

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH ON TUESDAY 10th July, 2018.

Present: Councillors G. Keohane, C. Rasmussen, A. Barry, K. McCarthy, S. Sheppard, D. Ó'Cadhlá & Cllr P. O'Sullivan.

Officials Present: Mr. P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer
Mr. R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

Apologies were received from Mr. S. O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer and Mr. G. O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer.

In attendance: Peter O'Donoghue and Niall O'Callaghan, Traffic & Transportation Section; Brian Burke, Arup Consulting Engineers

1. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. G. Keohane, standing orders were suspended in order to listen to presentations on the Little Island Capacity Improvement Works and the Dunkettle Cycle Path.

a. Little Island Traffic Capacity Improvements:

Brian Burke presented an update of the Little Island Traffic Capacity Improvement works. Concerns had been expressed at the planning stage by Councillors regarding pedestrian safety on the bridge and suggested that a raised kerb or railing was required. The design team had investigated these possibilities and ruled both out on the basis that the consultants were obliged to take design standards into consideration; however it is proposed to widen the footpath. In conjunction with the above, it is also proposed to address traffic on the Glounthaune Road where it intersects with the bridge accessing Little Island. It is hoped that these improvements works will improve access to Little Island, reduce speed on the road and improve pedestrian access between Rockgrove Industrial Estate and the train station.

The members broadly welcomed the proposals while still expressing concern about pedestrian and cyclist safety, particularly in view of the fact that cyclists would not be allowed to use the footpath over the bridge. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that none of the suggestions made by the members in relation to the safety concerns of pedestrians had been taken on board by the Council. Peter O'Donoghue stated that Arup were required to comply with current design standards in designing the proposed works. He also stated that the footpath was similar to other footpaths servicing similar roads. In reply to a query in relation to liability in case of accidents, he stated that the Council would have the same level of responsibility as with any other footpath in the County.

b. Dunkettle Cycle Path:

The proposal is for a shared facility between pedestrians and cyclists to allow for the safe negotiation of the Dunkettle Roundabout. The members raised a number of

concerns on behalf of residents in the area which included signage to prevent parking in the cul-de-sac and the installation of preventative measures to ensure that only pedestrians and cyclists had access to the cycle path. In reply to the queries raised, Niall O'Callaghan confirmed that the contractor appointed to carry out the works would be asked to cut back the grass verge adjacent to the cul-de-sac and that the residents could then maintain the area. He also stated that the LIHAF scheme for the Glanmire Roads project would deal with the issue of the safe crossing of this road by cyclists and that access to larger vehicles would be restricted to ensure that only cyclists could access the route. He agreed to look at the issue of putting up no parking signs in the area as well.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. G. Keohane, it was agreed to recommend the Part 8 for the Dunkettle Cycle Path to full Council

2. ELECTION OF CATHAOIRLEACH:

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Ó'Cadhlá, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, Cllr G. Keohane was elected Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Keohane then took the chair.

3. ELECTION OF LEAS- CATHAOIRLEACH:

1. Cllr. C. Rasmussen was proposed for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach by Cllr. A. Barry and seconded by Cllr. P. O'Sullivan.
2. Cllr. D. O'Cadhlá was proposed for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach by Cllr. G. Keohane and seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy.

Cllr. O'Cadhlá requested permission from the members to speak, before a vote could be taken, Cllr. O'Cadhlá in the course of his remarks requested that Cllr. Rasmussen withdraw his name from the contest. Following a discussion among the members, Cllr. Rasmussen requested time to consider his position and requested that the decision on electing the Leas-Cathaoirleach be postponed until the end of the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Cobh Connect Bus Stop:

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that the bus stop had been moved. Cllr. Sheppard enquired as to how locations are chosen for additional stops, the engineer advised that the company should be approached initially. Several councillors expressed concern at the dangers inherent in the new location. R. O'Sullivan stated that this was the best location that could be identified to serve the large population in the neighbouring estate and that the company were amenable to keeping the location under review.

College Manor & Potholes in Cobh:

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that no extra funding had been made available to date, however that some works would be carried out subject to the funding available.

