

Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile na Lorgan
Comhairle Cantae Mhúineachain



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of September Monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District held in Carrickmacross Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Monaghan on 22nd September 2014 @ 10:00am.

Present: - Cllrs. Jackie Crowe, Colm Carthy, Aidan Campbell, Noel Keelan, PJ O’Hanlon, Padraic McNally

Also in attendance:- Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Cathal Flynn, Co-ordinator, John Lennon, Executive Engineer, Frances Matthews, Amanda Murray, Teresa McGuirk.

Press: - Veronica Corr, the Northern Standard. Martin Shannon, the Anglo Celt. Joe McCabe, Carrickmacross Gazette.

Apologies: - None

1. Confirmation of the AGM

Chairperson Cllr Crowe opened the meeting, welcomed all especially Cllr Colm Carthy to his first meeting. Coordinator, Cathal Flynn also welcomed Cllr Carthy stating that he looked forward to working with him on the council.

On the proposal of Cllr. McNally and seconded by Cllr. Keelan the minutes of the July monthly meeting were adopted.

2. Matters arising

With regard to proposed parking restrictions on Main Street at the Bridewell Lane exit, Mr Flynn reported that there was no bye law to support the erection of signage at the junction.

Following a query Mr Flynn reported that he had had an introductory meeting with the Chamber of Commerce in Carrickmacross but had not yet met with the Castleblayney Chamber of Commerce. Mr Flynn reported that he would arrange to meet both chambers in the near future. Cllr Keelan requested that the Chambers be met on an annual basis to and that they should be invited to meet with the members.

There was no update on the dangerous bridge in Magheracloone. Meetings have been held on site with council staff.

Municipal District Office will liaise with the organisers of the Youth Café in Castleblayney to arrange Halloween events.

3. Correspondence

The following Notices of Motion from Kerry County Council were all marked as read.

“That this Council rejects the elements of the Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2014 which would potentially remove up to 70% of those most in need from our housing list.”

“That this Council calls on the Minister for the Environment to ensure the recent decision on Planning Ref 13/493 does not become a precedent that prevents the development of future playgrounds near residential properties”.

“I am calling on the elected members of Kerry County Council to bring an end to all Political Parties holding church gate collections in Kerry as currently there are massive sums of money paid directly by the state towards the running of all political parties each year and I object to the pressure and intimidation being put on Mass goers. Collections at Churches should be solely for charities, voluntary and sporting organisations who are financially struggling to survive and are far more deserving.”

During a discussion which followed, regarding the housing waiting list and the need for people to register for housing to access other supplements, members were reminded that Housing issues were now a matter for the County Council and not a core function of the Municipal District - a copy of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill was then circulated to members for their attention.

A discussion also took place regarding the centralisation of all housing services to Monaghan town and the difficulties it put people under who needed to access these services in the Carrickmacross area. Cllr O’Hanlon proposed that a letter issue to the County Council in this regard. This was seconded by Cllr. Crowe. Cllr McNally added that a request to hold a clinic at least once or twice a month in the Civic Offices in Carrickmacross (to be manned by the council’s housing staff) be included in the letter. This was seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon.

4. Approval of Payment of Annual Allowance to the Cathaoirleach in Accordance with circular LG 12/2014 (page 17 enclosed)

Cllr McNally proposed the payment of the annual allowance in the amount of €6,000 to the Cathaoirleach in accordance with Circular LG 12/2014 as outlined. This was seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all.

5. Approval of funding for local community groups

Mr Flynn outlined details of requests for funding which were received from the following two community groups:

- St Michaels Development Community towards insurance costs for the Playground in Donaghmoyne, and,
- Castleblayney 400 Heritage Committee towards costs to hold a Fair Day 2014.

Following discussions Cllr O’Hanlon proposed that the Municipal District support the St Michael’s Development Committee to the amount of €700. This was seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all. Cllr Crowe proposed the Municipal District support Castleblayney 400 Heritage Committee in the amount of €1,000 towards running their 2014 Fair Day. This was seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all.

It was also agreed that

- Festivals / playgrounds are required to source their own insurance cover – they cannot be considered for inclusion in the Councils insurance.

- The support of community groups through Community Grant Scheme and the mechanism to deliver same to be reviewed going forward.

6. Consideration of Tidy Towns Competition Report for Municipal District Areas (Reports Enclosed)

Copies of the National Tidy Towns Competition results for Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Donaghmoynne and Inniskeen Tidy Towns committees were circulated. Members congratulated all the committee's involved on their achievements in this year's competition and acknowledged the help and support of local business and local authority staff.

Members expressed their concerns regarding comments in the report on the derelict buildings in both towns and the impact it may have on results – something needed to be done to address this issue. During a detailed discussion which followed Cllr O'Hanlon proposed to write to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht seeking a meeting to discuss what could be done; it was felt that capital investment from the Government would be required to address the issue. This was seconded by Cllr McNally

Cllr Crowe in congratulating the Tidy Towns groups proposed that a letter be sent to the chairperson of each committee congratulating them on their results. This was seconded by Cllr Keelan.

Coordinators report

Copies of the Coordinators report were circulated to members. The report outlined works undertaken during August /September 2014 along with proposed works for the coming months.

During a discussion which followed members

- complimented the coordinator on
 - Works completed to date
 - proposals for the coming months
- requested that the Roads Programme of works for the forthcoming year would commence as early as possible so not to clash with staff annual leave
- commended the work of the on the new layout at the Kingscourt Road
- requested the road markings at the new junction be redone – paintwork had faded due to high summer temperatures
- Mullinarry exit at the Kingscourt Road needs to be revisited – additional signage required in the interests of safety
- commended the holding of meetings with the Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce
- Requested that these meetings continue on a regular basis and that both chambers be invited to a Municipal District Meeting.

7. Notices of Motion

1. In proposing the following Notice of Motion Cllr McNally, stated that a number of residential and business type properties have been identified and are in urgent need of repair. Current grant aid is inadequate to meet the requirements as the cost of works to replace like with like. A realistic grant needs to be put in place.

The Motion was seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all. It was further agreed to circulate the motion to all Local Authorities for their support.

“That this Municipal District Authority calls on the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ms Heather Humphreys to examine the possibility of the introduction of an adequate high level grant aid scheme for buildings that are listed, both commercial and residential.”

2. The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr O'Hanlon.

“That this Municipal District Authority request a meeting with the Minister for Health Leo Varadkar and our local T.D's , including Minister for Arts and Culture, Heather Humphreys, Brendan Smyth, Caoimhghín O'Caolain, Sean Conlan and Joe O'Reilly. A letter also to the T.D's asking them to help us in organising this meeting that the Dental Services be fully restored to the clinic in Carrickmacross and that a service also be provide in Castleblayney.”

Cllr O'Hanlon explained that this service had been removed from Carrickmacross as a means of making savings and without any local consultation. Cllr O'Hanlon also proposed that a previous correspondence to Dr Fergal Connolly be reissued and that he be requested to come to a Municipal District meeting to explain reasons why service was taken out. Cllr McNally seconded the motion.

During further discussion regarding the National Recruitment for posts of General Dental Surgeon and Dental Nurse it was reported that the interview process had already taken place with appointments pending. It was agreed that the letter to Dr Fergal Connolly should also be issued to the HSE's Ms Rose McCaffery, General Manager of PCS Cavan & Monaghan.

3. The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr O'Hanlon.

"That this Municipal District Authority provides, as a matter of urgency, road safety measures at the entrance to Emmet Park on the Ballybay Road."

This was seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all.

During a discussion Cllr O'Hanlon requested that the Coordinator would meet with the Manager of the facility to discuss safety requirements which were urgently required for the winter months.

8. Questions

The following questions were asked by Cllr. McNally:

- Q1a. *In the interest of public transparency, how much has been spent on the upgrade of the Ardee/Kingscourt Road junction and how much was spent on the original design that ended up being redesigned?*
- Response: The total expenditure on the Ardee / Kingscourt Road Junction was € 144,082.90. The kerbing and footpath elements associated with the original junction configuration amounted to €32,258.33. A further €4,344 on was spent in July 2014, adjusting previously laid kerb-lines and reducing the paved build outs. The initial estimated cost of the upgrading the Junction was €170,000.

- Q1b. *What is the present position regarding Country Road No. LT47013 located in Killanny, Carrickmacross as the local community are very annoyed at the length this road is being left impassable.*
- Response: Monaghan County Council has no provision for the necessary reinstatement of LT27013 at Killanny in the adopted budget for 2014.

- Q2a. *Does this Council intend relocating the speed feedback sign on the Dundalk Road out closer to the roundabout in an attempt to reduce the speeding that has taken place at that location and what is the present position regarding the promised feedback signs for the remaining roads into Carrickmacross, particularly the Ballybay Road, the Shercock Road and the Donaghmoyne Road?*
- Response: The Municipal District Engineer is satisfied with the current location of the speed feedback sign on the Dundalk Road. Relocating the speed feedback sign closer to the Dundalk Road Roundabout will be less effective, from a pedestrian safety point of view; bearing in mind all vehicles exiting the roundabout enter the road at a considerably reduced speed. The Municipal District Office will erect additional speed feedback signage in accordance with commitments made by Carrickmacross Town Council on the 12th May 2014. The Municipal District Office will progress the procurement and installation of the signage in the coming months.

- Q2b *What is the up-to-date position on Barford Meats Junction?*
- Response: The Municipal District cannot commence works on the Barford Meats Junction until outstanding legal issues are resolved. The Municipal District office has had regular engagement with our legal representatives in an effort to expedite the process.

The following questions were asked by Cllr. Carthy:

- *Q1. Will the Council consider extending the footpath that ends at the Drumconrath Road, Carrickmacross approximately 1km outwards (towards Drumconrath) to allow for heavy pedestrian footfall on this busy road?*
- Response: The Municipal District Office will consider Cllr. Carthy's proposal to construct a footpath on the Drumconrath Road under the 2015 Roads and Footpaths restoration programme. A meeting to discuss 2015 road and footpath restoration proposals will be convened with the elected members in the coming weeks.

The following questions were asked by Cllr. O'Hanlon:

- *Q1. When will the Council put in place driver feedback signs on the Castleblayney Road, Donaghmoynne Road, Ardee Road and Drumconrath Road?*
- Response: The Municipal District Office will erect additional speed feedback signage in accordance with commitments made by Carrickmacross Town Council on the 12th May 2014. The Municipal District Office will progress the procurement and installation of the signage in the coming months.

The following questions were asked by Cllr. Keelan:

- *Q1. In relation to Inniskeen Village, what is the up-to-date position regarding the provision of much needed traffic calming measures, including speed ramps; will this issue be treated as a matter of urgency given the concerns of local residents around road safety?*
- Response: There is no provision in the 2014 budget to implement Low Cost Safety Improvements for Inniskeen Village. An application for consideration of traffic calming proposals will be made under the LCSi programme in 2015.
- *Q2. In relation to serious road safety concerns at Drumgossatt National School, will this Council examine the possibility of putting in place a safety railing along the length of the footpath adjacent to the school in consultation with the school management and local residents?*
- Response: The Municipal District Engineer will review road safety concerns at Drumgossatt National School. This review will include consultation with the Board of Management of the school.

During a further discussion following Cllr McNally's question 1(b) it was agreed that further information would be made available for the next meeting of the Municipal District.

With regard to the Standing Orders allowance of 2-3 questions per member Cllr Keelan proposed that the Standing Orders be amended to allow 5 questions per member. This was seconded by Cllr Carthy and was agreed.

9. Director of Services Orders

The following orders were noted by members.

01/ 2014	Issue of Casual Trading Licences, Casual Trading Act 1995
02/ 2014	Issue of Casual Trading Licences, Casual Trading Act 1995
03/ 2014	Issue of Casual Trading Licences, Casual Trading Act 1995
04/ 2014	Issue of Casual Trading Licences, Casual Trading Act 1995

10. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

The following votes of sympathy were passed, a minutes silence was observed with all present standing.

- Paddy Carragher, Castleblayney on the death of his Sister Mary Carragher
- Marian Maggs & Family, Carrickmacross on the death of her father, Neil McGorman
- Sally Daines, Carrickmacross on the death of her husband Frank
- Daniel + Aisling Ward & Family, Carrickmacross on the death of his mother Breda Ward
- Margaret Dooley & Family, Inniskeen on the death of her husband Kieran
- Marie Conlon & Family, Carrickmacross on the death of her husband Pat

The following votes of congratulations were passed –

- Carrickmacross Emmets, Division 5 team on winning the County U14 Division5 league.

11. Any Other Business

The following items were raised by members

- a) Large number of hedges remains uncut in the district.
- b) Reinstatement of roads following road openings not up to standard. Deposits should not be refunded until reinstated to correct standard. Process to be reviewed
- c) Has the council a policy in relation to the number of Take Away fast food businesses in the town. It was explained that a policy could not be in place as it would be deemed anti competitive. Any requests for Take Away's can only be considered for approval in areas designated under the County Development Plan.
- d) Cleaning of road signs programme required for the area
- e) Review of the need for double yellow lines and ramp on Mullinarry Street required. Byelaw required if double line to be installed
- f) Clarification required from An Garda Siochanna as to the intended use of the former Garda Station at Corrinshigo. Members were informed that it was possibly now in ownership of the Office of Public Works. A letter to be issued to the OPW in this regard.
- g) Requirement to improve broadband in the district. Request the Director of Service to seek a report on the provision of broadband for the next meeting. Writer of the report requested to attend meeting to deliver report.
- h) Problems with flooding at Drumgole. Locals seeking the restoration of the dam. Coordinator replied that staff would liaise with residents but issue would most likely come under the remit of the Office of Public Works
- i) Section of the Derrylavin Bridge wall has fallen into the river – to be examined and repaired.
- j) Problem with lack of toilet facilities at the new bus stop on the Dundalk Road. Request the possibility of installing public toilets be examined
- k) Request that all details of all future expenditure similar to that spend on the Kingscourt Road Junction be brought to the members for their approval before works are implemented.
- l) Compliments were extended to John Lennon, Engineer on his swift and professional handling of the report late on a Saturday night that the traffic lights at Quinn's shop were out of order

Date for Next Meeting

Due to the forth Monday of October falling on a bank holiday it was agreed to hold the next monthly meeting on Tuesday 21st October 2014 at 10am in Carrickmacross Civic Offices.

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm

Cathaoirleach.

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____