

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 Carrickmacross Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 23rd November 2020 at 09:30am

Present : Cathaoirleach Aidan Campbell

Cllrs. Aoife McCooey, PJ O’Hanlon, Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan

Apologies: Cllr. Mary Kerr Conlon

In Attendance: Paul Clifford, Director of Service, Matthew Lambe, Acting District Coordinator, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer, Julieann O’Reilly, Clerical Officer

Cathaoirleach Campbell opened the meeting by congratulating all involved with the Patrick Kavanagh Centre on recently winning the European Cultural Heritage Award. All members wished to be associated with this. The members also expressed their condolences to the family of the young lady who died following an accident on the N2.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon the minutes of the Future Analytics (LAAP) meeting held on Wednesday 28th October 2020 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Carthy the minutes of the Financial Contributions Budget meeting held on Wednesday 28th October 2020 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon the minutes of the October Monthly M.D. meeting held on Wednesday 28th October 2020 were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Carthy asked if work has commenced on providing a railing/barrier for Cloughvalley? Acting District Coordinator Matthew Lambe advised that it has been ordered.

Cllr. Keelan stressed the importance of shopping locally and encouraged all to use the town voucher schemes. Cllr. Keelan requested that MCC investigate acquiring i-boards.

Director of Services Paul Clifford informed the members that the Shop Local advertising campaign will begin this week. LEO also have a list on their website naming all local shops who facilitate online trading.

Cllr. O'Hanlon enquired if there has been any correspondence regarding Block Grants?

Staff Officer Amanda Murray advised that there has been none to date.

Cllr. Campbell welcomed works at White Island and commended Engineer Craig Connolly in particular.

Cllr. Carthy asked for an update re: Farney Street Bye-Laws and asked if legal advice has been received?

Staff Officer Amanda Murray replied that Engineering staff are currently drawing up a schedule for both towns. Legal advice will be sought when all the information has been mapped out and an accurate schedule drawn up.

Cllr. Carthy asked what the timeframe will be and was informed that once the MD staff are organised there will be no major delays.

Cllr. Campbell spoke about the current roadworks in Castleblayney. He stated that they caused pandemonium on Friday morning and over the weekend. Cllr. Campbell acknowledged that MCC were not running these works, however he went on to say that traffic management was poor and perhaps the works should have been carried out at night. Cllr. Campbell advised that there had been a lot of negative comments on social media.

Cllr. Carthy stated that he had received complaints from people saying that they were unaware of upcoming works. Cllr. Carthy advised that he had spoken to Acting Director of Services Cathal Flynn about creating more publicity in future circumstances.

Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that he believes that the system needs to change regarding funding. He noted that roadworks can be found in most counties at this time of year. Cllr. O'Hanlon commented that works like these should be done in the summertime. He also stressed the importance of giving people and local businesses notice in advance of works.

Cllr. Keelan agreed with the comments made.

Cllr. McCooey acknowledged the great job being done, however, there is a need to work on better communication with locals.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. McCooey, it was unanimously agreed *"That Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District calls on the Minister for Transport that all funding for Roads National and minor works be completed by the end of October, rather than having works being done coming up to Christmas."*

Cllr. Campbell wished to acknowledge Acting District Coordinator Matthew Lambe for his role, stating that he had great communication with him over the weekend about the issue.

Director of Services Paul Clifford stated that he wished to apologise on behalf of Monaghan County Council for the lack of communication.

Cllr. Carthy asked if there will be a yellow box marked at the fire station.

Acting District Coordinator Matthew Lambe advised that there will be. He also informed the members that the reason works were not carried out at night was due to the fact that the

overall costs would have increased by up to 35%. Monaghan County Council did advise the contractor to avoid school times.

Cllr. O'Hanlon asked if there will be works in Carrickmacross before the end of this year? Are additional cycle paths going to impact safety?

Acting District Coordinator Matthew Lambe advised that there will be no impact on safety. Some works will be carried out early next year.

Cllr. Keelan wished to highlight the concerns of Dun Ard residents re: signs and lines.

Cllr. Carthy welcomed the Children at Play signage at the Aghalile Road and requested an update for Rakeeragh. Cllr. Carthy also sought an update about the area at Cloughvalley Playpark where anti-social behaviour occurs.

Acting District Coordinator Matthew Lambe advised that the signage for Rakeeragh is on the list for this week and the Cloughvalley Playpark area is in progress.

