

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



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

Minutes of proceedings of MD monthly meeting held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 25th March 2019 at 4.00pm.

Present : Cathaoirleach Colm Carthy.

Cllrs. Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Aidan Campbell, PJ O’Hanlon, Padraig McNally.

In Attendance: Paul Clifford, Town Manager, Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, John Fox, Assistant Engineer, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer, Stephanie McEaney, Assistant Staff Officer.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Crowe the minutes of the February meeting were agreed.

2.0 Matters Arising

The Town Manager gave the following update in relation to Market House, Castleblayney – A Risk Assessment conducted by a Structural Engineer, identified the need to secure the area around the Market House. This was endorsed by the Council’s Insurance Company. Concrete Barriers were installed on 22nd March around the perimeter of the safety cordon, in the event of a collapse of an element of the building.

A structural assessment of the remaining structure cannot be carried out as it is unsafe to enter the building. The collapse of the internal wall has compromised the remaining roof structure. The Risk Assessment identified the likelihood of a collapse of the roof and potential partial collapse of an external wall, as a high risk.

A programme of works is currently being prepared to remove the roof, clear internal debris and stabilise the structure. It will entail the engagement of contractors to:

- Remove the roof and dispose slates in appropriate manner
- Remove the cupola and clock for safekeeping and restoration
- Clear out the interior of the building, which may require temporary stability measures, to facilitate inspection of the basement and structures.

No decision on the future of the Market House can be made until a full structural report can be completed. Any works on the roof may require a closure of Main Street. The aim is to carry out works with minimal disruption to the town while maintaining a safe environment.

The Council has contacted the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and its Architectural Advisor has been briefed on the matter. Further consultation with the Department will take place as the works programme is developed.

Paul Clifford also stated that he had met with traders in the area last week and will meet with members of the Castleblayney Town Team on the 26th March to discuss the matter further.

The next step is to have the roof removed. In order to do this, documents are now being prepared to go out to mini tender and then a structural assessment can be put in place. It is hoped to carry out the works in a short length of time and with minimum disruption for the town.

The members reiterated that it was imperative that the disruption be at a minimum when works were taking place.

Cllr. Campbell added that some local businesses were already down 15% due to the lack of parking etc. in the area and requested that traffic lights are used when works are taking place in lieu of full closure of the road.

Cllr. Keelan stated that the government needs to step up and bring this building back to its former glory.

Cllr. McNally said that the Council needed to concentrate on the future of the building. In the interim secure same and take it from there.

Cllr. Keelan asked for an update of the Killanny roundabout surface.

Reply – Will be surfaced this year.

Cllr. Crowe asked that a snag list be put in place in relation Irish Water works on Main street, Castleblayney and that all areas be reinstated to a high standard.

Reply – Will have to be reinstated as per Road Opening Licence conditions.

Cllr. Carthy stated that he had a call from an irate person passing through the town in relation to the public toilets in Carrickmacross.

Reply – Toilet caretaker is in place and will follow up on same.

Cllr. Keelan added that with the Market House, Phase II project ready to commence, it was imperative that the correct public amenities are put in place.

Cllr. Keelan requested a costing be brought to the April meeting in relation to upgrade of the rear access at Deery's Terrace, Inniskeen.

Cllr. O'Hanlon asked for an update on ramps for the Shercock and Ardee roads.

Reply - There is currently no budget for these works but will liaise with the Roads Section. A report has already been developed which is ready to go to the Roads Section.

Cllr. Carty expressed his concerns yet again in relation to excessive speeds in some areas of Carrickmacross. A design had been brought to members in relation to the Ross Road some time ago, however, nothing has been done to date. He asked that Cluain Alainn estate be looked at in relation to speed as a child had been knocked down by a car in the area last week.

Reply – Locations need to be ranked in order of importance as the members are aware there is no budget for same.

Cllr. Keelan asked for a costing to be brought to the April meeting in relation to low cost safety improvement works.

3.0 Correspondence

- E-mail from Minister Shane Ross in relation to roads funding for Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD, stating that grant funding is allocated on as fair and equitable basis as possible.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that this was the first response after numerous letters sent by the Council in relation to funding. He stated that the reality is that Monaghan County Council are still €1.5million down on funding received in 2011 and added that it will take approx. 7 to 8 years to achieve the roads standards necessary. He urged the MD to keep writing to the Minister in relation to same.

Cllr. Keelan said that people are paying out more on rates / property tax etc. and are getting less.

Rates revaluation is happening presently with rates increasing in some cases.

Cllr. McNally stated that Minister Ross is from Dublin 4 and does not drive the rural roads of Ireland that are been neglected due to lack of funding. He said that the condition of the roads infrastructure had a direct impact on the community as many business in County Monaghan were rural based.

Cllr. Carthy stated that the reality is that there are other counties in Ireland getting more funding due to population etc. and in turn the rural counties are suffering.

The following proposal by Cllr. McNally and seconded by Cllr. Campbell was unanimously agreed:

“That this M.D. writes back to Minister Ross outlining the fact that we need a much bigger increase in funding for our roads to start to undo the damage of underspending over the last 10 years. Co. Monaghan has a very high usage of our County roads, especially heavy vehicles”.

