

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



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney  
Monaghan County Council

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**Minutes of proceedings of October 2015 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Office, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Monaghan on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 @ 10am.**

Present: - Mayor PJ O Hanlon

CLRs Aidan Campbell, Colm Carthy, Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Pdraig McNally

In Attendance: Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Frances Matthews, Co-ordinator, John Lennon, Amanda Murray, Teresa McGuirk

Also in attendance: - Darina Kierans, Executive Planner; Members of Carrickmacross Tidy Towns Committee; Members of Castleblayney Tidy Towns Committee

Apologies: - None

**Representation from Carrickmacross Tidy Towns Committee**

CLr O'Hanlon welcomed Kieran Roche, Dennis Durcan, Francie Cassidy and Gerry Hand (Chairperson) from the Carrickmacross Tidy Towns Committee.

On behalf of the Council CLr O'Hanlon acknowledged the work of the volunteers and congratulated the committee on their Gold Medal Award in the National Tidy Towns Competition this year.

On behalf of the Tidy Towns Committee Mr Hand;

- Acknowledged the support received in the past from the Council and the good working relationship established between the two groups
- Explained that in the National Tidy Towns Competition the town had come in the top 2.5 % in the country; joint 19<sup>th</sup> overall and had now won its fourth gold medal
- Circulated details of proposed works for the forthcoming year in preparation for next year's competition
- Acknowledged the annual funding received from the council and
- Thanked everyone for the invite.

Members all in turn acknowledged the great work of the Tidy Towns Committee, congratulated them on their Gold Medal Award and pledged their support to the group for the forthcoming year. The committee then left the meeting.

### **Representation from Castleblayney Tidy Towns Committee**

Cllr O'Hanlon welcomed Pat Merrick, Patrick Connolly, Johnny Redmond, Paul Mulligan and Greg Boylan from the Castleblayney Tidy Towns Committee.

On behalf of the Council Cllr O'Hanlon acknowledged the work of the volunteers and congratulated the committee on their increase in marks in the National Tidy Towns Competition this year.

Mr Merrick on behalf of the Committee

- Thanked the members for the invite to the meeting and support received to date
- Acknowledged the work and commitment of the volunteers
- Outlined some of the works which would need to be undertaken in order to increase their marks. This included an issue with ownership of grounds in Mindzenty Park – it was agreed to seek a meeting with representatives from the council to progress this matter.

In conclusion it was agreed that the committee would prepare a list of works which needed to be done and to liaise with the Coordinator to arrange a meeting to discuss the items in detail, the list to also be circulated to the members for their information.

Members all in turn acknowledged the great work of the Tidy Towns Committee, congratulated them on their achievements and pledged their support to the group for the forthcoming year. The committee then left the meeting.

Cllr McNally proposed that the council extend an invite to Inniskeen Tidy Towns Committee to attend the November meeting of the council. This was seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all. This was further amended to extend an invite to other Tidy Towns Committees to meet with the council.

### **1. Confirmation of the Minutes of September 2015 monthly meeting**

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan and seconded by Cllr Crowe the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015 were adopted.

### **2. Matters arising**

The following replies were given to queries raised

- Lease has been issued to the Men's Shed group
- Works for Lisanisk will be done in next few weeks
- No correspondence received back from the Department regarding Low Cost Safety Works requested
- A consultant will be procured to develop the Walking & Cycle Strategy for Carrickmacross
- No allocation this year for footpaths on Lough Egish Road, Blackhill Road, Rosevale and Upper Bree in Castleblayney. These footpaths to be considered in the programme of works for 2016
- Safety rail to be erected on the Shercock Road where the footpath is lower than the road before the of the year
- No response from Gardai in relation to moving the CCTV system from the former town council offices in Castleblayney.

- The following proposal was then made by Cllr Campbell and seconded by Cllr Crowe and agreed by all.
- *“That this Municipal District sets up a meeting with An Garda Síochána re the relocation of CCTV equipment from the old Town Council Offices in Castleblayney”*
- The following proposal was made by Cllr Keelan and seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all.
  - *“That this Municipal District makes an application to the Department under the Low Cost Safety Scheme for Blackstaff School. That this Municipal District will talk to the landowners adjacent to the school with a view to having the hedges cut in the interest of road safety”*
- Housing queries regarding Ard Ross, Carrickmacross have been forwarded to Housing Section
- Procurement process for the supply of additional bins is ongoing

### **3. Correspondence**

#### Additional Correspondence received from

- Regina Byrne, Community Outreach Officer, Monaghan Integrated Development – requesting an opportunity to make a presentation to the Municipal District Meeting regarding Steadfast House Art Social Inclusion Project
  - The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr Keelan and seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all.
  - *“That this Municipal District seeks to facilitate Steadfast House Art Social Inclusion Project to make a presentation to one of our upcoming meetings. We also agree to house their ‘Include Us’ 3D type mural in the foyer of the Carrickmacross Civic Office at a time of their choosing”*
- Caoimhghín Ó’Caoláin TD – accepting the council invite to attend the next monthly meeting of the council on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015. As no other replies had been received Cllr O’Hanlon proposed that a letter be sent to the remaining TD’s stating that the meeting will be going ahead and expressing disappointment that they cannot make time to attend. This was seconded by Cllr Carthy
- Deputy Brendan Smyth TD - forwarding a reply from An Ceann Comhairle disallowing a further Parliamentary question in relation to the North / South Interconnector. Cllr Keelan informed the members of a Public meeting this Wednesday night at 8.30 in Aughnamullen Community Centre. Members were urged to attend to show their support
- Office of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation – Acknowledging receipt of letter

### **4. Set Date for Stakeholders Meeting of Safety Concerns on N2**

Following a short discussion it was agreed to commence with invited groups / presentations at 9.30, followed immediately by the monthly meeting then the meeting on Safety Concerns on N2 at 12 noon on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015. This was agreed by all

### **5. Consideration of proposal for Taking in Charge**

#### **a. Thorndale, Bree, Castleblayney**

Executive Planner, Darina Kierans outlined the details of the proposed Taking in Charge of Thorndale Estate in Bree Castleblayney. Following a brief discussion Cllr Crowe proposed that the Council take the estate in charge. This was seconded by Cllr Campbell and agreed by all.

#### **b. Old Coach Manor, Castleblayney**

Ms Kierans explained that this application would be presented to members at their next meeting. Ms Kierans then left the meeting.

## **6. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report**

### Review of works

Cllr Campbell

- Welcomed REDZ funding and the GMA allocation of 80k recently allocated to Castleblayney and thanked the executive for their work with the Castleblayney Regeneration Town Team
- Thanked the Municipal Office for their help during the 'We Mean Business' exhibition in Castleblayney

Cllr McNally

- Welcomed the work on repairing Derrylavin bridge – needs few reflectors on bridge
- Asked if there would be a grassed area at the Barford Junction – Reply: fence will be set back to allow sight lines
- Asked for update on Cloughvalley play park – Reply: preparing for etenders
- Requested regular maintenance and cleaning of roadside signs

Cllr Keelan

- Highlighted a number of signs overgrown – Reply: Photographs to be forwarded to the Engineer
- Welcomed progress on sale of lands to Carrick Rovers
- Commended local MEP Matt Carthy in bringing a number of EU visitors to Carrickmacross
- Commended the works on the Culloville road
- Requested that the Roads Programme be ready to commence in December and completed by June /July

Cllr Crowe

- Welcomed the REDZ funding and funding for the Gate Lodge for Castleblayney
- Asked that the council would meet with owners of sites to ensure all going well in relation to the Bog Road. Reply: it was agreed at a previous meeting that the matter be left with the Director of Services.
- Suggested benches could be purchased from the Men's Shed as a way of supporting the group
- Acknowledged the rewiring and installation of Christmas lights in Castleblayney

Cllr Carthy

- Welcomed the installation of PV panels at the Civic Offices
- Informed members that MEP's were very impressed with their visit
- Welcomed Barford junction fencing – good reports on new layout which has been welcomed by users and residents
- Thanked council for continued support for Halloween Festival, former councillor Teresa Carolan, Carrickmacross Emmets for facilitating the event and all who make it a success.

Cllr O'Hanlon

- Acknowledged, thanked and compliment Matt Carthy MEP on recent MEP's visit to Carrickmacross

## **7. Questions**

### The following questions were asked by Cllr Carthy

1. Can this MD ensure that the speed detectors on the outskirts of the town have their solar panels turned in certain areas to ensure they are not blocked – there are a number of these units that are not showing speed as their source of energy has been impeded?

Response – All feedback signs within the District will be inspected in the coming days. Any signs that are not displaying accurate speed readings will be reset or relocated

2. Would this MD consider installing Speed Ramps to the entrance hill of Cluainn Alainn (there is a significant downhill stretch without a ramp that leads to cars speeding in a very populated area and an accident could easily happen involving a child)?

Response: - The District Office has no provision in the 2015 budget to install speed ramps in Cluainn Alainn. Consideration will be given to Cllr Carthy's proposal in the 2016.

3. (i). Has this Council done anything to further erecting Business Signage to the end of the Carrick Aces running track/Recycling centre road where it meets the main road (across from the new C:Tek Building) so as to highlight where these and other businesses are to passing traffic, allowing also for future companies to be highlighted?  
(ii). This MD confirmed that this signage would be erected in 2015 @ last December's meeting = is this still the perceived scenario?

Response: - A new Business Information sign will be erected by the District Office in the coming months.

4. Would this MD consider tidying up the green area that joins higher to lower Drummond Etra?
  - a. There is a laneway that needs a bit of tar macadam resurfacing
  - b. The grass is very overgrown and needs to be cut and maintained
  - c. Some trees are overgrown and need trimmed

Response: - The green area between upper and lower Drummond Etra is extremely over grown with a large volume of discarded building material. The District Office will attempt to clear this area in the spring of 2016, enabling grass cutting to take place. Trimming of trees will commence in 2015. The District Office has no provision in the 2015 budget to resurface the footpath. Consideration will be given to Cllr Carthy proposal in 2016.

The following questions were asked by Cllr Crowe

1. (a) With the welcome commencement of works under the REDZ to provide car parking spaces adjacent to the children's play park in Lough Muckno. 'When will these works be finished and how many car parking spaces will be provided?  
(b) Also where will the mobile toilets be moved to and what plans and funding are available for permanent facilities?

Response: The new car park in Lough Muckno will be completed by the end of 2015 and will provide 50 car park spaces. Currently there is no funding to construct a permanent toilet block on the site. The temporary toilets will remain until a permanent toilet block is in place.

2. In relation to the Christmas period which is only about ten weeks away. What plans have Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council for the erecting of the Christmas Lights in Castleblayney and also the re-wiring which is essential??

Response: - The District Office has appointed Sean McCoy to replace the existing electrical supply to the Christmas Lights with new armour cabling and connectors. This work started on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and will take approximately two weeks to complete. The Christmas lights for Castleblayney Town will be in place by the end of November 2015.

3. When will the works that have started on the refurbishment of the five one bedroom houses in Oliver Plunkett Park, Castleblayney be completed? Also what will be the age limit of future tenants of these former OPD's?

Response: - This question has been forwarded to Monaghan Co. Council to be included on the November monthly meeting agenda.

4. Have Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD any plans to develop the former machinery yard in Castleblayney. This area would be an ideal area for infill town housing creating regeneration of the town centre.

Response: The Council are currently investigating all such Council properties with a view to infill-housing.

The following questions were asked by Cllr Keelan

1. In the interest of road safety and as a matter of good practice what action will this MD take to ensure that all the road signs in this area are made clearly visible, given that many of them cannot be seen as a result of overgrown hedges, or are in need of cleaning or new lettering?.

Response: - As part of ongoing maintenance, the District Office will continue to clean and cut foliage away from the front of road signs.

2. What is the up to date position in relation to Inniskeen Village and the provision of flood protection measures adjacent to the pitch and putt course and local dwellings?

Response: The District Office will write to the OPW requesting an update regarding flood protection measures for Inniskeen Village. A copy of their response will be circulated to the elected members at November Municipal District meeting.

3. In commending this council for their ongoing work and support for the Lisanisk Residents Association, as agreed some time ago will this council extend the footpath link at this location given that the kerbs are already in place and also will this council put in place an additional public light at this location?

Response: The District has no provision in the 2015 budget to extend the footpath at Lisanisk. Consideration will be given to Cllr Keelan proposal in 2016.

4. In relation to the recent Government announcement of a package to help revitalise rural towns and villages, will this council make the case for funding to be spent in the historical village of Inniskeen or indeed Carrickmacross in order to build on the work already been done by the local community?

Response: The Council will look at all funding opportunities available.

The following questions were asked by Cllr Campbell

1. Can the council look at road safety at the back of the Alms Houses where the road leads down to the junction at St Mary's Church where signs and road markings are needed to slow traffic down where there is a dangerous bend in the road? This road is always so busy with the schools also situated so close.

Response: The District Office will erect advance warning signs and will provide additional road markings at the rear of the Alms Houses on the approach to the junction at St Mary's Church

2. Can the MD outline the time schedule of works for the recently announced grants which were received from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government under the Rural Economic Development Zones for works in the Castleblayney and Lough Egish areas?

Response: - All monies under the REDZ programme must be completed and claimed by the 31/12/2015

## **8. Notices of Motion**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr Campbell and seconded by Cllr Crowe.

*“That the MD of Castleblayney/Carrickmacross introduce a bye-law under the Local Government Act 2001 in relation to the control and regulation of street collections and begging on the McGrath Road in Castleblayney”.*

Following a discussion it was agreed to adjourn this motion until next month’s meeting at which time the specific area in question can be outlined on a street map.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr McNally and seconded by Cllr Carthy and agreed by all.

*“That this Municipal District commits itself to develop a footpath and lights along the Drumcondrath Road in two phases. The first phase to extend to McNulty’s lane, phase two being the remainder. It is important to note that there are 40 houses in this area of the town which are already serviced with the public sewer.”*

## **9. Director of Services Orders**

57/2015 NC Plant Hire – PSCS Open Existing Outlets 2015

58/2015 NC Plant Hire – PSDP Open Existing Outlets 2015

## **10. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations**

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

Angela & Thomas Gartlan and family on the death of her father Seamus Connolly

Sean & Nan Jones on the death of his brother in law Pat Reilly

Noel Boylan on the death of his partner Wendy Shore

James Finnegan on the death of his brother Noel Finnegan

Danny Murtagh and extended Murtagh family on the death of his father John Murtagh

The following votes of congratulations were passed:

Donaghmoynne Minors on winning the County Final on Sunday

## **11. Any Other Business**

A meeting of the Finance Committee took place recently to discuss the General Municipal Allocation (GMA); the following recommendations were presented to the meeting. Cllr McNally proposed the adoption of the GMA. This was seconded by Cllr Campbell and agreed by all.

- Castleblayney Regeneration – Match Funds for REDZ Programme - €80,000
- Monaghan Local Employment Office - Construction of C:Tek building - €100,000
- The MD budget for 2016 was noted. The allocations would be determined by the County Council.

Cllr McNally proposed the transfer of funds from the Low Cost Improvement Scheme for Castleblayney to Inniskeen. This was seconded by Cllr Keelan

Cllr Carthy proposed that €6,000 of the Carrickmacross Festival Committee annual allocation be capitalised to purchase future equipment to be retained by the Council.

Cllr Carthy proposed that the council accept the request from the South Monaghan Easter 1916 Centenary Committee to erect a 1916 commemoration statue in Market Square Carrickmacross. This was seconded by Cllr Keelan.

Cllr O’Hanlon

- Asked when the footpath in Cloughvalley would be done. In reply Mr Lennon informed members that it would be included in the Footpath Repair Programme

- Raised the issue of parking tickets being issued by Gardaí during busy times in the vicinity of the doctor's surgery and schools in Cloughvalley asking if the issue could be raised with the Gardai to be followed up with a meeting of all concerned. Following a discussion it was agreed to liaise with the Councils school warden to ascertain the full details of the situation on the ground at busy times. A meeting could then be arranged with all stakeholders in January
- Proposed a vote of congratulations to Cllr McNally for the great work done for the county during his term of office as President of AILG for the last year and for bringing the AILG conference to the Nuremore Hotel earlier in the year. This was seconded by Cllr Keelan. Members and staff all in turn were associated with the comments and commended the excellent job done. In accepting Cllr McNally thanked all for their comments and compliments. It had been a turbulent 14 months in office due to the changes in Local Government

This concluded the business of the meeting at 1pm

Next month's meeting – scheduled for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 @ 10am in the Civic Offices.

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Cathaoirleach

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Meetings Administrator

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015