

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE,
COBH ON MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER, 2019.**

Present: - Cllrs. P. O'Sullivan, A. Barry, C. Rasmussen, S. Sheppard, S. O'Connor & A. O'Connor.

Officials Present:

Mr. S. O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer
Mr. G. O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer
Ms. C. McDonnell, Cobh Municipal District
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

1. PRESENTATION BY EIRGRID ON CELTIC INTERCONNECTOR:

Mr. G. Nolan, Project Manager for Eirgrid made a presentation to the members on the progress of the Interconnector project. He stated that the project was on target to apply for planning permission in 2020, with construction due to start in 2023 and a proposed completion date of 2026. There had been no change to the shortlist for the proposed converter station, however a final location had yet to be decided on for both the converter station and the landfall location, it was hoped that these locations would be finalised in the next 6-8 weeks. Cllr. A. Barry requested that a full copy of the presentation be forwarded to the members as there had been a copying error. Cllr. Barry also enquired as to whether the results of tests for noise would be available to the public. Mr. Nolan stated that it was anticipated that noise levels could be mitigated by the design. Cllr. A. O'Connor enquired as to how many people would be employed when the works were finished, Mr. Nolan stated that the facility would require very few people to operate and that any boost in employment would be generated during the construction phase. Cllr. O'Sullivan stated that the residents of Knockraha, Leamlara and surrounding areas already had concerns and issues with works carried out by the ESB and there had already been considerable disruption in the area, in his opinion the best location for the converter was at the old Amgen site, where there was easy access to the road network and the proposed greenway. Cllr. O'Sullivan enquired as to what the community gain might be for the project. Mr. Nolan replied that a fund had

been made available during the construction of the East/West Connector previously and expected something of a similar nature for this project.

The presentation team then withdrew.

2. **DEIMHNIÚ MIONTUAIRISCÍ:**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor the Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2019 were adopted.

3. **MATTERS ARISING:**

Port of Cork: P. Lynch stated that a meeting had been organised with the Port of Cork for Saturday 26th October, on board a liner due in Cobh, the members were reminded to supply details of their passports prior to the meeting.

Cross River Ferry: G. O'Hora stated that he had been in contact with the Roads Design Office and asked them to examine the R624 entrance to the car ferry with a view to slowing traffic speeds, however any road layout redesign or traffic calming measures would be subject to funding.

Cobh Road Crossings: G. O'Hora stated that a number of new signs had been purchased, including one for near Cobh Cathedral; the signs would be put up shortly. He stated that he was examining a pedestrian crossing for the Small's Well area, and was seeking funding for crossing under the Low Cost Safety Scheme 2020 programme. Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to the costs involved in a simple pedestrian crossing with painted lines. G. O'Hora stated the average cost for an uncontrolled road crossing was €6,000 (Approx) versus a fully controlled crossing i.e. lighted pedestrian crossing which cost in the region of €25,000. The members agreed to forward a list of proposed locations for uncontrolled crossing, which would be considered by the engineering team, following the necessary surveys, for tentative inclusion in next years' footpath programme, subject to funding.

West View Trees: G. O'Hora stated that he tried to identify if the land in question was in public or private ownership and was unable to do so. He stated that none of the trees appeared to be very old and he would cost the removal or trimming of the trees and revert. Cllr. O'Connor stated that the last time there was an incident at this location; the works were carried out by Cobh Town Council. P. Lynch stated that on that occasion funding had been provided by the Department under the Cobh Landslide programme in response to an immediate threat to public safety. He reminded the members that the only funding available to the Cobh Municipal District to carry out any proposed works was the General Municipal Allocation which would have any impact on the amount of funds available to the Amenity Grant Scheme.

Carrigaloe:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the hedges near Carrigaloe were being cut back this week and he was endeavouring to get reimbursement from Irish Rail for the works which were carried out in the interest of public safety.

Whitechurch: G. O'Hora stated that he would have the results of a traffic survey carried out at Whitechurch and Carrignavar for the next Council meeting.

Ballard, Cobh: G. O'Hora stated that the hedge cutting at this location was listed to be cut shortly.