Cllr. O’Hanlon said that he will contact Robbie Gallagher, TD asking him to question the Minister in relation to roads funding in the contents to County Monaghan.

- Letter from Carrickmacross Festival Committee requesting use of public areas for the Festival weekend (Friday 31st May – Monday 3 July, 2019).

Permission was granted on the proposed by Cllr. McNally and seconded by Cllr. Keelan.

4.0 Consideration of Schedule of Municipal District Works 2019.

On the proposal of Cllr. McNally and seconded by Cllr. Campbell the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2019 was adopted.

The members had a lengthy debate in relation to the GMA funding and the spending of same. Cllr. McNally requested that a sum of €60,000 from the GMA fund be used to reinstate a number of roads in serious condition in particular the Ballybay and Dundalk Road. He said that although works were ongoing with the velocity patcher in these areas it was only a temporary solution and that the temporary works were only lasting a number of weeks and in the long run it was working out much more expensive.

To decide on same, it was agreed that exact figures for projects under the fund be distributed to the members at the April meeting.

5.0 Consideration of Report on Stedfast Junction proposals.

It was agreed that a ramp be placed on Farney Street to coincide with the new Stedfast junction. Works will commence in the summer when the school holidays commence.

6.0 Public Lighting, Main Street, Carrickmacross

To be discussed at the April meeting.

7.0 Set date for Presentation Night – Community Grant Scheme 2019.

It was agreed to hold the April MD meeting on Tuesday the 30th of April at 3:00p.m. followed by the presentation night at 6:00 p.m.

It was further agreed that the executive liaise with Cllrs. Campbell and Crowe to organise an event in the Iontas Centre to recognise the achievements of the Castleblayney Senior Hurling Team in reaching the All Ireland Final. On the same nights, the achievements of the Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney on winning the All Ireland Showchoir Competition would also be recognised.

It was further agreed that the members would hold their May monthly meeting on Tuesday the 14th of May at 2:00 p.m.

8.0 Municipal Co-ordinators Report.

Due to time constraints, the report was taken as read. It was noted that, to date, there had been no steps taken to progress with the provision of an extension to the "Fiddlers" car-park. Mr. Clifford stated that he was still in talks with the Department regarding the funding allocation for works under the Rural Regeneration Scheme.

9.0 Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for March 2019 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. When is it expected that by-laws will be put in place in relation to reducing the speed limit on Chapel Lane, Carrickmacross, to 30km per hour; also, when will signage be added to reduce speed on this road?

Response: This matter will be forwarded to the Roads Section, Monaghan Co. Council for consideration by the County's Speed Limit Committee.

2. When is it expected upgrade works to the pedestrian crossing on Main Street, Carrickmacross, will commence?

Response: It is expected that works will commence in Q2.

3. Will the Municipal District Executive consider adding an additional E-Car parking space to the existing bay in the northern end of the town (additional street marking required only)?

Response: At present there are no plans to put in place a new bay at this location, however, plans are in place to put a second bay at the Convent Hill, Carrickmacross.

4. What is the up-to-date position on the street marking and loading bay on Farney Street, Carrickmacross, as discussed with residents and businesses in 2018; are there plans to introduce parking limit by-laws?

Response: It is intended that the parking bye-laws for Carrickmacross will be reviewed in 2019. This location will be considered during the review process.

5. When is work expected to start on Phase 2 of the Market Square, Carrickmacross?

Response: Consultants have been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender documents for the works and it is hoped that a contractor will be on site in Q3

Questions raised by Cllr. Padraig McNally for March 2019 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. When does this MD hope to carry out full repairs to the sewage cuttings on all our streets and approach roads.

Response: There is a works plan in place to carry out these works, which will commence this week.

7. Has this MD received any response from OPW re works at Drumganny and Drumgosset/Tullyloughbanerney.

Response: There has been no response to date from the OPW regarding this application.

8. When will work be carried out by TII on noise reduction measures at a numbers of house at Monanny, Carrickmacross adjacent to the N2.

Response: This matter has been forwarded to the Roads Section, Monaghan Co. Council for a response.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for March 2019 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

9. Has any further progress been made in relation to the provision of a CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross town and its environs given the recent spike in robberies in the area and given that such a system would help deter and detect such crime?

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.

10. As a follow on from this Councils recent meetings with the tidy towns groups in our area including Inniskeen, will this Council progress a number of projects in the Inniskeen village area as requested, including the provision of proper safe walking routes/footpath links throughout the village and out to Magee's corner and also will this Council take full advantage of recently announced Clár funding to complete the Public Lighting Programme in the village, extra traffic claiming and the provision of a bus shelter etc?

Response: All funding options will be explored in relation to works at Inniskeen. The MD will continue to liaise and support the works of the Inniskeen Tidy Town's Committee.

11. Has any further progress been made in relation to the provision of WiFi facilities in our village areas including Donaghmoynne, Lisdoonan, Corduff and Inniskeen given the very poor or non-existent broadband in many of these areas?