Cllr. Keelan requested that Monaghan County Council keep an eye out for any suitable grants for Magheross Church and Graveyard. Cllr. Keelan also asked about lighting during Christmas?

Acting District Coordinator Matthew Lambe replied that the MD is currently working on this

3.0 Correspondence

- i. Letter of acknowledgement from the office of Minister Roderic O'Gorman concerning the Early Childhood Education Sector.

4.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

Cllr. Carthy:

Can the MD confirm where the parking installation for bicycles will be in Carrickmacross?

Reply – The bike locker will be located at the Civic Offices.

Welcomed the Online Trading for Carrickmacross going live.

Reply – So far 15 traders have signed up, more are expected to join.

Welcomed the upgrade works to the town.

Spoke about his annoyance at how areas were selected for bio-diversity without consultation of the members. Mentioned Gallows Hill as an example. Stated that the areas selected need to be agreeable to local people.

Reply – Cllr. Carthy's comments have been taken onboard.

Cllr. Keelan:

Welcomed that the Public Realm Plan for Inniskeen is progressing. Asked if it will go to public consultation to the local community?

Reply – this is on-going

Welcomed the supplying of screens for the outdoor area at the Patrick Kavanagh Centre.

Stressed the importance of shopping locally to all.

Asked if the CBGM and Reclaimed Asphalt schemes will go in some way to improving the state of small local roads?

Reply – It is too soon to say at present.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Spoke about the importance of shopping local, particularly this year.

Complimented Monaghan County Council on the funding received and the programme done over the past 12 months.

Asked if any companies from Northern Ireland are getting the work for the smaller schemes? Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that he would like to know how Brexit will affect N. Ireland companies from receiving contracts in the future.

Reply – T.H. Moore received the contract for the CBGM Pilot Scheme and the Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot Scheme.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon, and seconded by Cllr. McCooey, it was unanimously agreed to send a letter to The Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Leo Varadkar to ask: *"What is the position with companies receiving contracts in 2021 from Northern Ireland with Brexit taking place next year?"*

Cllr. McCooey:

Stated that she was delighted with the current works in Castleblayney.

Expressed disappointment that the Memorial Garden works in Oram won't be completed this year.

Passed on thanks and appreciation about Oram receiving a Christmas lighting grant.

Cllr. Campbell:

Can the regeneration of Castleblayney Streets be investigated under Town & Village Renewal?

Commented on the fantastic work going on at Black Island. Noted that there is still a lot of work to be done. Possibly organise a meeting about same?

Expressed delight at Broomfield Construction carrying out works on Gate Lodge 2, employing numerous local people.

Wished to flag the road across from Blackhill Football Field connecting into Ballybay – Clones MD.

Reply – comment taken on board.

5.0 Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for November 2020 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. When is it expected that benches will be installed at Lisanisk Lake on the Dundalk road, Carrickmacross?

Response:-

Works have commenced at this location.

2. Has the MD engineering section reviewed the damaged fencing between Woodvale and Coill an Ri estates, Carrickmacross and will it consider carrying out repairs?

Response:

The fencing between Woodvale and Coill an Ri estates has been examined by Engineering staff and has been placed on a list of works for repair in the coming weeks.

3. Has there been any further consideration given to the safety measures required on the Kingscourt Road (including the Magheross and Mullinary junctions), Carrickmacross, to provide safe access to the town centre for residents and children (yellow box at Coill an Ri estate entrance, pedestrian crossings etc)?

Response:-

Engineering staff have commenced a Road safety Audit in the areas identified. On completion of this Audit items identified will be placed on the Low-Cost Safety Improvement list for consideration.

4. What is the up-to-date situation with the HGV by-laws in Carrickmacross?

Response:-

All legal issues have now been completed and signage will be put in place in the coming weeks.

5. When is it expected that road markings will be renewed on the Monaghan road, Castleblayney (including the entrance to Drummillard) and has the MD executive considered adding a right-turning lane northbound and a yellow-box at the entrance to the new Fire Station as discussed at the October meeting?

Response-

“The installation of a cycle lane and resurfacing works has commenced on the Monaghan Rd, Castleblayney. On completion of surfacing works, all road markings will be renewed and following consultation with the Monaghan County Council Fire Services a Right -tuning lane outbound and a Yellow Box junction on the inbound lane will be installed”.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for November 2020 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. What is the update on the CCTV systems in Castleblayney?

Response:-

This application is currently with An Garda Siochana for consideration.

7. With the work due to start at the Gate House at the entrance to Hope Castle and the impact this will have on parking around the Castle Square area and at the play park and with the increased use of the park.