Belvelly Traffic Survey: G. O'Hora stated that the Roads Design Office was dealing with this and he hoped to have an update for the December meeting.

Resurfacing at Ballard Hill: G. O'Hora stated he was monitoring the works and was not happy with the reinstatement at several locations and would be contacting Irish Water in relation to same.

Carrig House, Cobh: G. O'Hora stated that the works had been carried out.

Belvelly Castle: G. O'Hora stated that the works had been carried out.

Kilcoolishal: G. O'Hora confirmed that the repairs had been carried out.

Windsor Hill: G. O'Hora stated that the repairs had been carried out.

Little Island Bollards: G. O'Hora stated that having examined the area, he was not in favour of bollards at this location but would recommend the provision of yellow lines.

Dark Road, Dunkettle: G. O'Hora confirmed that some lining had been carried out at the junction and reflective bollards put up.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** P. Lynch stated that no correspondence had been received.

5. **OFFICER'S REPORT:** There were no officers reports to present.

6. **CONSIDERATION OF SECTION 38 PROPOSALS FOR TRAFFIC CALMING WORKS AT MAIN STREET, CARRIGTWOHILL.**

G. O'Hora presented a proposal for traffic calming measures in Carrigtwohill stating that there were two possibilities to obtaining this objective; by narrowing the footpath or the proposal in front of the members which was for a raised platform and an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing. The next step, with the members approval, would involve public consultation and he hoped to have a summary of any submissions received by the next meeting. Cllr. Barry

welcomed the proposals stating that traffic calming measure had been sought for the Carrigtwohill Main Street for some time. Cllr. A. O'Connor queried if traffic would still be obliged to stop, even in the absence of lights and what type of signage would be installed. The engineers confirmed that traffic would be obliged to stop and standard road safety signage was to be put up. On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, it was agreed to advertise the public consultation process.

7. **TOWN DEVELOPMENT FUND 2019**

P. Lynch stated that there was a total of €10,500 still to be allocated under the Town Development Fund for 2019, there were two proposals before the members, additional Christmas lights for Carrigtwohill and upgrading the planting scheme on the Five Foot Way in Cobh. He stated that as the exact location of works by Irish Water at the Five Foot Way had not yet been determined it may be counterproductive to carry out improved planting at this location. Cllr. C. Rasmussen proposed that the funds be allocated subject to final clarification of the Irish Water works. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry it was agreed to allocate €6,500 for the Cobh improvement works and €4,000 to Carrigtwohill for lights. Cllr. P. O'Sullivan stated that he felt that the Town Development Fund was discriminatory in that excluded many areas of the Municipal District.

8. **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER'S REPORT:**

P. Lynch circulated copies of the Municipal Officer's report which detailed the number of grant claims to date under the General Municipal Allocation and the Town Development Fund.

Four communities within the district took part in the annual Tidy Towns awards and all improved on last year's marks. Cllr. Rasmussen requested that a letter of congratulations be sent to each committee, Cllr. Sheppard proposed a civic reception for the committees to acknowledge the work of the volunteers and to highlight the good working relationship between the Tidy Towns committees and the Council. Cllr. O'Sullivan suggested that an additional financial contribution be made to the committees, in addition to a certificate of congratulation. Cllr. Barry stated that considerable financial support was already given to each Tidy Towns committee. P. Lynch reminded members that the only discretionary funding available to them was the GMA; any diminution of this fund would impact what was available to local groups under the amenity grant scheme.

Cllr. S. Sheppard queried how the Casual Trading byelaws worked and if it were possible for a person who had a casual trading licence to also trade in the promenade on liner days. Cllr. S. O'Connor queried the days on which casual trading was allowed and the number of spaces available. P. Lynch explained that under GDPR regulations he could not give out details of the Casual trading licence holders however the days, times and location of their licence were specified in it, this licence did not confer a right to trade anywhere else in the town and the Gardaí were entitled to inspect same. The Parks Use Policy

governed trading/activities in the Promenade and a licence for commercial activity was given to a specified group or organisation and they in turn oversaw the individual traders.

9. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:

“That this municipal would make the draft streetscape plan for the town of Cobh available for discussion with the relevant stake holders and public alike as a matter of urgency now that the works have commenced on the drainage scheme and that consideration be given to whether we should proceed with the plan or just make minor changes to the paths in the town centre owing to the further disruption that it will cause to the public and businesses in the town. Also consideration now needs to be given to possibly diverting monies from the scheme to change the footpath in Harbour Row which would help the flow of traffic in the town as a whole.”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that at this stage it was imperative to see the Draft Plan and start talking to the various stakeholders, considerable disruption was due to occur along the town and would remain for the best part of four years. He understood that there was a €1m ‘kitty’ for the streetscape but was fully aware that this was not sufficient to fund this ambitious project and perhaps it was time to reflect on where this money should be spent to provide the best return for the town as a whole. Cllr. Rasmussen reiterated his opinion that narrowing the footpath at Harbour Row would provide a better flow of traffic for the whole town. Cllr. Sheppard agreed with the sentiments put forward and stated that the local business most affected by the works relied on tourism and locals to stay in business, she emphasised that communication between all the various stakeholders was key to the success of the project and keeping local businesses going. Cllr. Sheppard also requested that plans for ducting in the Top of the Hill would not be forgotten. Cllr. S. O’Connor stated that the footpaths throughout the town were in terrible condition and should be restored to a presentable standard.

S. O’Callaghan stated that he had discussed the situation with the Architects department who had been in discussion with Irish Water to try and ‘piggy back’ some of the works onto their proposed works. He stated that a fund of approximately €200,000 was available in the Cobh Municipal District for streetscape projects and the Council has committed a further €800,000 for the for the Cobh public realm works and agreed with Cllr. Rasmussen that this would not be sufficient for the entire project. The Council had also applied under Urban Regeneration Programme to fund some works. The Councils’ Capital Project team were already working on this and a Part 8 process would be required, similar projects had been carried out successfully in Clonakilty and Midleton, the project was not just about footpaths but the overall visitor flow. He proposed that the members meet in committee with the Architects department and look at perhaps extending the scope of the project from Harbour Row to the Heritage Centre. At present the only funding available under the Urban Regeneration Fund provided for bringing the project through the design phase, by the time that process had been completed, funding would be in place

for the construction phase and the Irish Water works would have been completed. He stated that a fund of approximately €1 million was available for Cobh streetscape works and agreed with Cllr. Rasmussen that this would not be sufficient for the entire project.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. Sheppard, it was agreed to meet with the Architects department in committee to discuss the above.

10. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:

“That this municipal would look at putting traffic calming measures and or signs in sections of Ballymore near the church and also in the area near Marlogue Woods to help reduce the speed of motorists.”

Cllr. Rasmussen requested more signage in the area, particular in the vicinity of the school. G. O’Hora responded that motorists’ speeding was an enforcement issue and a matter for the Gardaí. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard it was agreed that G. O’Hora would investigate the possibility of erecting repeater speed limit signs for this location.

11. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Padraig O’Sullivan:

“That this MD would write to the IDA and remind them of their duty of care regarding Wallingstown Castle and the grounds surrounding it which are in a terrible condition.”

Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated that he had written to the IDA on a number of occasions regarding the condition of the castle; however when they eventually responded they did nothing to protect the structure but only fenced the area off. On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed to write to the IDA requesting that a local committee take over responsibility for the structure.

12. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Padraig O’Sullivan:

“That the Area Office would carry out repairs to footpaths in the Highlands Glounthaune some of which are in need of urgent attention.”

Cllr. O’Sullivan stated that a number of the residents in the area were elderly and the condition of the footpaths was a matter for concern. G. O’Hora stated that some repairs had been carried out in the area and would include the area in next year’s footpath programme.

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that the engineer would include the area in next year’s footpath programme.

13. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Pádraig O'Sullivan:

"That the area marked X on map provided to engineer (Watergrasshill area) be tidied up and secured by Cork County Council."