Response: The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD will continue to liaise with the County Council's Broadband Officer in order to progress the possibility of putting in place WiFi facilities throughout the District.

12. In relation to the Carrickmacross/Castleblayney area, approximately how many roads are in need of complete reconstruction and overlay; how many roads will be reconstructed and resurfaced in 2019?

Response: On a recent survey, 21% of roads within the MD are rated between 1 to 4 on the PMS System, which require a structural overlay.

13. In relation to Lisdoonan village will this Council examine the possibility of resurfacing the small area adjacent to Lois housing development and deal with the drainage issue at this location?

Response: The MD will examine this area, however, currently there is no funding available for these works.

Questions raised by Cllr. Jackie Crowe for March 2019 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

14. Can the executive confirm what the immediate plans are to deal with safety concerns around the Market House, Castleblayney, and what plans are being put in place for the future of the building.

Response: Monaghan County Council appointed Alan Clarke and Associates Structural Engineers in December 2018 to advise and to carry out a structural stability and safety risk assessment of Castleblayney Courthouse/Market House. The collapsed wall was identified on the 24th January as part of the internal assessment. The wall is one of the main internal masonry loadbearing walls and was providing support to a significant portion of the adjacent floors and stairs and much of the roof at the north western end of the building. The internal floors near this wall which were relying on the wall for support have also collapsed. The roof remains in place however it is apparent that the distortion in the roof line is due to the loss in roof support which was provided by the collapsed internal loadbearing wall. The Council has been advised that the collapse of a significant portion of the roof is imminent.

15. Would this MD insure that a snag list is prepared for the footpaths and lighting at old coach road Castleblayney.

Response: A snag list was compiled for these works and the MD is satisfied that all works have been completed to the specification.

16. What measures are planned for the restoration of the Main Street in Castleblayney when the extensive works to install new water piping are finished.

Response: On completion of the works, Monaghan Co. Council will ensure that all roads and footpaths affected will be reinstated as per conditions set out in the Road Opening License granted to Irish Water.

17. Will this MD put in place a phased lighting program to compliment the new footpath along the Blackhill road.

Response: The MD will include these works on the list of required public lighting lists, which will be presented to the members for their consideration.

18. Can this MD check an ongoing problem of drainage at Annahale on the N53, surface water does not get away.

Response: This matter has been forwarded to the Roads Section, Monaghan Co. Council for a response.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for March 2019 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

19. Can the MD look at the inclusion of a bus bay where the safety works were carried out at Laurel Hill to include the three schools at this very busy road?

Response: A draft design has been completed and will be considered when funding becomes available.

20. Can the MD look at some kind of traffic calming measure on the Dublin Road out of Castleblayney between Saint Marys Church and Castleblayney College to control speeding?

Response: A draft design has been completed and will be included in an application for Low Cost Safety Improvement measures.

21. When will work commence on the local lanes which have been successful under the LIS Scheme commence under the recent funding announcement?

Response: All works under the LIS Scheme 2019 will be completed by the 30/06/2019.

22. What plans are in place to keep the local residents and businesses around the Market House updated to developments around the building with the roads closure causing considerable inconvenience for all those who live and work around the building?

Response: There is a significant concern of further collapse and for this reason an exclusion zone has been installed. The Council has also been advised to install further concrete bollards around the building to provide some further safety and these will be installed in the coming days. Monaghan County Council have been in contact with IPB the Council's insurance company and they are also very concerned about public safety and negligence liability. IPB are offering support and advise to the Council in determining the most expedient course of action in minimising danger to the public.

10.0 Notice of Motions

The following notice of motion was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Carthy seconded by Cllr. Keelan:-

'The Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney seek a meeting with Bus Eireann to have their Airport bus service stop in Carrickmacross town centre (Main Street Bus Stop) to facilitate those who have limited mobility. We also ask that this motion be sent to the National Transport Authority to consider similar measures throughout the state to service elderly persons and those with limited mobility.'

The following notice of motion was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. McNally seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon:-

"That this MD seeks a meeting with HSE to establish where our primary care facility is at".

The following notice of motion was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Keelan, seconded by Cllr. Crowe:-

"That this Municipal District writes to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross TD calling on him to bring forward amendments to the new law relating to unaccompanied learner drivers, including a lead in time of up to six months in order to facilitate those learner drivers who have to wait many months to sit a driving test given the shortage of driving testers".

11.0 Director of Service Orders

Director Orders 11/2019 and 12/2019 were noted.

12.0 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Vote of sympathy was passed to the following: Declan and Mary Callan, Corbane, Corduff, on the death of Lorcan Callan. Aidan Murray and Family, Coolderry, Carrickmacross, on the death of Anne Murray. Martin McNally & Family, Bocks Middle, Laragh, on the death of Bridget McNally.

Vote of congratulations was passed to Fr. Brendan McCague, Parochial House, Corduff on his retirement.

13.0 AOB

Members were advised that, due to time constraints, any items under this heading should be put in writing to the Executive for consideration.

Meeting concluded at 6:15pm.

Cathaoirleach

Meeting Administrator

Dated _____