- a. Can the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross MD upgrade the Orchard Car park adjacent to the Annex which has been used to hold rubble to bring it back to the original Car Park?

- b. Can the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross do an Audit on the signs around the entrance to the Hope Caste and Black Island as there is no uniform to these and make application for all signs to be the same?

Response:-

- a. *This MD will investigate the possibility of upgrading the Orchard Car Park.*
- b. *This MD will carry out an Audit of signage at the Entrance to Hope Castle and the Black Island. On completion of this audit a funding application can be made.*

8. What is the update on the improvements on the Monaghan Way walking trail which recently received funding?

Response:-

MD outdoor staff have carried out some remedial works on the Monaghan Way as identified in the Sports Ireland audit. Monaghan County Council have engaged with Consultants Brilliant Trails on the future of the Monaghan Way. They have forwarded a draft report outlining potential options going forward. The report also provides several recommendations to enhance the trail and make it more attractive to users whilst also making recommendations that would make trail more user friendly. At present Monaghan County Council officials are liaising with Brilliant Trails regarding findings in this draft report.

9. With regard to the new interpretive display for the Workhouse in Carrickmacross, when will this project be finalized?

Response:-

Due to Covid 19, there has been a delay on this project but it is anticipated that it will be complete by end November.

10. In welcoming the installation of the Broadband Connection Points and the WIFI4EU particular for rural areas with so many people working from home now. With NBI on the ground since January of this year and have commenced surveying which involves physically walking the routes and documenting images, notes and measurements of the poles, cables and underground ducts in each area to enable a design solution for a fibre network to every premises in the Intervention area:

- a. What is the update of Surveying in the Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District?
- b. What is the timescale for further works in this area?
- c. Which area is likely to achieve High Speed Broadband first in the near future?
- d. When will the WIFI4EU be going live?

Response:-

National Broadband Plan (NBP)

NBI have responsibility for rollout of the National Broadband Plan. Road opening licences have been granted for NBI and for Eir around Monaghan town with work expected to commence after Christmas. This will result in high speed broadband becoming available with speeds of up to 500 Mb/sec available to users when they achieve connection. A small number of premises (<20) along the border with County Louth will also achieve high speed broadband in the early months of 2021.

NBI have scheduled 3 further areas within the county for surveys in 2021 including the Carrickmacross area towards the end of 2021 (Quarter 4). This will include Inniskeen, Killanny, Donaghmoynes, Carrickmacross itself, Magheraclone and the Corduff-Raferagh area. Following this, the rollout of fibre will commence to every home and business in the (Amber) intervention area

The initial surveys by NBI were focussed on the Monaghan area. It is expected that these surveys will take place in 2021. This will entail initial survey, detailed design work by NBI followed by fibre rollout in all these areas. NBI expect to deliver fibre to 3,735 premises across County Monaghan in 2021.

DA	DALLOCATION	Year
Emyvale	MONAGHAN	Year 2 Q2
Clones	MONAGHAN	Year 2 Q2
Carrickmacross	MONAGHAN	Year 2 Q4

Wifi4EU

Monaghan Co. Co. is progressing the Wifi4EU plan through its partner, N.I.S. Ltd. N.I.S. have been on site for several days and have surveyed most of the sites identified in the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney area. Broadband Lines have been ordered for most of these sites. It is expected that many of the Wifi4EU sites will be in operation by mid-December when all telecommunications activities are frozen in the run up to Christmas.

A number of sites in the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney area are scheduled to receive broadband and wifi under the Wifi4EU scheme within weeks. The capital costs of this programme are being funded jointly by Dept. Rural & Community Development and by EU funding.

Wifi4EU progress to Date

Earlier this month, the broadband officer completed the installation of high speed broadband in Carrickmacross Workhouse from Imagine Networks with speeds of up to 150 Mb/sec for this important facility. Work is ongoing to install broadband and make this accessible through the installation of wifi in a range of community buildings. The following community buildings are expected to have this wif up and running by mid-December.

- Carrickasedge Community Hall
- Carrickmacross Workhouse
- Oram Community Centre & Big Tom Garden
- Patrick Kavanagh Centre
- St. Michael's Donaghmoynes
- Castleblayney Gate Lodge
- Iontas, Castleblayney
- Lisdoonan Recreational & Dev Association

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for November 2020 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

11. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of some traffic calming measures including the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the junction of the very busy Lisanisk / Donaghmoyne road (R179).

