salting taking place at Drumillard Housing Estate.
- Cllr. McNally asked if the surface at the roundabout in Killanny could be investigated. John Lennon, District Engineer stated that this will be investigated.
- Cllr. McNally asked for an update on the hedge cutting along the Kingscourt Road. Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that the Roads Section is dealing with this matter.
- Cllr. McNally made the following proposal *'that this MD calls on the relevant authorities to permit the recently erected natural stone wall at the convent in Carrickmacross to remain rather than it being plastered and dashed as per the old wall finish, due to it being a listed structure'*. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Keelan and unanimously agreed.
- Cllr. McNally asked that the Municipal District correspond with An Post to install a post box at the back of the O'Gorman's Shopping Centre in Carrickmacross as a matter of urgency.
- Cllr. McNally asked that an examination be carried out on the road at the roundabout on the Ballybay Road in Carrickmacross.
- Cllr. Carthy requested that a traffic counter be put in place at Inver Park.
- Cllr. Carthy stated the use of the 'My Council' app is a very useful tool and needs to be highlighted more with the general public.
- Cllr. McNally asked that public lighting poles be renumbered as some of the numbers are either faded, not on the pole or are too high to read.
- Cllr. McNally offered the St. Louis Nuns in Carrickmacross the support and guidance of the Municipal District, as they will have to vacate the building in the near future due to repair works.
- Cllr. McNally thanked Veronica Corr, Northern Standard for her year round coverage of the Municipal District meetings.

Meeting concluded at 5.10 p.m.

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: 22nd January 2018