

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



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

Minutes of proceedings of February 2018 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 26th February 2018 at 10.30 a.m.

Present: - Cathaoirleach McNally

Cllrs. P.J. O'Hanlon , Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Aidan Campbell, Colm Carthy

In attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services; John Lennon, District Engineer; Amanda Murray, Staff Officer; Deirdre Power , A/Assistant Staff Officer; Veronica Corr, Northern Standard, Pauric Clerkin Northern Sound

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 22nd January 2018 were adopted.

2. Matters arising

Replies to queries:

- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked if the Municipal District had a prepared plan to upgrade the section R178 Carrickmacross to Shercock road.
- District Engineer John Lennon replied that if specific improvement funding becomes available for the R178 the funding will be spent on the route.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally outlined that the Public lighting in the town was still not up to standard
- District Engineer John Lennon informed the meeting that a report was available and that there were two area's in the town that needed to be addressed and all works were expected to be completed by 16th March 2018.
- Cllr. Carthy said that one part of Foxfield needed lights .
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally requested further correspondence to go to An Post regarding the post box

- Cllr. Carthy informed the meeting that the Carrickmacross Festival Committee wanted it to go on record that should a funeral need to take place over the upcoming June Bank Holiday weekend when the festival takes place that Lonergans Funeral Directors could host a wake at their premises on Lower Main Street and that access to the premises would not be an issue.
- Cllr. O' Hanlon requested a letter to go to the Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport Shane Ross concerning the lack of commitment for road safety at the steadfast road junction and should the MD receive no response that he would request funding to be taken from our own resources.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked for the decision on the junction to be appealed and that all members lobby TD's.
- District Engineer John Lennon agreed to make the appeal to the Department and added that out of approximately seven to eight applications, funding had been allocated to Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney.

The following was proposed by Cllr. O' Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. McNally

“A further application be made to the Low Cost Safety Measures scheme for the junction on the Dundalk road for a pedestrian crossing and for that whole junction to be made safe”

- Cllr. O Hanlon said that as a result of the report from the Roads Section regarding the state of the Municipal Districts roads that the Minister for Jobs, Heather Humphries, should be contacted.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally proposed to write again to Minister Michael Ring to invite him to look at the state of the roads within the Municipal District.

It was proposed by Cllr. O' Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Mc Nally

“As a result of the Survey presented to the Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District, we call on the Minister for Jobs Heather Humphries to meet the Municipal District urgently along with Minister for Rural Affairs Michael Ring”.

- Cathaoirleach McNally enquired about the replacement of the Bollards on the N2 .
- District Engineer John Lennon replied that Roads Section had contacted the TII and the bollards will be replaced shortly.
- Cllr. Carthy asked for an update on the Ross road.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked that the Pathways between the library and Social Welfare office are kept clear of bushes and debris.
- Cllr. Crowe enquired about the Drumillard Playpark in Castleblayney's fencing update.
- Staff Officer Amanda Murray replied that procurement was complete and the project will commence within the next number of weeks.

- Cllr. Keelan voiced his concerns regarding the lack of CCTV in the town.

It was proposed by Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon

“That this M.D. commence the process of having a CCTV system installed in and around the town of Carrickmacross”

“That we write to the Chief Superintendent Garda John O'Reilly requesting that he would commence the process on behalf of An Garda Síochána”

- Cathairleach Mc Nally requested a meeting with Chief Superintendent Garda John O'Reilly

3. Correspondence

- **Correspondence received from Declan Breathnach TD** in relation to correspondence from Mr Eoin Meegan requesting road repairs at Drumkeith, Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan.
- **Correspondence received from Department of Rural and Community Development** in relation to the Clár programme.
- **Correspondence received from Irish Water** in relation to lime in the water and hard water in Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District. Next Councillor Clinic for Monaghan takes place on March 5th 2018. Cathairleach Mc Nally asked for query to go to Irish water requesting details of “the places worst hit than others”. Cllr. Carthy asked for a meeting between Irish Water representatives and Carrickmacross members to discuss the issue in detail.
- **Correspondence received from Roads Section Monaghan Co Council** in relation to Safety Improvement works on the N2.
- **Correspondence received from Department of Health** acknowledging receipt of letter concerning “a soft opt-out” system for organ donation.
- **Correspondence received from Carrickmacross Festival Committee** requesting use of the public area's in Carrickmacross over the June Bank Holiday weekend and permission was granted on the proposal of Cllr. McNally seconded by Cllr. Carthy.
- Cllr. Carthy informed the meeting that a request has been made for a public enquiry regarding the death of Shane O'Farrell.

Steadfast House made a presentation to the meeting

4. Consideration of Co-ordinators monthly report

Issues Raised Discussed

- Cllr. Campbell enquired about the Cost Benefit Analysis regarding the Flooding at Annaghdrumond .
- District Engineer John Lennon replied that it was the OPW's remit with no reduction in costs
- Cllr. Campbell asked if the Gate Lodge II plans could be accessed.

5. **Consideration of adoption of change of name from Bath Avenue to Convent Avenue**

It was proposed by Cathoirleach Mc Nally and seconded by Cllr. Keelan and unanimously agreed

“Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District proposes to officially change the name of Bath Avenue to Convent Avenue”

- Cllr. Crowe asked that the problems with the pedestrian crossing on the Monaghan road could be investigated.
- District Engineer John Lennon agreed to do a report.
- Cllr. Crowe requested that the Old Coach Road is included in the next planned footpaths
- Cllr. Keelan told the meeting of his concern about the amount of complaints on the patching list
- District Engineer John Lennon replied that there were currently two patching crews working on the potholes with the same crews also salting the roads.
- Cllr. Keelan asked that the town streets are inspected before Saint Patricks Day and also the access road at Inniskeen Grattans is also given attention.
- District Engineer John Lennon replied that the streets and roads would be addressed.
- Cllr. Carthy asked what the date was for the completion of market square and the opening of the Craft shop.
- Director of Services Paul Clifford replied that works should be finished by April and the Council are pursuing a number of avenues in relation to the operation of the Craft Shop.
- Cllr. Keelan asked if public toilets were included in the works
- Director of Services Paul Clifford replied that the public toilet were not part of the refurbishment
- Cathoirleach Mc Nally asked for signs to promote the linear park.

Item 6

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

1. Has this MD received the report from the Public Lighting Consultants who advised this MD on the recent upgrade of public lighting on Main Street, Carrickmacross as well as Highfield Estate, Foxfield Estate and other areas in and around Carrickmacross.

Response:

The lighting consultant has checked the lighting uniformity on Main Street and has identified deficiencies in some areas of the works. It must be also noted that a number of public lighting columns on Main Street have not yet been installed. It is envisaged that the outstanding public lighting work will be completed by the 16th March 2018.

2. Has this MD received any reply from Irish Water regarding the problem of lime in our water supply which is causing havoc with household appliances and home heating systems.

Response:

Letter received from Irish water on this issue, circulated under correspondence.

3. Has this MD prepared a plan to upgrade the section of R178 - Carrickmacross to Shercock road, between what is known locally as "Reilly cross" and "the Dooge Cross" as agreed in 2017.

Response:

The Cavan to Dundalk strategic route improvement scheme provides for a new R178 regional corridor from Carrickmacross to Shercock. If specific improvement funding becomes available in 2018, for the R178, it will be used to develop this strategic route.

4. When is it expected that work will commence and be completed on the footpaths at the Drumcondrath road, Carrickmacross and the Shercock road, Castleblayney adjacent to Blackhill GFC.

Response:

Blackhill GFC- Works commenced on the 19/2/18 and will be completed by the 9/3/18.
Drumcondrath Road – Works will commence on the 12/03/18 and will be completed by the 30/03/18.

Questions by Cllr. Crowe for February 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

5. What works are being carried out at a family home in Lurganmore, Oram where serious flooding took place?

Response:

An emergency repair was carried out on a collapsed stormpipe crossing the R182, Oram Road on the 15/02/18. This has alleviated the flooding at Lurganmore, Oram.

6. Has this MD any plans to resurface the Main streets in Castleblayney which are in a bad state?

Response:

The District Office has agreed the road restoration programme for 2018, with the Elected Members. There is no plan to overlay the Main Streets in Castleblayney in 2018.

7. Would this Council look into the situation of residents in Drumillard having to negotiate cars speeding on the Monaghan road when exiting?

Response:

The District Office will carry out a road safety review at this location to determine if speeding violations are taking place.

8. Have any solutions been received from Monaghan Co. Council in relation to a traffic survey carried out for a farmer who has to cross 100 cattle twice a day across the road at Moneyvolan, Annyalla especially when the Castleblayney Bye Pass is closed?

Response,

The District Office has referred this question to the Road Section, Monaghan County Council for a response.

9. Would this MD carry out a check on the traffic light junction at York Street, Castleblayney where the filter lanes lights are out too far and causing problems for lorries?

Response:

The District Office will inspect the length of the filter light arm to determine if it needs to be reduced.

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

10. Understanding that building works are due to finish in April 2018 on the Market Square building, Carrickmacross, when is it envisaged the craft store will be occupied and open to the public?

Response:

Monaghan County Council is pursuing a number of avenues in relation to the operation and management of the Market House and Lace Gallery project. It is not possible at present to give a precise opening date for the craft shop element.

11. When is it envisaged that repair works can be carried out on damaged footpaths throughout Carrickmacross (including: Highfield, Cluain Alainn, St Joseph's Terrace, Ross road, Main Street etc)?

Response:

The works programme submitted by the contractor undertaking the repairs to existing footpaths in Carrickmacross Town indicates a completion date of the end of April 2018.

12. Has this Municipal District any plans to install new public lighting in the coming months (eg: 1no. lighting column required in the OPD's area of Crann Nua)?

Response:

The District Office will be shortly preparing a lighting programme for 2018, which will be presented to the Elected Members for approval. Consideration will be given to Cllr Carthy's proposal. The priority for this Municipal District is to repair and upgrade existing public lighting.

13. Has there been any progress on the review of the newly installed LED street lights in Carrickmacross and when is it envisioned that they will be modified to give out higher levels of light with larger splay?

Response:

The lighting consultant has checked the lighting uniformity on Main Street and has identified deficiencies in some areas of the works. It must be also noted that a number of public lighting columns on Main Street have not yet been installed. It is envisaged that the outstanding public lighting work will be completed by the 16th March 2018.

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

14. Will this Council examine the possibility of carrying out improvement works at Finnegan's Cross in Inniskeen, including the provision of signs, lines and the resurfacing of this area?

Response:

There will be no resurfacing of this junction in 2018 as the road restoration improvement programme has already been agreed with the Elected Members for 2018. The District Office will review the junction regarding the provision of advance warning signs.

15. In welcoming the improvement works and repair of the bridge at Magee's in Inniskeen village, what actions will this Council take to ensure that this bridge is not damaged again by large vehicles?

Response:

A Low Cost Safety Improvement funding application was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 13th October 2017 for a new walkway from the River Fane out to the Railway Bridge. This application did not receive funding for 2018.

16. Given that many of the roads across our MD area are in a deplorable state of repair, how much funding is needed to carry out emergency maintenance in order to make these roads passable; how much funding is available; how many complaints have been received by this Council regarding road conditions since January; are all these complaints logged; how long is it taking to get emergency works carried out once a complaint is received on average; when will improvement works be carried out in and around Lisdoonan village?

Response:

Additional funding is being sought by Monaghan County Council from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for the county road network for 2018 and as part of this submission to the Department, a repair costing exercise will be undertaken, which will be forwarded to the Elected Members when complete. Ongoing road maintenance is funded by the discretionary grant. The non-national allocation for 2018 has not yet been announced. 105 complaints have been received from the start of 2018. Lisdoonan Village will be repaired in the coming week.

17. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the Donaghmoyne Rd / Lisanisk Junction?

Response:

A Low Cost Safety Improvement funding application was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 13th October 2017, for a pedestrian crossing on the Donaghmoyne Rd. This application did not receive funding for 2018.

18. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of walking / footpath links throughout the village of Inniskeen including the provision of a footbridge across the river Fane?

Response:

A Low Cost Safety Improvement funding application was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 13th October 2017, for a walkway over the River Fane in Inniskeen Village. This application did not receive funding for 2018.

Item 7

Motion by Cllr. McNally for February 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

“That this MD commits itself to prepare a report on all villages and settlements within our area namely:- Inniskeen, Magheraclone Upper and Lower, Corduff, Lough Egish, Lisdoonan, Broomfield, Donaghmoynne and Oram and part of Killanny (that is within County Monaghan) with a view to establishing what is needed going forward to enhance these areas i.e. road surface, footpaths, public lighting, proper road signage and sewerage in order to make these more attractive for those who wish to live there as well as those that may create jobs by way of new business/industries.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon and unanimously adopted.

Motion by Cllrs. Colm Carthy for February 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

‘This Municipal District calls on the Executive to consult with the elected representatives of this Council prior to any further replacement of street lighting with LED bulbs. We also call, at a minimum, for the design to include for diffuser cases to be placed over the bulbs to ensure a more even spread of light.’

The motion unanimously adopted.

8. Director of Services Orders

The Directors orders 06/2018 to 11/2018 attached to the agenda were noted.

9. Votes of Sympathy

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:

- Julie Kierans and Family on the death of her husband Patrick
- Anne Clarke and Family on the death of her husband Ciaran

10. Any Other Business

- Cllr. Keelan asked for an update on the development of villages Lisdoonan and Inniskeen
- Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that Monaghan County Council were working with the committee’s and that funding is accessible from Leader, Clár and Town and Village Renewal Inniskeen had availed of funding for the Patrick Kavanagh Centre and various projects.
- Cllr Campbell asked for an update on road markings and outlined the great danger at the Priest’s cross.
- District Engineer John Lennon replied that Roadlines would be in place shortly and that funding is required for the area of the Priests cross .
- Cllr Keelan asked that Emergency facilities would be made available for people with bereavements during the forthcoming storm.
- District Engineer said that in the case of emergencies and bereavements in rural area’s the council would do their best to keep routes clear.

- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally enquired about lights in Killanny and if there was an update from Louth Co. Council
- District Engineer John Lennon said that no response had been received from Louth Co. Council
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked about the complaints system for potholes in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District .
- District Engineer John Lennon said that there was a complaints system in place with regular updates at the weekly foreman meetings.
- Cathaoirleach Mc Nally asked when the electric car space will be available at the convent wall.

Meeting concluded at 13.40 p.m.

Cathaoirleach

Date: 26th March 2018

Meetings Administrator