

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



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

Minutes of proceedings of January 2016 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Office, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Monaghan on Monday 25th January 2016 @ 10am.

Present: - Mayor PJ O Hanlon

Cllrs Aidan Campbell, Colm Carthy Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Pdraig McNally

Also in attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services; Frances Matthews, Co-ordinator, John Lennon, Amanda Murray, Teresa McGuirk

Apologies: None

At the outset Cllr O Hanlon made the following proposal. This was seconded by Cllr Carthy and supported by all.

“That a vote of sympathy be offered to both families who suffered great loss at the double fatality on the N2 on 11th January 2016. A letter of appreciation be sent to the Fire Services, Ambulance Service, Gardai and Monaghan County Council Staff for all the good work they do, particularly for their attendance at the double fatality on the N2 on 11th January 2016”

Members all in turn supported the motion, offered their condolences to both families, and thanked the emergency services and council staff for the work they do on a daily basis and in particular at the scene of the accident. Members also again expressed their concerns about road safety on the N2 - an item which has been discussed on numerous occasions.

Following a brief discussion it was agreed to liaise with Paul Clifford to follow up on the recent meetings with An Garda Síochána and Roads Section of Monaghan County Council in an effort to get statistics on road fatalities on this stretch of road for the next meeting.

A minutes silence was then observed with all present standing. The meeting was then adjourned for two minutes as a mark of respect.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan and seconded by Cllr Crowe the minutes of the meeting held on 21st December 2015 were adopted

2. Matters arising

- The meeting with Louth County Council regarding traffic to Dundalk from Cavan had to be cancelled. It will be rescheduled this week. J Lennon will meet with Louth Engineers and update members accordingly
- The completion of the new brochure for the District was welcomed by all. Cllr Campbell proposed that it was worthy of an official launch – Frances Matthews to liaise with the Tourist Section
- No reply from TII regarding the modification of road markings on the N2 at Castleross turn
- Currently still no premises identified for the Heritage Group or Camera Club – members will be updated if any change
- No reply from OPW regarding flood relief at Derrylavin – they are to be contacted on a regular/monthly basis

3. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from

- Louth County Council + Transport Infrastructure Ireland – traffic to Dundalk ports not their remit as it's a non national road
 - Cllr McNally asked that we renew our request to meet with them
- Caoimhghín Ó Caloáin TD – response from Ceann Comhairle's office – unsuccessful in questions being selected for address in the Dáil
 - During a detailed discussion which followed Cllr McNally made the following proposal. This was seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon and agreed by all.
 - *"That this Municipal District invites our new Chief Executive to attend our next meeting to discuss how he intends to pursue the matter of securing more funding for our roads based on our road condition survey".*
 - The following was further proposed by Cllr O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all.
 - *"That this Municipal District invites the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys TD to our next Municipal Meeting. Failing that, we seek a meeting with the Minister at her local Fine Gael Clinic".*
- Hudson's Funfair – seeking permission to hold funfair in Drummond Etra car park
 - Members were reminded that monies raised from this funfair are ring fenced for works in Drummond Etra. Cllr McNally proposed the council approve the request. This was seconded by Cllr Campbell and agreed by all.

Additional Correspondence

- Carrickmacross Menshed – details of works carried out and items made by the group. Also requesting assistance to identify possible new premises for the group
 - Members agreed to support the group in whatever way they could
- John Nugent, Manager, IDA Ireland – reply stating they unable to deal with request for membership of the interagency coordination group
 - During a discussion the following was proposed by Cllr Carthy and seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all.
 - *"That we write to Enterprise Ireland / IDA to find out if the Coordination Group (set up after the closure of the Bose Facility) would allow a Public / Local Representative from the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District council to join and take part in the group".*

4. Consideration of Events to commemorate the 1916 Rising

Members were informed that to date the following had been arranged to commemorate the 1916 Rising

- A number of banners from Carrickmacross Workhouse would be displayed over the Easter period
- Mr Kevin Gartland from the Workhouse would hold an information evening
- Commemoration gardens are being set up in both Carrickmacross and Castleblayney

During a discussion the following was agreed

- Display the works of local man Larry Lambe (his works listed No 9 in national top 50). Amanda Murray to make contact with him. Members congratulated him on his works
- Schools to be notified of this exhibition
- Flag Raising Ceremonies in both Carrickmacross and Castleblayney towns – Members to liaise with local schools and bands in their own towns
- Proclamation to be read out by students from each school at flag raising ceremony
- Unveiling of monument on Easter Monday at Market Square
- Cllr McNally (Chair of the county commemoration committee) to update the District on county events at the next meeting

5. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

Review of works

Cllr Crowe –

- Thanked the coordinator for the detailed report
- Welcomed Safety Surfacing at Drumillard Play Park and the refurbishment of the gatehouse in Muckno
- Acknowledged the works at Muckno car park – which should result in greater visitor numbers
- Asked for an update on
 - Wall at roundabout at entrance to Castleblayney
 - The taking in charge of the Bog Road
 - Plans for footpath repairs + railing on Shercock Road near the school
 - Additional Car parking in Castleblayney
 - Any plans for a footpath between Rosevale and Upper Bree
 - Provision of Public light at Upper Bree

Cllr Campbell

- Thanked the coordinator for the detailed report
- Acknowledged and thanked the outdoor staff and all staff involved in prevention houses from flooding in Inniskeen
- Highlighted the need for something to be done to alleviate flooding in the whole area
- Commended works on REDZ
- Welcomed the works on the Bog Road
- Asked if there was any possibility of creating a new footpath in Bree. Some land now for sale in the area
- Sought update on plans for the roundabout on Main St Castleblayney

Cllr O'Hanlon

- Attended residence of French Ambassador to present Books of Condolences for the Paris Tragedy – genuinely touched by the response to the tragedy
- Ambassador gave a commitment to Carrickmacross during the 20 year celebrations planned for later in the year
- Asked that a letter be sent to Ambassador in recognition of meeting and for making himself avail to meet the delegation and look forward to meeting later this year

Cllr McNally

- Asked for an estimate of what money was spend in MD during flooding and if we expected to reclaim any of this money
- Acknowledged the fact that no houses were flooded in the MD area
- Welcomed the extension of play park and asked for the inclusion of an additional public light to light up the whole area
- Asked what the brief would be for the consultant appointed to prepare the Cycle Strategy
- Asked if Carrickmacross could learn from Castleblayney Beautiful Streets initiative under the REDZ funding
- Reported that the ramps seemed very severe in Inniskeen – asked the engineer to review the works
- Requested that dirty road signs in the Kingscourt Road be cleaned
- Asked if the District had any vacant Casual Trading pitches

Cllr Carthy

- Asked that the consultants appointed to prepare a Cycle Strategy for the town would liaise with the cycle club and the schools

Cllr Keelan

- Questioned the length of time taken to get minor works carried out

Replies to queries raised by Members

- Works ongoing on wall at entrance to Castleblayney – awaiting final finish. Lettering etc to be agreed with local committee
- Works on footpath, retaining wall and handrail near Bree in Castleblayney will be done in coming months. Footpath will be completed following works in Muckno Car Park
- Currently seeking costings for footpaths between Rosevale and Upper Bree Castleblayney - will be forwarded to elected members for their decision when allocation received
- Ducting installed for Public lights between Rosevale and Upper Bree in Castleblayney. Awaiting contract to install public lighting columns
- Contract documentation for the works at roundabout on Main St in Castleblayney ready to go. Awaiting allocation this year. Some temporary tidy up works will be undertaken in meantime
- Approximately €74k spent on recent flooding. An application will be made to the Department by Monaghan County Council to recover some of these costs
- Applications have been submitted last year to OPW for areas prone to flooding
- The addition of a public light in Cloughvalley play park is being examined as part of the works
- Works ongoing regarding sign cleaning in the District
- Potholes reported to the district will be dealt with as soon as possible
- Some casual trading pitches have not been reallocated, some have been allocated temporarily, still a few vacancies Lower Main St

6. Questions

The following questions were asked by Cllr. Padraig McNally

1. How many instances of flooding i.e. roads blocked or property threatened with flooding occurred in the Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal area during the recent wet weather?

Response:

The Municipal District 15 reported flooding instances due to the recent adverse weather. These instances ranged from impassable roads to a flooded basement.

2. Can this MD outline its plans or proposals to eliminate the floods that occurred in the following areas:-

(a) Ballybay road R180;

Response:

The OPW has been contracted regarding clearing a drainage culvert on the R180. They have agreed to clear the culvert when water level has fallen to a safe level to enter.

(b) The old N2 at Mullaghmeen;

Response:

An existing stone culvert has been cleared. Due to the large volume of water in the lake and downstream it will take an extended period for the Old Ardee Road to become passable.

(c) The Killanny road adjacent the bridge under the bypass LP04700;

Response:

A review will be carried out on this section of road by the District Office to determine cause of flooding and possible alleviation works.

(d) Drumgoan LP04920

Response:

An application for funding to carry out remedial work on the dam of the Mill Pond was made to the OPW in 2015. This Office has not received a decision on this application.

(e) Flooding at Oscail Rois

Response:

The OPW have been contacted regarding including Oscail Rois as part of the CFRAM Study for Carrickmacross Town.

(f) Flooding in Inniskeen Village:

Response:

Inniskeen Village is currently being reviewed by the Office of Public Works as part of the CFRAM Study.

(g) The old Castleblayney road N2 (adjacent to what used to be McNallys dump).

Response:

An application for funding to develop an engineering solution at Nelson Kiln was made to the OPW in 2015. This Office has not received a decision on this application.

(h) Aghaille road LP04000.

Response:

A review will be carried out on this section of road by the District Office to determine cause of flooding and possible alleviation works.

The following questions were asked by Cllr. Carthy

- 3 Can this MD Council confirm if road salting is still carried out in Carrickmacross town to the same extent as was done while the Carrickmacross Town Council was in place?

Response:

The District Office can confirm that salting routes in the Carrickmacross Town have not changed since the abolishment of Carrickmacross Town Council.

- 4 Can this Municipal District Council provide 3no. reflective bollards around the entrance island to further enhance visibility to the Kingscourt road Housing estate following the recent much-welcomed road-markings that have been added?

Response:

The District Office will review Cllr Carthy's proposal to determine whether there is a need for reflective bollards at the entrance to the Kingscourt Road housing estate.

- 5 Has a review of the footpath paving slabs around Carrickmacross town centre taken place with a view to securing those that have become loose?

Response:

Maintenance works to secure paving slabs in Carrickmacross Town is on a rolling works programme and will continue into 2016.

- 6 Has the MD carried out any further reviews of the stretch of the Carrickmacross-Kingscourt road (from the Red Door to Factory Plant), approx. 2miles from Carrickmacross, since the issue of dangerous over-taking was highlighted?

Response:

A review of this section of road has been carried out by the Road Section, Monaghan County Council, their findings and recommendations will be known shortly.

The following questions were asked by Cllr. Keelan

- 7 What is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of traffic calming measures at Blackstaff school as requested by school management and the parents association some time ago; would consideration be given to the provision of a speed limit at the school and also would the possibility of putting in place a number of speed ramps adjacent to the school be considered?

Response:

A Low Cost Safety Scheme application has been made to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for 2016. No decision on the application has been received by the District Office.

- 8 As a follow on from a meeting with local residents and council officials at an area known as the 'Flood Cross' on the Shantonagh Road, will the council consider putting in place a safety barrier at this location as discussed?

Response:

The Flood Cross junction is in the Ballybay – Clones Municipal District.

- 9 In the interest of road safety, will this council put in place a Stop/Yield sign and road markings at the junction in the townland of Monagirr, Culloville and also will the council carry out drainage work at this location as discussed and agreed with local residents in 2015 in the interest of road safety?

Response:

A review of this junction will be carried out by the engineering staff in the coming weeks. The drainage works will be carried out as part of the 2016 drainage programme.

- 10 How many roads will this council carry out full restoration works on in the coming months; approximately how many of our county roads in the area are in need of full restoration?

Response

The condition rating survey carried out in early 2015 indicated that 140km of the Non-National road network in the district was rated in the 1-4 categories and would require a full structural overlay. An allocation in 2016 similar to the road allocation received in 2015 would carry out structural overlay of approximately 10-15km of the network depending on its road classification.

- 11 Will this council carry out a survey of junctions that have no Stop or Yield sign in place and rectify this issue as soon as possible; would the local authority be liable if an accident were to occur at a junction where no Stop or Yield sign or road marking were in place?

Response

The District Office will not be undertaking a review of the junctions as requested and Local Authorities in law are not liable.

7. Notice of Motions

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr McNally and seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all.

- *"That this Municipal District immediately seeks a meeting with the OPW to discuss the many problems of flooding that has occurred in this area during the recent spell of wet weather. A list of problem areas should be supplied in advance to the OPW in order to allow them prepare for such a meeting".*

The following Notice of Motion was submitted by Cllrs Carthy, Keelan and Crowe. It was agreed to amalgamate both proposals which were proposed and seconded as above.

- *"This Municipal District will seek a meeting with the OPW to discuss possible solutions to the flooding issues experienced in this area and put a plan in place to remedy the floods where possible".*

During a discussion it was agreed to prepare a list of issues to be raised with the OPW in advance of the requested meeting and to close the Killanny Road until the flooding receded.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllrs Carthy and seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all.

- *“This Municipal District seeks to extend the footpath (with public lighting) on the Kingscourt Road out of Carrickmacross to meet the Kingscourt Road Housing Estate (approx 150 meters) over the next couple of years with a view to making this area safe for residents to walk to town”.*

8. Director of Services Orders

72/2015	Murphy Playgrounds – PSCS & PSDP – Cloughvalley Playground Extension
73/2015	TH Moore – PSCS – R180 Pavement Overlay
01/2016	Monaghan County Council – PSCS – 2016 Works
02/2016	Monaghan County Council – PSDP – 2016 Works
03/2016	Kelly Brothers – PSCS & PSDP – Road Lining 2016
04/2016	Airtricity – PSCS & PSDP – Public Lighting Maintenance

9. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

The following Votes of Sympathy were passed, a minutes silence as observed with all present standing.

- Martin Gartlan and family on the death of his mother, Nancy Gartlan
- Francie O’Donoghue on the death of his sister, Mary Babington
- Kathleen Mulholland and family on the death of Owen Mulholland
- Francie & Bríd Cassidy and family on the death of their son Terry Cassidy
- Noleen Cassidy and family on the death of her husband Terry Cassidy
- Eileen Callan and family on the death of her husband Ted Callan

10. Any Other Business

Cllr Carthy

- Asked for the removal of the Christmas tree in Carrickmacross
- Reported that a number of lights in walkway by Convent Lands did not have numbers on poles to report faults. In reply it was reported that this has been highlighted to the ESB
- Asked that the speed limit on the Castleblayney Road from the roundabout on the Link Road towards the town be reduced

Cllr Keelan

- Requested clarification regarding who was responsible for erecting road signs (ref question submitted above)
- Asked for an update on recent request to remove/relocate bin on the Bridewell Lane

Cllr McNally

- Sought update on the bin network in the district
- Asked that North and South signs be added at the Carrickmacross exits on the by pass or at the very least an ‘N’ and ‘S’ be added to the current signs
- Asked that a date for a Road Area Meeting be set. Following a short discussion it was agreed to provisionally book 22nd February 2016 – immediately following the monthly MD meeting. Members of staff from the Roads Section to be invited to attend. This date to be reviewed if roads allocation has not been received by this time.
- Proposed the following. This was seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon and agreed by all.
 - *“That this Municipal District write to the HSE to highlight our dissatisfaction with the Doctor on Call service for this area in some cases patients have to wait 6 hours to see a doctor on call if at all; there needs to be a major overhaul of the service with a view to increasing the numbers of doctors available to see patients”.*

- Proposed the following. This was seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon and agreed by all.
 - *“That this Municipal District arrange a day/evening clinic to allow concerned residents come and meet council staff and members to discuss their flooding concerns”.*

Cllr Campbell

- Asked that a survey be undertaken regarding speeding in Muckno Street, Castleblayney from the Keady Road to Castleblayney
- Requested traffic calming measures be reviewed on McGrath Road - pedestrians have difficulty in crossing this busy road

Cllr Crowe

- Request hedge cutting be carried out in the housing estates
- Asked that signage be erected on the Dromore Road which has a dangerous drop along road side

Cllr O’Hanlon

- Asked that speed signs be reviewed or that a safety audit be carried out due to the high volume of traffic at Inver College and Patrician High School during peak times. Following a discussion regarding speeding in the area and plans to realign the road out to a junction on the Ballybay Road members were reminded that any speeding incidents should be forwarded to the Gardai and that plans to realign the road would only be possible if special funding (similar to Special EU Fund) opened up
- Asked for an update on installing a footpath in Cloughvalley near the play park – coming from Play Park. In reply members were informed that this work formed part of the play park extension works.
- Asked that a letter be issued to all businesses in Carrickmacross asking them and their employees to please use off street car parks during working hours. In reply Paul Clifford reported that the Chamber of Commerce were in the process of undertaking such a campaign – he would follow up this up with the chamber.

Next month’s meeting – Monday 22nd February 2016 @ 10am

Meeting concluded 12.35pm

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____