Response:-

Engineering staff carried out a speed survey over a 14 day period and the 85th percentile operating speed on this section of road pavement was registered at 52km/hr which is 2km/hr above the 50km/hr speed limit restriction which is in place. This section of pavement was placed on the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme list for consideration in 2020. This application was unsuccessful however another application will be made again in 2021 for the provision of traffic calming measures at this section of road pavement.

12. When is it expected that the public realm plan for Inniskeen village will be completed?

Response:-

The Inniskeen Public Realm plan will be ready in draft format by the end of Q4 2020.

13. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of extra traffic calming measures at the very dangerous Essexfort junction on the Dundalk regional road (R178)?

Response:-

New signage and road marking for the junction in question will be completed in the coming weeks.

14. When will this MD council commence the 2021 road drainage and resurfacing programme including the roadway at Finnegan's cross in Inniskeen which is in a poor state of repair?

Response;-

This MD will commence road drainage works on the LP4630 (Finnegan's Cross) in Inniskeen early in 2021. A timeframe for resurfacing works is unavailable at present as tendering process has not yet been completed.

15. What outstanding footpath and public lighting projects are to be completed in the Carrickmacross / Castleblayney area and what will be the expected costs of these projects?

Response:-

At present there is 2265m of viable new footpath projects at 8No. locations throughout the district with an estimated cost of €450,000 which includes accommodation works.

There is 11No. locations of proposed lighting projects throughout the district with an estimated cost of €225,000

6.0 Chief Executive & Directors Orders 2020

Order nos. 20/20 - 25/20 were noted by the members.

7.0 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Votes of sympathy were passed with the following:

May Gartlan & Family on the death of (Joseph) Gerry Gartlan and Eugene O'Reilly on the death of his wife Kay O'Reilly.

8.0 AOB

Cllr. Carthy:

Spoke about a previous motion passed that Disabled Access Toilets would be done to Irish Wheelchair Association standards. Noted that the public toilet at the Market House does not meet these requirements. Cllr. Carthy asked:

1. Why these standards were not followed/met?
2. That future projects have space for a changing table and hoist.

Director of Services Paul Clifford advised that this will be investigated and will revert to Cllr. Carthy. Acting District Coordinator Matthew Lambe mentioned that the building is a protected structure, but it will be investigated.

Cllr. Keelan:

Mentioned the loose slabs / paving on Carrickmacross Main Street.

Notes that there are some bad areas around town which require patching and that a number of junctions require re-lining.

Advised that he received several calls regarding tree felling activity on Convent Avenue and the Dundalk Road and sought a response on this.

Response – These works were not carried out by MCC and the issue has been reported to the Gardaí.

Welcomed the switch on of Christmas lights in the towns. Stated that we need to see “the lights on” in local businesses.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Hopes that local businesses will be able to maximise sales with possible additional opening hours and that people will shop local.

Asked if the CTek application has gone in?

Response – The application has not been submitted to date.

Any update on the signs that were knocked over etc?

Response – This work is on-going.

Cllr. McCooey:

Thanked MCC for the Castleblayney Christmas Lights works.
Stated that she hopes to see the local businesses re-opening soon.
Thanked Cllr. Campbell and Staff Officer Amanda Murray for their input on the upcoming video.

Cllr. Campbell:

Mentioned the road from Huenna to Doohamlet. There is a lot of flooding and surface water lying.

Response – Works are in progress.

The road where McQuillan’s staircases is located has surface water lying on it.

A bridge has been knocked at Drumalish.

Response – this will be investigated.

Noted that he has received a lot of complaints about the roads in Inniskeen.

Response - in progress.

Called on people to shop local and to support local businesses.

Welcomed the great works done on the Christmas lights in Castleblayney. Remembered MCC worker Paul Mulligan RIP.

Acting District Coordinator Matthew Lambe echoed these sentiments and thanked MCC workers, the Fire Brigade and paid tribute to the late Paul Mulligan also.

All members thanked and commended Acting Coordinator Matthew Lambe for his recent work and welcomed the appointment of Damien Thornton as the new District Coordinator, who is taking up his position on Dec 2nd. All wished him well in his new role.

Director of Services Paul Clifford also expressed his thanks to Acting Coordinator Matthew Lambe and to the entire team for their work this year.

It was decided that the next meeting will be held in Castleblayney Enterprise Centre on Monday, 21st December 2020 at 11.30am.

The meeting concluded at 11:10pm.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator