

Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan
Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of October Monthly Meeting held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 22nd October 2018 at 11:00am.

Present: Cathaoirleach Colm Carthy.

Cllrs. Jackie Crown, Noel Keelan, Aidan Campbell, PJ O'Hanlon, Padraig McNally.

In Attendance: Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer, Stephanie McEneaney, Assistant Staff Officer.

At the outset of the Meeting the Members extended their sympathy to the family and friends of the late Seymour Crawford, former County Councillor. The Town Manager extended the sympathies of the officials. An Cathaoirleach also extended sympathy to the families of Eileen Meegan and Graham Tobin who both passed away in tragic circumstances.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. McNally and seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 24th September 2018 were adopted.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan requested that another letter be sent to Local Minister, Heather Humphries in relation to the extreme conditions of the roads, requesting her to meet the members at a time of her convenience.

It was agreed to hold the official opening of the new Market Square area homing the Lace Gallery and Craft Shop on Monday 26th November next at 2.00pm.

John Lennon, District Engineer said that the works on the footpath on the Ballybay Road would be completed in the coming weeks.

Cllr. Crowe welcomed the fantastic works on the N53 and queried the high friction surfacing at the bridge.

Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that the surface chips have a level of friction built into them. He added if Cllr. Crowe needed any details on same he could contact Frank McEntee, Roads Section.

John Lennon, District Engineer informed the meeting that an application was in place for pedestrian crossing at York Street, Castleblayney and he was waiting on approval.

Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator stated that the Goalposts for Drummilard play area were on order.

Amanda Murray, Staff Officer said that to date there was no response from An Post in relation to a letterbox for Donaghmoynne Village.

Cllr. McNally requested an update on the hedge at junction of Mac Fab and the overhanging trees at Church Hill. He said that the footpaths on both sides of the Church Hill need to be kept clear from leaves etc. as a lady had fallen and was on crutches due to slipping on leaves. It was agreed to write out to the landowner.

Church of Ireland banner in place needs to be remove.

An Cathaoirleach requested an update on bins for Woodvale Estate and the Donaghmoynne Road.

Cllr. Keelan asked that road markings and stop signs be put in place at Creevy / Lisdoonan Road junction also off the N2 at Monagirr there were no road markings and Lisanisk was also outstanding.

3. Correspondence

- Letter from The McBride Family, Oram thanking the Council for their great work in relation to the erection of the statue and the great weekend held in memory of their late father Big Tom McBride.
- Letter from Carrickmacross Vintage Club thanking the MD for helping to make their recent annual field day a success.
- Letter from the HSE noting letter sent by this MD in relation to delay in opening group home, Convent lands, Carrickmacross.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated the reply was unacceptable. He formally proposed that a letter be sent to Simon Harris, Minister for Health and a copy of same to Minister Heather Humphries and the HSE.

Cllr. McNally said that the HSE grant aided the building but knew there was no money to staff it. Questions need to be asked. He said it needed to be highlight to TD's and put on as a question on the Dail agenda. He added that another letter issue to the HSE asking what consultation is taking place and to ascertain if there has been public advertisements to specialised groups?

Cllr. Keelan stated that it had taken his former colleague Matt Carthy, MEP 10 years to get this project to where it is. He said it was a total disgrace that the building was sitting there unoccupied. He stated that the HSE should be called into the public accounts committee.

An Cathaoirleach Colm Carthy added that Matt Carthy's office had been corresponding with the Minister for Health's office requesting this project be urgently included in the 2019 budget. They have informed him that they are presently seeking management company to run same, but he added that false promises had been made before.

4. Co-ordinators Report

Issues raised and discussed

Cllr. Crowe

welcomed the €100,000 received from the Department for Castleblayney Projects and in particularly the South Lodge Fishing Stands.

He congratulated the staff on the Low-Cost improvement scheme works on the R181 on a trouble free job.

He was delighted to hear that works at Kinnagin were to take place in November.

Cllr. Mc Nally

Welcome monies for projects. He asked what works would be covered in the €20,000 for the Convent Avenue.

He requested that prior to works commencing on the upgrade of the Dundalk road junction that a ramp be put in place on Farney Street.

He asked what was proposed for the Tullyvaragh junction improvements.

He stated that the public display board at the Blackstaff Road had been removed and previous to this date were changed several times. He requested the display boards go back up urgently stating the date the road will re-open.

Cllr. Campbell

Welcomed the 2018 funding received and the works at Kinnagin

Cllr. Keelan

Welcomed funding and looked forward to the official launch of same.

He requested that the Roads Section, Monaghan County Council issue a statement giving a defined date for the re-opening of the Blackstaff Road.

Cllr. O'Hanlon

In relation to the Stedfast Road junction he requested that any members of the public wanting to get in touch with the Council in relation to same should do so. He asked that a letter be sent to Paul Fitzpatrick, Principal, St. Joseph's Boys NS reiterating that these works were going to take place shortly.

An Cathaoirleach Colm Carthy

When are works on the Covent Avenue due to commence?

Update on footpaths at St. Joseph's Terrace, Carrickmacross.

Bridge Street, Carrickmacross keep clear marking signs need re-spraying.

He requested that the area around the pedestrian crossing in the centre of Main Street, Carrickmacross be reviewed with a view to widening stopping distance.

He queried if a sign be put in place on Ross Road urging HGV's to use the Link Road rather than go through the town.

He requested an update on the Sligo Dundalk Link Road.

Replies

Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon

In relation to the €100,000 funding in Castleblayney Fund these monies went towards works round Big Town Statue with a few more jobs to do (i.e. street furniture).

The €200,000 for Carrickmacross was going towards the expansion of the Market House, incorporating a toilet wing and a new coach parking bay. A new visitor experience in the workhouse. These works will be delivered in 2019.

Kinnagin Junction - It is envisioned that the contract will roll on from the Donaghmoyné straight contract and will happen in November. An audit will then take place.

Farney Street, Carrickmacross Ramp - Mindful traffic calming

Annadrummond - Part 8 Application for funding is currently with Department.

St. Joseph's Terrace – Footpaths to be put in place next week.

Main Street, Carrickmacross Pedestrian Crossing – The Council will review same
Signage will be put in place to direct HGV's to Bypass

An e-mail will be sent to Roads Section asking for an update on Sligo- Dundalk Link Road.

The concerns of the members regarding the Blackstaff Road will be forwarded to the Roads Section, Monaghan Co. Council.

5. Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. Pdraig McNally for October 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. Following the meeting between this MD and Monaghan County Council's lighting engineer, what does this MD intend to do with a view to improving the amount of light on Main Street, Carrickmacross similar to what has been used in some other areas of the town.

Response:

A night-time survey was carried out on Main Street in March 2018. As part of this survey actual horizontal lighting uniformity levels were recorded. The results from the survey were presented to the elected members in May 2018. The results clearly showed that the actual uniformity levels for Main Street are about the required levels.

2. Noting that Monaghan County Council are still maintaining a corridor of land in order to complete the development of the industrial road from the Shercock road out to the Ballybay road in our soon to be new County Development Plan. What does this MD plan to do to attract funding for this development

Response:

The route will be protected in the new Development Plan and funding will be sought from suitable sources when it comes available. The delivery of this road may also be developer driven and this option will be kept under review.

3. Has this MD had any success in acquiring industrial land for either Carrickmacross or Castleblayney following the commitment of the members to providing a sum of money to fund such an acquisition?

Response:

No industrial land has been acquired to date.

4. Can this MD put in place the ramp adjacent to the school children's crossing at Farney Street in advance of the Dundalk road/Stedfast junction being upgraded given the level of speed that cars in particular can come in from the Dundalk road and up Farney Street towards the above crossing.

Response:

The ramp on Farney Street will be completed as part of the safety measures at the Dundalk/Donaghmoyne junction.

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for October 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

5. Will the roads section carry out a traffic count in the Highfield estate (straight stretch of road), and the Dundalk Road (@ Lisanisk lake/Drummond Radhairc), Carrickmacross, to determine the rate of speeding?

Response:

The District Office will install traffic counters at these locations in the coming weeks to determine if speeding violations are occurring.

6. Can the executive liaise with the Gardai and St. Joseph's Church regarding the high level of anti-social behaviour happening in the derelict field that separates the Catholic Hall and the Cloughvalley Playground and put measures in place to eradicate it?

Response:

A fence is to be erected between the properties to prevent access into the Church grounds from the Council owned lands.

7. Can this MD confirm if fibre broadband is available to both Crann Nua and Drummond Radhairc, Carrickmacross?

Response:

Monaghan Co. Council has no remit in the provision of broadband.

8. Has the council been able to organise access to clear the shuck/stream that runs through Foxfield?

Response:

An access route to clear the open channel to the rear of Foxfield Estate has not been secured, but the Municipal Office are in discussions with neighbouring landowners to resolve the issue. The clearing of the open channel to the rear Woodvale Estate will commence shortly.

9. Has the parking review for Carrickmacross, which was undertaken by GVA, been completed and will Farney street be getting a loading bay and disabled parking space?

Response:

The Carrickmacross Public Realm and Economic Plan is substantially complete and will be brought before the members in due course. The plan includes a preliminary parking management proposal. This proposal will require a detailed design and the cost of procuring same is included in the application for funding under the Rural Regeneration Fund.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for October 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

10. In the interest of road safety what is the up to date position in relation to the provision of a clay berm barrier adjacent to Ascaill Dubh estate on the Donaghmoyne road?

Response:

The District Office met with representatives of Ascaill Dubh and they have requested that traffic calming measures be explored on the R179, Cullaville Road before any vehicle restraint system is installed on the boundary verge of the estate.

11. What is the up to date position in relation to a community plan in respect of Inniskeen village; will priority be given to the obvious need for proper walking/ footpath links throughout the village, in particular the need for a safe footpath link from the village centre out to Magee's shop and linking into the Monaghan Way walking route?

Response:

Inniskeen is included in the communities which will be contacted this autumn regarding community plans. It is intended to offer the community the opportunity to avail of the Council's assistance to prepare a plan, but it is ultimately up to the community if they wish

to take it up. It is also up to the community to identify what they set as a priority within any plan which emerges from the consultation process.

12. In relation to the access road into Killanny village (LP-04700), as discussed on numerous occasions, will this council carry out some resurfacing work (non-slip surface) at this location, in particular adjacent to the roundabout, given this surface is lethal and also given the number accidents that have taken place at this location?

Response:

Texture depth testing of the wearing course was carried out by Monaghan County Council and the results obtained are within standard guidelines for a roundabout. Statistical data provided by Monaghan County Council shows no accidents occurring on the roundabouts since the opening of Carrickmacross Bypass to present.

13. In relation to the Lisanisk / Donaghmoyme road area, when is expected to complete the footpath link at the top of Lisanisk hill and also will this council make an application to the Department for funding in 2019 for the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the Donaghmoyme road / Lisanisk junction?

Response:

The footpath at Lisanisk will be completed in November 2018. A low cost safety improvement funding application was forwarded to Monaghan County Council at the start of October 2018. The proposed pedestrian crossing on the R179, Cullaville Road was included in this application for consideration.

14. Has there been any further progress in relation to the provision of a CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross town and its environs?

Response:

The provision of CCTV camera systems has been suspended across Monaghan County Council until the full ramifications of the Data Protection Regulations are assessed and a policy put in place.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for October 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

15. Can the MD carry out an audit on road safety on the stretch of road between the church and the Faughs football field in Castleblayney which includes two very busy schools - Scoil Mhuire no Mbuachalli and Castleblayney College - with a view to reducing the speed of the traffic on this busy stretch of road?

Response:

A road safety audit will be carried out at this location, in the coming weeks.

16. What is the extent of the ongoing communications with Irish Water and the MD in relations to the urgent and expected upgrading of the water mains pipe from lower Muckno Street to Drumlynn Manor in Castleblayney which is due to commence in November and the plans for traffic management in this area?

Response:

Irish Water has confirmed to the District Office that a new water main is to be installed at this location in November 2018 and that a temporary traffic management plan will be submitted shortly for review.

17. In welcoming the recent funding from the Department of Rural Affairs under this year's town and village renewal scheme

With €100,000 going to Castleblayney for public realm works at the market square beside the big Tom Statue.

With €200,000 going to Carrickmacross for works at the market house and also works at the workhouse.

And a further €75,000 going to Inniskeen for branded signage for the new tourism trail at the Patrick Kavanagh Centre.

(A) Can the MD outline the exact scope of works that this funding will carry out?

(B) What is the expected timeframe for this works?

Response:

See MD Coordinators Report for more details

18. In welcoming the news that Castleblayney, being one of the 6 towns in Ireland awarded 100000 under a pilot project from the Department of Rural affairs to identify issues and challenges of dereliction and to development blueprints, what plans have the Council for this?

Response:

The Council will work with the department and other stakeholders to work up a suitable scheme for this fund. To date no specific scheme has been identified.

6. Directors Orders

Directors Orders 73/2018 and 74/2018 were duly noted by members.

7. Directors Orders

Votes of sympathy were passed to The Crawford Family on the death of Seymour. The Meegan Family, Inniskeen on the death of Eileen. Ramona Marron, Lisanisk of the death of her husband Graeme Tobin.

8. AOB

An Cathaoirleach Colm Carthy

Can a report from meeting with executive department and gyp roc this afternoon be furnished to members and press asap?

Commended Carrickmacross Tidy Towns on their Awards night last Friday. Town Manager stated that an event to show our appreciation to Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and Inniskeen Tidy Towns would take place in January 2019.

Feile Samhain 2018 – An issue has arisen in relation to insurance of the Annual Halloween fireworks festival which has been taking place in the old Carrick Emmets pitch over the last 13 years. GAA headquarters are refusing same due to insurance issues. It was agreed on the proposal of An Cathaoirleach that a letter be sent to Michael O'Carroll, Chairperson, Monaghan County Board requesting re-consideration of same. This letter to be signed by all members.

Cllr. O Hanlon

Update on ramp for Ardee Road. Serious safety issues. What is the delay? He requested a positive response within the next 4 weeks. If same is not received he will request a meeting with the officials and residents on the Ardee Road.

Co-ordinator said that it had never been agreed that a ramp would be put in place and there was a Traffic Calming Policy that had to be adhered to. He also stated that this issue needs to be raised at county level.

It was proposed by Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan that these works take place.

Cllr. Keelan

Inniskeen village - Magee's corner missing public light.

Area Engineer said that there is currently no power going to same and it will cost some monies to repair.

Illegal dumping on approach road to Donaghmoyne Village and Mannan castle. Raised same with Litter Warden. Disgraceful.

Longfield Cross / Cullaville Road speed of traffic – additional signs/lines??

Area Engineer stated that additional signs have been put in place.

Meeting concluded at 12:45pm

Cathaoirleach

Meeting Administrator

Date: _____