Cllr. O'Sullivan enquired as to whether it was possible to put up boulders or some other barrier in the area.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry it was agreed that the engineer would explore the options available to the Council.

14. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:

"That this Municipal District would support a planned media campaign for the duration of the drainage works in the town of Cobh to help promote Cobh as a town open for business and would also consider a possible park and ride suggestion to ensure that the businesses remain open."

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired whether it was possible to support the Chamber in their media campaign, however he had no costings available to present to the members. S. O'Callaghan asked if the issue had been raised with Irish Water.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that Cllr. Rasmussen would discuss contacting Irish Water for funding with the Chamber.

15. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sean O'Connor:

"That the Ballywilliam Road lower section be widened by the drain being piped and the ditch be removed."

Cllr. O'Connor stated that a section of the footpath in the area ended in a ditch and that there was room further down the road to provide a footpath if the drain was covered over and the ditch removed. G. O'Hora stated that he had examined the area and the land that was being discussed was private land.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that the engineer would arrange to have the hedge cut back.

16. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sean O'Connor:

"That the Breakwater at the Camber (East) be restored. Breakwater damaged by Council pipelaying."

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed that P. Lynch would contact Coastal Management in relation to this matter.

17. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Alan O'Connor:

"That an assessment be made of measures which might be taken to address the safety concerns of vulnerable road users on the section of the the L-3617-0 between Fota Rock and the L-7642-0 (hedgy boreen) in Carrigtwohill."

Cllr. A. O'Connor expressed concern at the speed limits in place near Fota Rock, which rose from 50K to 80K between there and the Hedgy Boreen. G. O'Hora explained that a speed limit review was carried out every 3 years, the last one had taken place in 2018.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that the engineer would erect more road safety signage in the area, speed limit change would be pending the next speed limit review.

18. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Alan O'Connor:

"That this municipal district write to the Environmental Protection Agency to request a report of their plans with respect to the installation of additional air quality monitoring stations in the municipal district so that compliance with air pollution limits may be measured, in recognition of this year's ruling by the Court of Justice of the European Union (case C-723/17) that monitoring stations be sited so as to minimise the danger that air pollution values in excess of limits would go unnoticed."

P. Lynch circulated a response received from the Environment department to Cllr. A. O'Connor's motion. Mr. T. O'Leary, Cork County Council advised that in addition to requesting a written report on the above motion, the matter will be raised with the Environment SPC members at the next committee meeting and included on the agenda for any future meeting with the EPA, in accordance with a motion debated recently at full Council requesting a meeting with the EPA to discuss air quality monitoring.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the above plan of action was approved.

19. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry

"That this council write to the Garda Commissioner asking him to reinstate the Garda staffing levels in the Carrigtwohill station."

Cllr. A. Barry stated that Carrigtwohill now had a population in excess of 5,000 in the town and more in the immediate hinterland, however the staffing levels in the Garda station had been reduced.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen it was agreed to write to the Garda Commissioner.

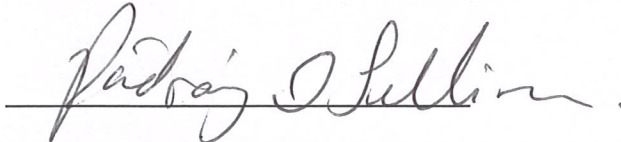
20. Any Other Business/Aon Ghnó Eile.

- 20.1 **Cobh Connect Bus Stops** – Cllr. Rasmussen queried whether there had been any update on same. G. O’Hora stated that he had travelled the route with the fleet manager of Cobh Connect to discuss the proposed locations of the additional bus stops, in both cases the Council would need to discuss the access etc. with the landowners and requested the members assistance with same. G. O’Hora confirmed that in view of the current road closures, the stop at Park Road would also need to be re-examined.
- 20.2 **Whitepoint** – Cllr. Rasmussen stated that buses are mounting the footpath at Whitepoint and some sort of barrier is required, the footpath is also in need of repair. Engineer to examine.
- 20.3 **1916 Committee** – Cllr. Rasmussen stated that a member of the committee had contacted him seeking additional funding for signage. P. Lynch stated that it had been agreed to supply a sign for the 1916 Garden, the sign was ordered and the committee would supply the information to be displayed.
- 20.4 **Belvelly** – Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the overgrowth near the bridge needed to be cut back and the residents had enquired if they did a cleanup of the strand, would the rubbish be collected by the council. Engineer confirmed rubbish bag’s would be supplied by CCC for the cleanup and rubbish bags would be collected by CCC staff.
- 20.5 **Bishops Road** – Cllr. Rasmussen stated that people were taking photographs of the Cathedral from the Bishops Road and scaling a wall to do so, he enquired whether it was possible to put a ‘peephole’ in the wall. The engineer replied the wall in question was private property.
- 20.6 **4 East Beach, Cobh** – Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to the up to date position on this dangerous structure. P. Lynch replied that a notice was due to be served on the owner this week.
- 20.7 **O’Donovans Place, Cobh** – Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the footpath near the grotto needed repair. Engineer confirmed footpath would be listed for repair.
- 20.8 **College Manor, Cobh** – Cllr. S. Sheppard enquired whether it was possible to install a pedestrian crossing near the crèche. Engineer to examine.

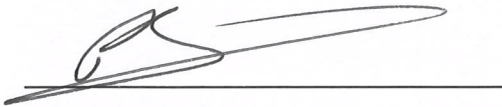
- 20.9 **Springfield Park, Cobh** – Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the laneway at Springfield Park was full of rubbish and needed to be cleared. Engineer to examine if lane way is private or public.
- 20.10 **Ballywilliam, Cobh** – Cllr. S. Sheppard asked if there was a timeframe in place for the footpath at Ballywilliam? R. O’Sullivan replied that new footpath was scheduled for early next year.
- 20.11 **Civic Reception** – On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. O’Sullivan it was agreed that a civic reception be accorded to the volunteers from Glounthaune Community Association, Glounthaune Men’s Shed and Birdwatch Ireland who had carried out so much work on developing Harpers Island.
- 20.12 **Carrigtwohill** – Cllr. A. Barry enquired again about the traffic warden patrolling Carrigtwohill, as the double yellow lines were continually being flouted and the Community Council were in favour of enforcement of illegal parking. S. O’Callaghan stated that the issue had been raised at the Southern Committee meeting and it had been agreed that the traffic warden would enforce illegal parking on a trial basis.
- 20.13 **Station Road, Carrigtwohill** – Cllr. Barry stated that the hedge on Station Road needed to be cut back. Engineer to examine.
- 20.14 **Anns Grove Road/Carrigane Road, Carrigtwohill** – Cllr. Barry enquired as to when the sign, part purchased by the Community Council, would be put up? G. O’Hora stated that he hoped to put up two driver feedback signs shortly.
- 20.15 **Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill** – Cllr. A. O’Connor stated that this estate had been taken in charge and was it possible to put a pedestrian access in the boundary wall, as people were climbing over it to access the train station. Cllr. O’Connor was advised to contact the Estates section of Cork County Council.
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- 20.16 **Little Island** – Cllr. P. O’Sullivan enquired when the two caravans abandoned near Little Island Bridge would be removed.
- 20.17 **Killavallig, Carrignavar** – Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated that the link road was full of potholes. Engineer confirmed road was listed to be repaired shortly.
- 20.18 **Glounthaune/Caherlag** – Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated that the hedges in the area between Glounthaune and Caherlag needed to be cut back. Engineer confirmed road hedges on private land and would write to the landowners requesting hedges to be cut.

- 20.19 **Glounthaune** – Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated that he wished to express thanks, on behalf of the residents, to Cork County Council for the purchase of the green are.
- 20.21 **Dunkettle to Carrigtwohill** – Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated that business owners along the proposed greenway route between Dunkettle and Carrigtwohill wanted to meet the members to discuss concerns they have in relation to same before the November meeting. P. Lynch to arrange.

This concluded the business of the meeting.



CATHAOIRLEACH



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER