

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



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

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**Minutes of proceedings of October 2017 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 at 11.20am**

Present: - Cathaoirleach McNally  
Cllrs. Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Aidan Campbell, P J O'Hanlon.

In attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services; Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator; Brian Annon, Assistant Engineer, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer, Caitriona Lazdauskas, Clerical Officer, Veronica Corr, Northern Standard.

Apologies: - Cllr. Colm Carthy, John Lennon, District Engineer

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Crowe and seconded by Cllr. Keelan the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were adopted.

**2. Matters arising**

*Replies to queries:*

- Cllr. Keelan welcomed the works on the N2 adjacent to the access road in Carrickmacross. He also stated that a full overlay is required on the N2 along the Donaghmoyne straight. Cllr. Keelan welcomed the addition of bollards on the north and south link road junctions. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that a resurfacing scheme will be progressing in 2018 on the Donaghmoyne straight.
- Cllr. Keelan stated that he would welcome any support given to the Spring Lake Anglers. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that no notification has been received in relation to the funding application.
- Cllr. Crowe thanked the engineering staff for carrying out the traffic count on the Annyalla Road. Cllr. Crowe requested that the Roads Section is contacted to put in place safety measures on the

road as a farmer uses the road for his cattle. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that this will be followed up with the Roads Section of Monaghan County Council.

- Cllr. Crowe requested an update on the smoke test to be carried out on a manhole at Park Road Drumillard. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that John Lennon, District Engineer is following up on this matter.
- Cathaoirleach McNally asked if TII were notified of the damage to the fly over bridge on the Castleblayney Junction. Gareth McMahan, Co-ordinator stated that TII were notified of this.
- Cllr. Keelan requested that a 30 km per hour speed limit be put in place in the Sean Carraig Estate and requested that this be completed before the next MD meeting. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that this will be put in place.
- Cllr. Crowe requested that safety precaution measures be put in place at the ramp across from the Glencarn on the McGrath Road. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that the Engineering staff have examined the issue with the ramp. Works will commence to improve this ramp.
- Cllr. Crowe stated that the crossings at the small roundabout in Castleblayney are dangerous at night and require illumination. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that this will be investigated. He also stated that the new public lighting will also help the issue.
- Cllr. Keelan asked that the MD office contact the owners of Breffni House in Carrickmacross as the building is in a terrible state of repair. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that this will be investigated further. Cllr. O'Hanlon requested the council investigate if purchasing the building is an option with a view to upgrading or rebuilding the property for accommodation. Paul Clifford, Director of Services stated that this will be referred to the Housing Section of Monaghan County Council. Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that it is important to establish the owners of the property before writing to the Housing Section.
- Cllr. Keelan also voiced his dismay that many constituents are finding it difficult to get doctor's appointments in Carrickmacross.
- Cllr. Keelan asked if a response was received from Ulster Bank on the future of the building in Carrickmacross. He stated that it is important to raise the issue of vacant premises in the town. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that correspondence was received regarding the Ulster Bank building. The building will be put on the market in October.
- Cllr. Keelan commended the traffic calming works carried out in Lisdoonan Village and asked if measures can be put in place to stop agricultural vehicles driving onto the verges. The agricultural vehicles are avoiding the speed ramps that have been put in place. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that this issue will be looked at and the addition of bollards will be investigated.
- Cllr. McNally stated that the GP Practice in Carrickmacross is running above capacity. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that correspondence has been sent to the HSE requesting a meeting regarding the Primary Care Unit in Carrickmacross and the MD is currently waiting on a response.
- Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that if no correspondence is received back from the HSE in relation to the Primary Care Unit, a meeting should be requested with the Minister of Health.
- Cathaoirleach McNally enquired why the N53 was resurfaced. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that the TII assessed the road and issues identified during the survey would have deemed resurfacing necessary.
- Gareth McMahan, Co-ordinator stated that a contractor has been appointed to carry out works on the Convent Wall in Carrickmacross and works will begin shortly.

### 3. Correspondence

- **Correspondence received from Evan O'Reilly, RICS Registered Valuer** in relation to the Ulster Bank Branch in Carrickmacross. The property has not yet been brought to market. It is expected to be going to market during October. Cllr. Keelan welcomed this progression.
- **Correspondence received from Paula Smeaton, Private Secretary to Simon Harris, T.D.** regarding the new Primary Healthcare Centre in Carrickmacross. Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that a meeting with the Minister for Health is required.
- **Correspondence received from Denis Naughton T.D., Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment** in relation to the proposal made at the April 2017 meeting of the Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney to amend the regulations that can restrict Local Authorities from using mobile cameras to catch people fly tipping under Data Protection laws.
- **Correspondence received from Alan McGreevey, Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice and Equality** acknowledging receipt of letter dated the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in relation to a proposal made at the September 2017 meeting of the Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney calling on the Government to instigate a Commission of Investigation into the events which led to the death of Carrickmacross man Shane O'Farrell in August 2011, and the subsequent responses of An Garda Síochána, the Courts services and the DPP, as a matter of urgency.

### 4. Consideration of Co-ordinators monthly report

#### Issues Raised Discussed

- Cathaoirleach McNally expressed his dismay that the works at Linear Park have not yet been completed.
- Cathaoirleach McNally asked if the plan for Ivy Lane has been completed. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that the plan will be circulated to the members.
- Cllr. Campbell asked for an update on the Kinnegan Junction. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that this is in progress with TII.
- Cllr. Keelan asked if the contractor procured to carry out the works on the Market Square is local. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that the contractor is from Keady.
- Cllr. Keelan acknowledged all the services on call during Hurricane Ophelia.
- Cllr. O'Hanlon asked if the Roads Programme budget has been depleted. Gareth Mc Mahon, Co-ordinator stated that patching can continue and resurfacing works cannot take place after September as it is weather dependant. He also stated that maintenance work can continue.

### 5. Set date for Roads Area meeting

It was agreed by all to hold the meeting on Monday the 27th November 2017 at 9.30 a.m.

### 6. Report on Works at Drummond-Etra

It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the Roads Area meeting.

## 7. Questions

### **Questions raised by Cllr. Padraig McNally for October 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblaney Municipal District Council:**

1. Will this MD carry out an immediate inspection of the roundabout on the Ballybay road with a view to having it resurfaced as, in my view, is in a dangerous condition especially for cyclists.

**Response:**

Municipal District engineers are currently preparing the 2018 road restoration improvement programme and the Ballybay Road, R180 has been included for consideration by the Elected Members. The Municipal District Office estimates 10km of the regional network will require full structural overlay. Priority will have to be given to these roads in 2018.

2. Has this MD received any clarification regarding the IPB allocation so as to allow work commence on the footpath development on the Drumcondrath Road, Carrickmacross and from Castleblaney to Blackhill GFC.

**Response:**

The Municipal District office has not received approval from the IPB regarding the funding.

3. Has this MD received the final report regarding traffic calming measures on both the Ballybay and Castleblaney Road from Inver College to their respective roundabouts, as promised at our public meeting in August.

**Response:**

The Municipal District is currently procuring consultant engineers to undertake a road safety review of the R180, Ballybay Road from the roundabout to the junction at Inver College and the R 927, Castleblaney Road from the roundabout to south of the pedestrian crossing. When this safety review is completed, its recommendations will be presented to the elected members.

4. Will this Council consider resurfacing the road adjacent to Corduff School, Chapel and GAA grounds as it is in a poor condition.

**Response:**

At present approximately 70km of local roads and 10km of regional roads are rated 1-4 on the pavement management system, requiring full structural overlay. Priority will have to be given to these roads by the Municipal District in 2018. The condition rating survey carried out in early 2017 indicated that this Non-National road LP 4031 is rated in the 5-6 categories and therefore not requiring immediate resurfacing.

### **Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for October 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblaney Municipal District Council:**

5. What is the up to date position on the proposed safety measures for the Dundalk road out of Carrickmacross at the Pearse Avenue section (which include the provision of a pedestrian crossing)?

**Response:**

A Low Cost Safety Improvement application was made to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and this location was included for consideration

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by the Department. No decision regarding the application has been received by the Municipal District Office.

6. Will the Municipal District Executive consider adding a divider (strip of metal, for example) to litter bins that have wide openings to avoid the issue of domestic waste being dumped in public bins?

Response:

The Municipal District Office will consider Cllr Carthy's request, but it may not be practicable to reduce the opening due to the structure of the bins and could lead to injuries to those trying to use the bins.

7. When is it envisaged that work will commence on the Market Square Lace Gallery and Craft shop project?

Response:

The standstill period for the tender process ends on 26<sup>th</sup> October. Work is expected to commence on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

8. Has the OPW confirmed a date for works to start on clearing debris and overgrowth to the Proules River, Carrickmacross?

Response:

The Municipal District Office has written to the OPW seeking confirmation of a start date to remove the debris from the Proules River.

9. Will the engineering section consider adding new signage to the Shercock road, entering Carrickmacross, highlighting the issue of road narrowing to try and avoid further damage to electricity poles along Derryolam?

Response:

The Municipal District Office has written to the ESB seeking to have the existing wooden poles relocated to the back of the footpath. Road narrowing signs will be considered by the District Office, but may be of limited benefit.

**Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for October 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblaney Municipal District Council:**

10. What is the up to-date position in relation to the provision of traffic calming measures at Essexfort junction on the Dundalk to Carrickmacross regional road (R179) and Inniskeen road (LP-4620) given how dangerous this junction is for vehicles in particular large lorries / buses etc. accessing from the Inniskeen road?

Response:

The District Office has reviewed the junction onto the Dundalk Road from Inniskeen Village. There are no plans to carry out works at this junction in 2017. Statistical data provided by Monaghan County Council shows no accidents occurring at the junction in the period 1996 – present.

11. In relation to Lisdoonan Village, what is the up to date position regarding the provision of extra public lighting along the footpath adjacent to the old Hibernian hall & at Lois housing

development given it is Council policy to put in place public lighting where a footpath exists and for obvious safety reasons?

**Response:**

In 2017 two additional lighting columns were installed and fourteen lighting heads were replaced in Lisdoonan Village, funded by Clar Measure 1. Consideration will be given to Cllr Keelan's proposal in 2018, subject to funding and approval from the elected members.

12. What actions, if any, is this Council taking in conjunction with Monaghan County Council and the owners of the industrial sites adjacent to the Council recycling centre to market /attract employment / new business into this area?

**Response:**

Monaghan County Council directs investors to appropriate locations throughout the county. The industrial sites on the Convent Lands are privately owned and those that are for sale are marketed by local auctioneers.

13. What is the up to-date position in relation to the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the junction of the Donaghmoyne road (R179) and Lisanisk road (LT46401) & also will the Council ensure that the trees / vegetation at this junction adjacent to the bridge is cut back as discussed at the September meeting in the interest of road safety?

**Response:**

A Low Cost Safety Improvement application has been submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for a new pedestrian crossing on the R179. No decision regarding the application has been received by the District Office. Vegetation at the junction has been cut back, improving the sightlines.

14. What is the up to-date position in relation to the completion of the public lighting network from Inniskeen village out to the GAA grounds & also what plans has this Council to resurface this stretch of roadway which is in a poor state of repair?

**Response:**

Consideration will be given to Cllr Keelan's proposals in 2018, as funding for road restoration and public lighting are exhausted for 2017.

**Questions raised by Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon for October 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblaney Municipal District Council:**

15. Will the District Office consider putting in Speed Calming Measures on the Ardee Road past Highfield approaching the town to slow down traffic?

**Response:**

The District Office will complete a road safety review on the Ardee Road to determine traffic volumes, accident history and if speeding violations are occurring.

16. Would the District Office consider putting additional public lighting and a footpath in Laragh Village on pedestrian and road traffic safety grounds?

**Response:**

Consideration will be given to Cllr O'Hanlon's proposal in 2018, as funding for public lighting is exhausted for 2017.

## 8. Notice of Motions

- No motions were put forward during the meeting.

## 9. Director of Services Orders

The Directors orders 88/2017 to 93/2017 attached to the agenda were noted.

## 10. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:

- Dermot Finnegan and family on the death of his mother Sylvia Finnegan.
- Eleanor Howell on the death of her husband John Howell

## 11. Any Other Business

- Cllr. O'Hanlon asked for a schedule of works for pedestrian crossings in Carrickmacross.
- Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that a pedestrian crossing is needed at Steadfast Industrial Estate as there is concern for pedestrians crossing the road here. He also stated that immediate attention is required on this matter.
- Cathaoirleach McNally also reiterated the need for safety measures at this junction. He asked that this be made a priority. He requested that Gareth McMahan, Co-ordinator speak to the school authorities and parent committees regarding this issue. Cathaoirleach McNally requested that Gareth McMahan, Co-ordinator investigate previous reports completed on this junction.
- Cllr. Keelan agreed that the junction poses a great danger and that a previous motion was passed to review this junction. He stated that if the council took the Industrial Estate in charge, this would leave the council in a better position.
- Gareth McMahan, Co-ordinator stated that an application has been made for Low Cost Safety Improvements on the R178 (Dundalk Road Drummond Otra).
- Cllr. O'Hanlon proposed that *"a pedestrian crossing be put in place as soon as possible coming down from St. Josephs Primary School over to the footpath on the Dundalk Road. That dialogue takes place with school authorities and Parents Association at BOM meetings"*. This was seconded by Cathaoirleach McNally.
- Cllr. Keelan proposed *"that this MD invites the representatives of Newblaze, the Chinese baby formula Manufacturing Company that have purchased the Bose Factory site. This would be in the public interest"*. This was seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon. It was agreed by all that this will take place nearer the time of the factory opening.
- Cathaoirleach McNally acknowledged the work of all the on call services during Hurricane Ophelia.
- Cathaoirleach McNally stated that some chevron signs on dangerous roads are buried in hedges. He also requested that all road signs are cleaned during the month of November.
- Cathaoirleach McNally requested that traffic calming measures be put in place at O'Rourke's in Carrickmacross.
- Cllr. Keelan raised the issue that the funding from IPB for footpaths has not yet been spent.

Meeting concluded at 12.40pm

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**Cathaoirleach**

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**Meetings Administrator**

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017