Public Lighting Programme 2018:

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that the majority of the works had been carried out at the rear of the Cathedral car park.

Temporary CCTV:

P. Lynch stated that the Environment Department had monitored the location and advised that the numbers of complaints were too low to justify the setting up of the temporary CCTV equipment but that they would continue to review the situation.

Family Resource Centre, Carrigtwohill:

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that the road lining had been carried out.

Cobh Playground:

R. O'Sullivan stated that the gates of the playground were self closing and that as an anti-bullying measure a lock would not be installed. The members expressed continued concern for children exiting the playground. Cllr. Sheppard enquired as to whether it would be possible to extend the mesh covering the railing all along the Five Foot Way as it was very open and dangerous. Cllr. Rasmussen raised concerns about the cost of such a venture.

Five Foot Way, Cobh:

P. Lynch stated that he had received a reply from Donal Óg Cusack in relation to the opening of the outdoor gym, the week beginning 16th July would suit him best.

The Meadows, Glanmire:

R. O'Sullivan stated that a speed survey was being carried out at this location and when this was completed traffic calming measures would be reviewed.

Inis Alainn, Cobh:

R. O'Sullivan stated that a survey was due to be carried out at this location.

Blossomgrove:

R. O'Sullivan stated that the works had been completed at this location.

West End, Carrigtwohill:

R. O'Sullivan stated that the footpath in this area have been listed for works and was scheduled to begin in August.

Ticknock Road, Cobh:

R. O'Sullivan is liaising with the Water Distribution section of Cork County Council in relation to this matter and also following up with Irish Water.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

P. Lynch stated that letters had been sent to both South Doc and the HSE, but no reply had been received to date.

Rushbrooke Rowing Club:

P. Lynch stated that a letter had been received from Rushbrooke Rowing Club seeking funding for the Irish Coastal Rowing Championships to be held at Farran Woods in

August. P. Lynch reminded the members that Rushbrooke Rowing Club had already received a grant in the sum of €2,500 and that all funding available had been allocated under this scheme. Cllr. Sheppard asked if any of the clubs or organisations had refused or failed to take up an offer of funding and if therefore there was leeway to provide additional funding to Rushbrooke Rowing Club. Several councillors queried what benefit a competition taking place in Farran was to the Cobh Municipal District and suggested that Rushbrooke Rowing Club should apply to County Hall for funding. Cllr. Rasmussen replied that the competition was taking place in Farran due to the busyness of the waterways in Cobh at that time of year. P. Lynch stated that it would be sometime before he was in a position to state what funds would not be availed of, in the meantime he suggested that the members allow the club to transfer the grant they have already received to fund the Championships and see what additional funds were available later in the year. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy it was agreed to reallocate the monies already granted to Rushbrooke Rowing Club to fund the Rowing Championships and re-visit funding for the club later in the year.

6. OFFICERS' REPORTS:

1. Spike Island Report:

P. Lynch circulated a report on Spike Island visitor numbers for 2017 and 2018, showing an increase in visitor numbers of 81% to the end of June, however it is unlikely that there will be any increase in the July and August figures as the ferry was working at almost maximum capacity during those months in 2017. A number of additional projects have also been introduced during 2018 to enhance the visitor experience. Cllr. Barry stated that the ferry capacity was a limiting factor and enquired as to when a second ferry would be coming on stream. P. Lynch replied that the company were working hard to secure an additional ferry but that this was proving difficult however the ferry tender which was due for renewal next year will be dependent on being able to overcome the capacity issue. Cllr. Rasmussen welcomed the increase in visitors and enquired whether the pontoon to be installed at Kennedy Pier would be for the exclusive use of the Spike Island ferry or could others users be accommodated. P. Lynch replied that the Spike Island ferry was guaranteed a berth but that it would be open to other users with the agreement of the Port of Cork. Cllr. McCarthy stated that the issue of ferry capacity was flagged over two years ago and queried why the operator has not dealt with this issue to date. Cllr. Sheppard stated that these figures should be used to seek additional funding for the road infrastructure for Cobh.

2. Haulbowline East Tip Project:

P. Lynch stated that he had been contacted by a member of the team for the above project, who wanted to interview the Cathaoirleach for a video on the process. Cllr. G. Keohane to consider.

P. Lynch stated that a joint meeting of the East Cork and Cobh Municipal Districts would take place on 24th July to discuss Water Rock and also that a visit to Passage West has been arranged with Irish Water to discuss the works ongoing there and how the proposed works would impact Cobh town centre. Members advised that they had already been invited to a meeting in Passage West and that there may not

be a requirement for a second site visit. Members agreed to contact P. Lynch if there was a requirement for a further visit.

7. MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER REPORT:

P. Lynch presented the M.D.O. report for July. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to allow Cobh Wanderers AFC to change their allocated Amenity Grant in the sum of €2,500 for the provision of a carpark to flooring for the dressing rooms.

Cobh Summer Swing sought permission to change their allocated grant of €3,000 for events in the Promenade to purchasing a marquee. P. Lynch is to seek clarification from the organisers in relation to this as the members understood that separate funding had been sourced by Cobh Summer Swing for the purchase of the marquee.

World War 1 Heritage Trail – P. Lynch wished to thank the Benedictine Sisters for allowing the launch of the above trail at the Priory.

Camper Van Facility – P. Lynch outlined that the facility was being monitored by the traffic warden on a regular bases and in response to members queries, confirmed that fines had been issued for non-display of tickets.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme – Glounthaune Tidy Towns Committee submitted a proposal for the development of nature trail/amenity walk, which was not successful under this scheme, but is now being considered under a different scheme.

Carrigtwohill Community Council’s proposal for a new market space and additional car parking spaces was successful.

Licences – P. Lynch stated that a total of 21 licences had been issued across various categories, which included casual trading and for using the promenade. Cllr. Sheppard requested a list of all licences issued, if this were possible under data protection rules.

8. REGULATION OF BUSKING IN COBH TOWN CENTRE:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that he had put some notes together on the proposal to regulate busking in Cobh and had also obtained a copy of byelaws from Galway County Council and would circulate same to the members and officials.

9. HOUSING REPORT FOR COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT:

The above report was marked as read.

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

“That this municipal district decide on a course of action to deal with the numerous sections of road in Cobh in a poor state, all of which have been identified but which have not been fixed, as roads could be closed this winter if they are not surfaced”

Cllr. Rasmussen outlined the areas involved were Ballyleary, Spy Hill, Ahern Place and College Manor. The engineer replied that he had met the contractor for the above works and a price was to be submitted. The motion was proposed by Cllr. C. Rasmussen and seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard.

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

“Can a complete list of dog fouling bins in the Cobh area be identified and published and can we agree on locating more in areas that are not catered for in an effort to help prevent dog fouling”

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard it was agreed that the engineer would supply a list of locations of dog fouling bins.

12. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Ger Keohane:

“That this Municipal contact the owners of the John Barleycorn site and ask them to make safe the dangerous trees and clean up the area”

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Sullivan it was agreed that the engineer would examine the site.

13. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Ger Keohane:

“That this Municipal put two speed ramps within the Oakfield estate in Glanmire along the main road within the estate (Oakfield Avenue outside number 25 and next to green area)”

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Sullivan it was agreed that the engineer would examine.

14. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Ger Keohane:

“That this Municipal clear the road drains within the Brookville estate Glanmire”

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Sullivan it was agreed that the engineer would list this area for works.

15. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Pdraig O’Sullivan:

“Given the development planned for the Glounthaune area that the area Engineer undertake an assessment at Forge Cross and Killahora Cross and take measures to improve road safety at both”

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry it was agreed that the engineer would investigate road safety improvements.

16. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Pdraig O’Sullivan:

“That the Director of Roads would outline the agreement that exists between Cork City and County Council pertaining to the road within Harbour Point Business Park and that

the envisaged timeline for completion of same would be detailed to the members of this Municipal District”

Cllr. O’Sullivan stated that some potholes had been filled but that the road was in a particularly bad state. On the proposal of Cllr P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that P. Lynch would write to the Director of Roads.

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

“That the Area Engineer would consider formalising the existing uncontrolled pedestrian crossing at the entrance to the Marwood Housing estate in Glanmire”

Cllr. O’Sullivan outlined that this area was not part of the LIHAF proposal and it was a very built up area. On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. G. Keohane it was agreed that the engineer would investigate.

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

“That this municipal district request that the limits that apply to qualify for social housing in Cork City be extended to the Cobh municipal district”

Cllr. Barry explained that applicants for Social Housing can earn €5,000 more in the city than those in the county and still qualify. He stated that the whole of County Cork was treated as one unit and this did not allow for the diversity within and across the County. On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard it was agreed to forward this motion to full Council.

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

“Due to the large number of traffic accidents in the Annsgrrove area of Carrigtwohill recently could speed control measures be introduced to protect residents and those using the road”

Cllr. Barry stated that more signage was need in this location. On the proposal of Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. O’Sullivan, it was agreed that the engineer would examine this area in relation to road safety improvements.

20. Any Other Business/Aon Ghnó Eile.

20.1 Litter Warden:

Cllr. S. Sheppard enquired as to whether the current traffic warden was able to issue litter fines outside of the old Cobh Town Council area. P. Lynch confirmed that this was the case and that he would raise it with the Municipal District Operations Manager to see if something could be done, as any new Litter Warden was able to operate in the 50Km zone surrounding a town.

20.2 Joe Reid Place, Cobh:

Cllr. K. McCarthy raised the issue of the footpaths in this area. The engineer confirmed that it was a list of works.

20.3 Little Island:

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan raised the issue of potholes outside the old Mitsui Denman Plant in Little Island. Engineer to examine.

20.4 Elmwood Grove, Cobh:

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan stated that a wheelchair user in this estate was experiencing difficulties. Engineer to examine.

20.5 Drains

P. O'Sullivan raised the issue of a number of drains:

1. Castleview, Little Island
2. Barrymore, Glanmire
3. Thornbury, Glounthaune
4. The Crescent, Spring opposite no. 8

Engineer to examine.

20.6 Kilcoolishal:

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan stated that the Tidy Towns needed to have a gap in the fencing opened back up. Engineer to arrange.

20.7 Battery Strand, Cobh:

Cllr. O'Cadhla stated that the residents are concerned that access to the strand has been recently closed off by a locked gate. P. Lynch stated that the access has been closed off for over four years, it had been taken on health and safety grounds when he was Town Clerk, the area was very dangerous and there were no funds available to undertake repairs.

20.8 Camber, Cobh:

Cllr. O'Cadhla stated that the bottom platform adjacent to the Camber had disintegrated and was in a dangerous condition. Cllr. K. McCarthy advised that this was a matter for the Port of Cork.

20.9 Barryscourt, Carrigwohill:

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the usual 5K road race was to take place in the Barryscourt area soon and that there was a pothole in the area. Engineer to examine.

20.10 Tay Road, Cobh:

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the hedge on the ferry side of the Tay Road needs to be cut back. The engineer stated that a contractor was due to start the following week.

20.11 Coláiste na Piarsigh, Glanmire:

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that there was a very large pothole near the traffic lights outside the school. Engineer to examine.

20.12 Brookville, Glanmire:

Cllr. G. Keohane stated that the footpaths were in a very bad state near Brookville Estate, Glanmire. Engineer to examine.

20.13 Oakfield, Glanmire:

Cllr. G. Keohane stated that there was a derelict site at Oakfield, Glanmire. Engineer to examine.

20.14 F.A.I. Complex:

Cllr. G. Keohane wants a progress report on the F.A.I complex to be developed at Glanmire.

21. ELECTION OF LEAS- CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that after much careful consideration, he had decided to withdraw his name from the election. Accordingly on the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, Cllr. D. O’Cadhla was elected Leas-Cathaoirleach.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.