

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



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of March 2015 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Monaghan on Monday 23rd March 2015 @ 10.00am.

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

Also in attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Cathal Flynn, Co-ordinator, John Lennon, Amanda Murray, Teresa McGuirk, Alan Hall and Bernie Bradley, Monaghan County Council

Press: - Michael Fisher, Northern Standard. Joe McCabe, Carrick Gazette, Tessa Fleming, Northern Sound, Martin Shannon, Anglo Celt

Apologies:- None

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of February 2015 meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan and seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2015 were adopted.

2. Matters arising

- Following a query regarding progress on bye laws for private members clubs, the members were informed that correspondence had been received from the Minister as circulated in 'late correspondence'. The following motion was proposed by Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon and agreed by all. (Copy of the Ministers letter to be included)
 - *"That this Authority writes to our local TD's to ensure the speedy passage of legislation in Dáil Eireann and to seek their support for measures to stop such gambling outlets from receiving consent from planning authorities and court services"*.
- In response to reply received from the Minister for Transport regarding school bus services, the following motion was proposed by Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all. It was further agreed to forward the motion to all local authorities.

- *“That this council calls on the Minister for Transport, Paschal Donohue, our local Minister for Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys that no school buses are taken off the road without prior consultation with the local authority, local schools and parents and that a 4 week period be put in place if that decision is taken to consult with the local authority to make sure that the roads are repaired considering we have now received our lowest amount of funding in the last 12 years”.*

3. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from:

- Office of Public Works re flood prevention in Inniskeen – River Fane.
 - Following a discussion the following motion was proposed by Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Carthy and agreed by all.
 - *“That this District Council write to the County Council CEO requesting that an application for funding be made as a matter of urgency for flood remediation measures at Inniskeen. That the application be sent to the relevant body and that the District Council be kept informed on progress made.”*
- Reply from Enterprise Ireland regarding factories remaining in state ownership.
- Reply from the Office of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation re: state ownership of factories.
- Reply from Department of Transport re: school bus services.
- Reply from Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht re: meeting with the members.
- Reply from Brendan Smyth TD re: meeting with the members.
- Reply from Office of the Taoiseach re: additional funding for roads.
- Reply from Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD re: additional funding for roads.
- Reply from Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht re extra funding for R179.
- Castleblayney Community Enterprise Ltd acknowledging participation at LAMA awards.
- Reply from Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht re extra funding for roads.
- Reply from Brendan Smyth TD re R179.
- Reply from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport re increased road allocations.
- Reply from RSA re funding for R179.
- Reply from Brendan Smyth TD re funding for R179.
- Reply from Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality, re: private members gaming clubs.
- Reply from Department of Health re: Dental services in Castleblayney, on a part-time basis.

Following the review of correspondence regarding the R179, Cllr Carthy proposed that the council write to the Minister for Transport to highlight the fact that if we were to fix this road would leave all other roads with no budget.

With regard to the imminent closure of the Bose factory, the following motion was proposed by Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all.

“That this Municipal District writes to the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD to request an update on the Bose Facility in Carrickmacross. Now that it has been confirmed that the facility will indeed close, will the Minister confirm where he is on organising replacement jobs and employment in this facility”.

Additional Correspondence received from

- Lithuanian Cultural School inviting members to event on 26th April 2015. Cllr Crowe proposed that members would make themselves available to attend if possible. This was seconded by Cllr Carthy.

- Colette Smyth regarding the amalgamation of Monaghan and Cavan Library Services. Following a detailed discussion in which members expressed their concerns over the proposed amalgamation. Cllr McNally proposed the following. This was seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon and agreed by all. *"That this Municipal District rejects any amalgamation of our library services. Monaghan has a proud record of providing library services and do not need to be linked with any other counties or regions."* The following motion was proposed by Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Carthy and agreed by all. *"That this District Council write to the Minister, Mr Alan Kelly TD requesting that the proposed amalgamation does not proceed given how important the library service is to the people"*.
- Reply from Caoimhghín Ó'Caoláin re private members gambling clubs
- Reply from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality re private members club.

4. Consideration of new name for Industrial Road

A discussion took place regarding the naming of the new Business Park off the Oriel Road. It was agreed to seek submissions/ suggestions from the public and include the naming of the link road between the Ballybay Road Roundabout to the Castleblayney Road/N2 Roundabout and that both items be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr O'Hanlon asked that the previous land owners and long term educators in the town, the St. Louis Order could be acknowledged where possible.

5. Consideration of Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2015

The Schedule of Municipal District Works 2015 was circulated to members. Cllr Crowe proposed the adoption of the schedule. This was seconded by Cllr Campbell and agreed.

6. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

Members all in turn acknowledged and complimented the Co-ordinator for the detailed monthly report and staff for works undertaken.

Items raised by members

Cllr Campbell

- Acknowledged the success of the St Patricks Day parade in Carrickmacross.
- Proposed that a subcommittee be set up to examine the possibility of holding a parade in Castleblayney in the future or to resurrect the May-Day parade in Castleblayney.
- Asked what plans were in place to resubmit former Town Council application for funding to provide toilets at Lough Muckno now that the Leader Funding had re-opened.

Cllr Carthy

- Highlighted the importance of getting MUGA and the Skate Park finished by May.
- Asked that as the Council's nominee on the Youth Cafe Committee that he be informed when meetings are being held in future.

Cllr Keelan

- Commended all the works done for the St Patricks Day parade which was a great success.
- Commended the community in Inniskeen for their parade.
- Raised concerns over the length of time taken from receipt of complaints to works being carried out; availability of staff numbers to carry out the workload and the need for requests to be carried out within 10 days.

Cllr O'Hanlon

- Acknowledged the work undertaken for St Patrick's Day and the economic value it brings to the town.
- Stated that if the council can do anything to help set up a parade in Castleblayney it should be done.

- Thanked Cllr McNally, President of the AILG, for bringing AILG Conference to the Nuremore last weekend.

Cllr McNally

- Acknowledged the work at the St Patrick's Day parade.
- Noted the historic scenario of the football teams from two local schools who competed in the Ulster final.
- Acknowledged the Municipal District should explore possibility of a cultural parade in Castleblayney.
- Wished the Féile Patrick Byrne Festival well.
- Acknowledged Cllr O'Hanlon's sentiments and thanked the Nuremore Hotel for their cooperation, Monaghan County Council for the refreshments, and the staff for their assistance at the AILG conference registration.

Cllr Crowe

- Informed members that at a recent SPC meeting one member suggested that an approach be made to businesses in the town to fund a float for their own business for St Patricks Day. The Arts Council and Youth Cafe should also be approached.
- Asked that all grass cuttings be collected, if possible.
- Asked that pedestrian railings, similar to those provided on McGrath road, be considered at the Shercock Road as road falls away at this location.

7. Presentation by Alan Hall, Energy Efficiency

Cllr Crowe welcomed Alan Hall to the meeting. Mr Hall gave a detailed presentation on the Corporate Assets & Energy Unit which had been set up as part of the Corporate and Governance Section, in the County Council with a strategic responsibility for Energy Management and Corporate Property Assets.

Following the presentation members queried a number of issues including

- The breakdown of percentages of electricity used per work programme.
- Renewable Energy sources including possible new sites (eg PV panels at water plants).
- The number of public lights and the proposed use of / change to LED lights.
- Savings to be made by the use of LED lights .
- Future plans for rebate scheme for consumers to supply to the national grid. Cllr Carthy proposed the following. This was seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all. *"That the Carrickmacross / Castleblayney Municipal District writes to Alex White TD (Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources) to request information on any future plans to introduce rebates for consumers to sell energy back to the grid using PV solar panels. This will allow for cheaper and cleaner energy usage throughout the state if implemented."*
- The number of staff in the section and the possibility to seek additional funding for the section. In this regard Cllr O'Hanlon proposed the following. This was seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all. *"That this council calls on the Minister for energy Alex White that additional funding be given to Monaghan County Council as a result of a new section set up i.e Corporate Assets and Energy Unit, as in our area we only have €45,000 per year for public lighting and the projected savings for our area is approximately €130,000 per year"*.
- Energy efficient vehicles.
- Responsibility for lights on the National routes.
- Council's involvement in EBR Energy Group project – 9 councils involved Mr Hall to forward details for the next meeting.

8. Presentation by Bernie Bradley on Age Friendly Initiative

Cllr Crowe welcomed Bernie Bradley to the meeting. Ms. Bradley gave an overview of the Age Friendly Initiative and informed members that Carrickmacross Town, one of only 4 in the country, had been selected for inclusion in the scheme for 2015.

Following the presentation members queried / discussed a number of issues including:

- High number of people with Dementia / Alzheimer's in the county.
- The work carried out by the relevant groups in highlighting age friendly issues.
- The identification of the need for the provision of services.
- Participation in the scheme by businesses in the town.
- The uptake of older people in training courses – eg. library will run a class on social media in conjunction with the ETB as a result of a need being identified.
- The need for an audit / survey of the town to inform the members what is required – Ms Bradley to undertake same.
- Achievements to date including the provision of a bus to Drogheda Hospital.

In conclusion, members pledged their support for the initiative adding that they would support the scheme in whatever way possible.

9. Notices of Motion

The following Notices of Motion was put forward by Cllr Carthy and seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all.

- a. That this Municipal District of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney write to the Department of Transport and the NRA to look at the N2 from Castleblayney to Ardee with the view to making the necessary measures to make this road safe. The possibility of extending the 2 +1 design from Monaghan Town to Castleblayney may be considered as a design that should continue to Ardee.*

Following a discussion Cllr Carthy agreed to amend the motion to include other relevant bodies including the Gardaí and Monaghan County Council.

- b. That this MD organises the raising of the Tricolour on Easter Sunday this year (similar to the St Patrick's Day event) to ring in the year of Easter 1916 Centenary Commemorations.*

10. Questions

The following questions were asked by Cllr McNally

1. Has this Council received any correspondence from Louth County Council regarding the possible upgrade of the road between Inniskeen and Conlon's Pub (LP04629)

Response:

The District Office has been in contact with Louth County Council. A meeting to discuss the possible upgrading of the LP04629 will be held in the coming weeks.

2. What plans has this Municipal Authority to improve road LT47013 as it is in an impassable condition and has been for the last three years.

Response:

Monaghan County Council served notice under the 1993 Roads Act on an individual landowner with respect to the damage to the public road LT37013. The reinstatement of the road in question is a priority for the Municipal District and every effort will be made to ensure road reinstatement is carried out by the landowner in question in 2015.

3. Has this Council finalised a plan to extend the speed limit on the Old Castleblayney Road (LS08150) as requested last autumn to incorporate the residential area north of the existing speed limit.

Response:

The relocating of the speed limit on the LS 8150 was approved by the Speed Limit Committee in 2014. Monaghan County Council is currently updating the speed limit schedule for the County which they will be present to the Council for adoption.

4.
 - a. Has this Authority finalised the legal agreement to upgrade of the Barford Meats junction
 - b. When will work commence on the upgrading of this junction.

Response:

The District Office has completed the land acquisition by agreement at the Barford Junction. It is anticipated that construction work will commence in the June/July.

5. Will this Municipal District be in a position to deliver a full schedule of hedge cutting i.e. all dangerous junctions, road sections and bad bends as per 2013 unlike the limited hedge cutting programme that took place in 2014?

Response:

The District Office has prepared tender documents providing for hedge-cutting at all junctions on the National and Regional road network. The contract is at procurement stage and the documents are currently on eTenders. A hedge cutting contractor will be appointed following detailed tender assessment and analysis in the coming weeks.

The following questions were asked by Cllr Carthy

6. Can the MD update the council members on what safety measures have been added to the N2 Carrickmacross/Ardee since the accidents that have happened recently?

Response:

No additional safety measures have been added to this section of road. This question will be referred to Monaghan County Council's Road Design office.

7. (i) Can the MD give an update on the Footpath allocations in the recent funding given from central Government?
(ii) Has a list of required footpaths been compiled?

Response:

€42,098 has been provided for sign/lines/footpaths. The District Office is currently preparing a footpath programme for 2015 which will be presented to the elected members for approval.

The following questions were asked by Cllr. Noel Keelan:

1. In relation to Inniskeen village what efforts are been made by this council to put in place much needed traffic calming measures including speed ramps, Given that no funding has been received by the department to date, will this council consider making a start on these important works in the interests of road safety.

Response:

There is no provision in the 2015 budget to implement traffic calming measures in Inniskeen Village. Consideration will be given to these measures by the District Office subject to funding being available.

2. In relation to the deplorable and dangerous state of repair of the Carrickmacross to Culloville regional road (R179) what improvement works will be carried out on this important regional road this year,

Response:

The District Office has identified a number of areas on the R179 that require pavement reinstatement. These reinstatements will be funded from the 2015 Discretionary and Restoration Maintenance Grants.

3. What plans has this council to carry out improvement works on the Carrickmacross to Shercock regional road (R178) given the poor state of repair of this important regional road.

Response:

The District Office has identified a number of areas on the R178 that require pavement reinstatement. These reinstatements will be funded from the 2015 Discretionary and Restoration Maintenance Grants.

4. In commending Monaghan County Council & Lisanisk Residents Association for the improvements works carried out in the Lisanisk area, what is the up to date position in relation to the extending of the footpath link at this location and the provision of an additional public light, and also the provision of a 50km speed limit as requested in 2014.

Response:

The District Office is currently reviewing footpath and Public Lighting requirements for the Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District. A meeting to agree these works will be convened shortly. Monaghan County Council is currently updating the speed limit schedule for the County which they will be present to the Council for adoption.

5. When will this council put in place extra drainage adjacent to Ascaill Dubh housing estate on the Donaghmoynes road, as requested by the residents association, and also will this council carry out road/trench Reinstatement at the Donaghmoynes road/ Lisanisk junction in the interest of public safety.

Response:

The District Office will survey the above drainage issue at Ascaill Dubh. The reinstatement of trenches referred will be undertaken by the Municipal District.

6. What plans has this council to put in place additional public lighting in Lisdoonan and Inniskeen village as discussed in 2014.

Response:

The District Office is currently reviewing Public Lighting requirements for Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District. A meeting to agree the Public Lighting programme for 2015 will be convened shortly.

11. Director of Services Orders

<u>10/2015</u>	NC Plant Hire, PSDP – Pothole Patching in the MD
<u>11/2015</u>	NC Plant Hire, PSCS – Pothole Patching in the MD
<u>12/2015</u>	Monaghan Co Council, PSDP – Lisnagunnion Flood Works
<u>13/2015</u>	Dancor Construction – PSCS – Lisnagunnion Flood Works
<u>14/2015</u>	Monaghan Co Council – PSCS – Wash Debris from Civic Offices Roof
<u>15/2015</u>	Monaghan Co Council – PSDP – Wash Debris from Civic Offices Roof
<u>16/2015</u>	Appoint Dancor Construction as Contractor – Lisnagunnion Works
<u>17/2015</u>	NC Plant Hire as PSCS – Repair Faulty/damaged iron works

12. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

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

- Breda Moore (Carrickmacross Library) on the death of her brother Dermot McKenna.
- Sharon & Stephan O'Rourke and Family on the death of Sharon's mother Margaret McKenna.
- Michael Daly & family on the death of his sister Mary Clarke.

- Catriona Larney on the death of her husband Brendan.
- Pat McEneaney on the death of his mother Maureen McEneaney.

The following votes of congratulations were passed

- Our Lady's Secondary School senior team on winning the Ulster Final on St Patricks Day.
- County Monaghan Senior Hurling Team on reaching the league final at Tyrone yesterday.

13. Any Other Business

Cllr McNally

- Requested that members be informed should a date be arranged with Louth County Council regarding LP04629
- Asked if the Travellers who had arrived at the weekend had entered the site illegally. In reply Mr Flynn confirmed they had, and advised the members that a notice would be served on them immediately to vacate the site
- Enquired as to the current status of the Cycle Strategy in Carrickmacross. Mr Flynn replied that currently seeking consultants and would have a report for the next monthly meeting.
- Asked that assistance from MD regarding erection of signs etc would be given in support of the new Community Alert texting facility set up recently in Carrickmacross
- Enquired as to the time scale for getting lights repaired – Mr Flynn replied that there was a management system in place, he would follow this up with the Engineers and would seek emergency numbers.
- Requested that an open day be arranged for the new Water Plant for Carrickmacross to allow people to visit the plant and speak to staff.

Cllr O'Hanlon

- Raised concerns that the Travellers had broken the law and requested the Gardai be contacted to remove them straight away.
- Stated that he was extremely disappointed with reply from Minister Heather Humphreys in relation to a meeting request. The following motion was proposed by Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all

"That Minister Heather Humphreys, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht meet the Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District members immediately in relation to school buses being taken off the road without any consultation with the relevant bodies".

Cllr Keelan

- Asked if the 2015 hedge cutting programme would be carried out in full as was the case in previous years.

Cllr Carthy

- Asked will a recommendation be made on pedestrian safety on the Donaghmoyne Road junction.
- Is there a similar proposal to carry out works on Bridewell. In reply Mr Flynn stated that both were funding dependant, an application for funding under the Low Cost Accident Reduction Scheme would be made.

Mr Flynn informed the members that

- A number of applications had been received under the Community Grants Scheme. Each will be assessed and brought to the next Finance sub-committee meeting. Following a short discussion it was agreed to hold the sub-committee meeting after next

month's Municipal District meeting. Cllr Carthy asked for a report on all applications for previous years be prepared for the next Finance Committee meeting.

- A lego display by Local Lego Master, Paul Derrick will be held in Easter Week at the Civic Offices. Winners of the art competition ran in conjunction with the Library will be announced on Thursday 2nd April @ 4pm. Members were invited to be present for photo.
- The Sports Capital Grant Scheme was now open for applications.

Next month's meeting – 27th April 2015 @ 10.00am

This concluded the business of the meeting at 1.30pm

Cathaoirleach.

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____