

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 17th January 2017**

**In Attendance:** Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Ian Doyle, Noel McCarthy, June Murphy, Deirdre O' Brien, Frank O' Flynn; Brendan O' Gorman SEE, Pauline Moriarty MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO.

**Apologies:** Mary Hayes SEO

**1. MINUTES:**

**(1) Minutes of Fermoy Municipal District meeting held on 20th December 2016.**

The Minutes were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien.

**2. DECLARATION OF ROAD TO BE A PUBLIC ROAD**

“That, being satisfied that a public right of way exists over it, and the road is of general public utility, and up to the required standard, the Council hereby decides to initiate the procedure to take over and maintain the following road” -

*Road description: Laneway to the east off Thomas Street, Mitchelstown L-1432.*

*Linear Length: 63 metres*

The Members noted the documentation and maps submitted in relation to this proposal, and it was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

**3. 2017 COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEMES**

The Application Forms, Guidelines and a copy of the (draft) advertisement for the Community Fund Schemes 2017 were circulated to the Members for their information and download, if required, to pass on to any interested groups. Pauline Moriarty MDO advised that the closing date for applications, which will be strictly observed this year, is 17th February 2017. Cllr. Noel McCarthy enquired if these grants could be advertised again, to which Pauline replied all previous recipients will be emailed and contact will be ongoing. She highlighted that applications for annual items will need to be submitted. It is planned to have the applications for consideration on the March agenda and the Members will be kept updated.

**4. 2017 VILLAGE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME**

Pauline Moriarty MDO informed the Members that this is a new funding stream for Fermoy MD with an allocation of €62,500. Pauline welcomes the Member's proposals for potential village projects under this scheme. She went on to tell them that she and Brendan had considered the potential of this funding and were recommending a distribution across the district to a number of already proposed projects. It is envisaged this programme will be dovetailed with the footpath and public lighting programmes to do works as cohesively as practicable. This funding could also potentially enable a 'kickstart' for communities who may not have engaged, to date, with the MD or formulated plans for improvements in their villages.

Concerns raised included Cllr. Kay Dawson identifying the need to nurture the lesser involved communities and ensuring they get the opportunity to benefit, and also to highlight that this funding is separate from the Community Grant Scheme; and Cllr. June Murphy stating she thinks proposed projects need to be evaluated as much for their social impact as for their visual amenity, particularly in areas where there is a high number of younger residents. Brendan responded to this suggestion saying these broader issues would be more suited for consideration by the LECP and Pauline undertook to check the status of the current LECP.

The list of proposed allocations will be on the March agenda for the Members consideration. All the Members welcomed this funding.

## **5. 2016 TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME**

### **Proposed refurbishment works at Abbey Street, Fermoy.**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the proposals for works to be carried out at Abbey Street, Fermoy, referencing the set of drawings circulated to the Members. He informed the Members that the 2017 Painting Scheme will be incorporated into this project and that the funding is in place with €50k from Blackwater Leader and €25k from the Fermoy MD Town Development Fund available to 'bring this project home'. This project is the precursor to a larger proposal for the Pearse Square area in Fermoy which will be before the Members for consideration later in the year, before going for Part VIII public consultation.

The potential 'street market' (casual trading) feature in Abbey Street will, upon completion, be subject to the forthcoming By-Laws. This street enhancement will serve as a well-presented link between McCurtain Street and Ashe Quay, with its Tourist Office and riverside walk amenity. Brendan answered any queries the Members had and the Members, in turn, welcomed the proposal and expressed their delight at the planned improvements here. Further to a request, Brendan agreed to arrange to meet with the Member and 'walk' the project with them.

## **6. CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING CAMPAIGN 2017**

All the Members welcomed this provision and said it is important to highlight the need for continued and improved services in the provision of recycling and the bulky household waste collection facilities in the district. To this end, Pauline Moriarty MDO informed the Members that she had been in consultation with Liam Singleton of Environmental Services and they are working towards a arranging a (trial) collection day for such items in 2017, details of which will be provided to the Members in due course.

## **7. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. Response from Environment & Emergency Services Directorate regarding Policy of Bonfires.**

On considering this reply from the Environment Department, and further to a discussion, the Members agreed that this response is not acceptable as a solution to the issue here. Neither the residents or the Local Authority want a repeat of what occurred in 2016 and it is not feasible to arrange a 'bonfire event' as suggested in this document. The creation of litter is a matter for the Environment Department and the behaviour at such an event by some people would require An Garda Síochána supervision and intervention. It was agreed that the JPC (Joint Policing Commission) and the Environment SPC need to be consulted with a view to agreeing a county-wide policy on bonfires, in the first instance, and Pauline Moriarty MDO agreed to pass on the concerns of the Members accordingly. It may be possible to consider an alternative Halloween event later in the year, pending the recommendations of the above Committees.

### **2. Cork County National Road Speed Limit Review Consultation and Submissions.**

### **3. Cork County Council Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Law Proposals Draft A.**

These two reports were considered and discussed simultaneously. Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through submissions and decisions with relevance to Fermoy district and answered the Members questions. Further to Cllr. Frank O' Flynn querying the 80kph speed limit at Carrigabrick being suitable and safe; and Cllr. Noel McCarthy highlighting the danger with the speed limit at Kilmagner NS, Brendan undertook to convey these concerns to senior management and the TII. In relation to the issue of the wall blocking the view of traffic when exiting Fermoy Hospital, Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to contact the HSE in this regard.

## **4. PROGRESS REPORT - 2016 FOOTPATH PROGRAMME**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the progress to date on the footpath programme. Cllr. Noel McCarthy said it is important to ensure that the JPC funding comes through in 2017; while Cllr. Frank O' Flynn complimented the programme, the work and the Contractor and welcomed the continuation of this programme in 2017. Cllr. June Murphy enquired if a drainage issue at a footpath in O' Neill Crowley Terrace, Mitchelstown could be resolved and agreed to identify the location to Brendan.

## 8. NOTICES OF MOTION

### Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

- (1) "that Cork County Council would replace and replenish the wall adjoining the historic Mogeely Bridge, Curraglass in the interest of safety".

Small section of wall damaged by passing trailers. Works scheduled for Q1/2017.

### Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

- (2) "that the river flowing from Ballindangan via Bawnard on its way to the River Funcheon, part at Bawnard is blocked inland and needs remedial works/attention as causing flooding to road with deep water".

Contact will be made with relevant landowner regarding this stream.

### Cllr. Ian Doyle

- (3) "that Cork County Council would continue footpath repair programme in Newtown and Charleville over coming year".

Both will feature on the footpath programme in 2017.

### Cllr. Noel McCarthy

- (4) "that the railings surrounding the green area opposite No. 52 house in Liam MacGearailt Place, Fermoy be repaired".

Arrangements will be made to remove the section of broken rail.

### Cllr. Kay Dawson

- (5) "that Cork County Council contact Aircoach requesting them to remove their signage from Mitchelstown, and throughout the municipal district, as it is no longer applicable or relevant and constitutes litter".

This motion was supported by Cllr. Noel McCarthy and Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to write the Aircoach in this regard with this request.

### Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

- (6) "that Cork Council Council would put traffic calming measures in place in Pike Road, Fermoy in the interest of health and safety".

No funding currently available for traffic calming in the MD. We will carry out some covert speed surveys in the area in the coming weeks and will request additional Garda enforcement of the existing speed limit, in the interim.

This motion was supported by Cllr. Noel McCarthy, who said there is a concern with speed here and also there is an issue at Amber, Fermoy. Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that he had sought funding for a 'Low-Cost' scheme for this location and this funding request is ongoing; and he will revert to the Members in due course.

- (7) "that Cork County Council would request the phone provider to remove the vacant phone booth which is not functioning on the footpath at Patrick Street, Fermoy in the interest of safety".

*Motion No. 8(16) Cllr. Kay Dawson was discussed at this time:*

"that Cork County Council contact the phone provider requesting them to remove the phone booth from the street in New Square, Mitchelstown (adjacent to Mr. Mr. Gentlemen's Outfitters and the Clongibbon Hotel) as it is no longer in use and has become unsightly".

Pauline Moriarty MDO agreed to write to the relevant Agencies, requesting them to remove these obsolete phone boxes and repair/replace the footpath, as required.

- (8) "that Cork County Council would investigate and alleviate the water ponding at Ballyarthur, Fermoy, road number LP1512 at Broderick's bend, in the interest of safety of all road users".

Owing to the gradient of the road and topography of the adjacent farmlands the water has simply nowhere to go here. Will require landowners input to resolve this issue to install a soakway in private property, but at no expense to the Council.

- (9) “that Cork County Council put a pedestrian crossing in place at Main Street, Watergrasshill in the interest of safety of local residents and pedestrians at Credit Union offices crossing to Church”. There are plans to put in a pedestrian crossing in at the top of the Main Street, adjacent to Centra, in conjunction with the development of the new apartments across the road. This developer is currently on-site. There are no funds currently available to put in a second crossing in place for this village.

**Cllr. Ian Doyle**

- (10) “that Cork County Council would progress traffic calming measures for pedestrians in Turrets, Charleville”.  
Will be done in conjunction with planned resurfacing of the road in this area, mid-summer 2017.
- (11) “that Cork County Council would look at footpath repair programme for Holy Cross, Charleville”.  
This estate will feature in our 2017 footpath programme proposals.
- (12) “that Cork County Council would surface dress road Coolasmuttane/Clonmore Newtown Charleville”.  
The condition rating of this road confirms that the road is not suitable for surface dressing and indeed the road is scheduled for a full overlay in 2018.  
Cllr. Doyle clarified that the issue here is with inadequate patching carried out by Irish Water over a 60-100m stretch of road. Brendan O’ Gorman SEE agreed to examine the location with a view to a providing a short-term measure.

**Cllr. Noel McCarthy**

- (13) “that this Committee would erect ‘Children At Play’ signs in the Dun Éala housing estate, Fermoy”.  
A single sign will be installed at the entrance to the estate, adjacent to the roundabout.
- (14) “that this Committee would write to the Housing Section of Cork County Council to ask them to clean up the site at the derelict house at Corrin, Fermoy”.  
Site is under the control of roads operations and we have recommended for some time to dispose of the site. The housing directorate have been advised of this intention and we are belatedly awaiting on their future intention for the site/dwelling, if any.  
Cllr. McCarthy added that the owner of the house adjoining this property is very dissatisfied and is requesting the site be cleaned. Brendan O’ Gorman SEE responded that he had been in contact with the Housing Directorate and as soon as an indication of their intentions for this property is available, action will be taken to either clean up or dispose of the property.
- (15) “that this Committee would write to Textile Recycling Limited to ask them to remove the clothes banks along the Courthouse Road as they have become a dumping ground”.  
Cllr. McCarthy explained that this site was the cause of Fermoy losing valuable marks in the 2016 Tidy Towns competition, whilst acknowledging there had been recent progress with the clean-up of the area and the removal of two bins. Pauline Moriarty MDO replied, giving a full update on the bring sites in Fermoy. She confirmed that two of the bins at this location had been moved by the provider at the Council’s request to the site at the Mart Yard and advised that she would contact Textile Recycling to relocate the third bin from this site to the Mart site also; the Library site is operating satisfactorily; the bins in the Mart car park will be relocated back to Mill Island (moved from there to facilitate the flood relief works). She will request the Environment Department to install CCTV at the Beechfield Estate bring site and discussed the possibility of moving the bins at this location to the Mart Yard in lieu of an alternative suitable location on the north side of town. The Members agreed that a bring site on the north side of the town is preferable, if possible. Pauline undertook to convey the Members observations to the Environment Department, under whose remit this service lies.

## **Cllr. Kay Dawson**

- (16) “that Cork County Council contact the phone provider requesting them to remove the phone booth from the street in New Square, Mitchelstown (adjacent to Mr. Mr. Gentlemen’s Outfitters and the Clongibbon Hotel) as it is no longer in use and has become unsightly”.  
*Discussed with Notice of Motion 8(6).*

- (17) “that an update be requested from Airtricity on the public lighting which is not working at Abbey Farm, Mitchelstown due to one of the poles being damaged”.  
I understand that repairs commenced on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

- (18) “that Cork County Council contact the owner of the the vacant unit within the building at Sutton’s Corner, Dublin Road, Mitchelstown (Library building) requesting them to clear out and clean same in the interest of public amenity”.

This motion was supported by Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn. Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to make enquiries as to the ownership of this building and to make contact with them requesting they carry out the required clearing and cleaning works here.

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **1. LETTER 16.1.2017 NTA RE: Bus Shelters**

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn requested that the NTA and Bus Eireann be written to again in this regard and Cllr. Ian Doyle said that, as there are huge numbers using the Bus Eireann service in Charleville, it is essential these shelters are installed as soon as possible. Cllr. Noel McCarthy noted that some businesses may not want a shelter outside their premises, to which Brendan O’ Gorman SEE replied full planning is required and the opportunity to make any objections would be available. He agreed to maintain contact with the relevant agencies in relation to the provision of these shelters.

## **10. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### **RE 6(8) Chief Executive’s proposed business breakfast meeting.**

Cllr. Kay Dawson enquired if the date for this meeting had been arranged and if the guest list had been compiled, to which Pauline Moriarty MDO replied that the date had not yet been set, and the attendees will be selected from an existing, comprehensive database of interested parties.

### **RE 3(4) REDZ / Ballyhoura mobile phone coverage survey.**

Cllr. O’ Brien enquired if the results of this survey were available. Pauline Moriarty MDO agreed to check with Mary Hayes SEO for this data.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **(1) Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn - Function in Co. Hall.**

Cllr. O’ Flynn invited the Members to attend a function at 7.30pm on Monday, 23rd January 2017 in County Hall celebrating communities who had held 1916 Commemorative events throughout 2016.

### **(2) Pauline Moriarty MDO - LAP Meeting**

Pauline informed the Members that the next LAP meeting, to discuss the draft LAP, is scheduled to take place in County Hall on Friday, February 17th 2017 at 2.30pm; Agenda to issue in due course.

### **(3) Pauline Moriarty MDO - Fermoy Flood Relief Scheme Art Commission**

Pauline informed the Members that the art commission, entitled ‘The Tower’, is to be installed in the Park triangle adjacent to the River Blackwater on Wednesday, 18th January 2017. An information plate will be affixed to the sculpture giving details of its origin and other details.

### **(4) Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn - alleged Proposal by Bus Eireann to remove Expressway Service**

Cllr. O’ Flynn proposed that Fermoy MD contact the NTA seeking clarification on the alleged proposal to cancel the Expressway bus services. This was seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy. All the Members acknowledged the hugely negative effect this action would have on the numerous people

using these bus routes within the district. Cllr. Kay Dawson urged caution before taking any action as this proposal is only part of a leaked report, this was also seconded by Cllr. McCarthy.

**(5) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Footpath repairs on Mallow Road, Fermoy (at Town Park)**

Cllr. McCarthy expressed his dissatisfaction at the news that these essential footpath repairs have been postponed to 2018 saying it is unacceptable, and proposed the MD write to the TII in this regard. Cllr. Frank O' Flynn seconded this proposal and Brendan O' Gorman SEE undertook to correspond with the TII accordingly.

**(6) Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - Clogher crossroads, Shanballymore**

Cllr. O' Flynn stated he was pleased with the news that funding has been set aside to advance the works required to CPO stage at Clogher crossroads, Shanballymore.

**(7) Cllr. Ian Doyle - Speed Radar Signs query**


Cllr. Doyle enquired if the availability of 50% of the cost of the speed radar signs is still available, to which Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied yes, it is. Brendan clarified that these speed radar signs are permissible only at some locations. Proposals on National Roads would have to be routed via the TII for approval prior to any decision by the executive.

**(8) Cllr. June Murphy - Removal of Bollards from laneway adjacent to Spar shop, Fermoy**

Cllr. Murphy submitted a petition, (made up of over 410 signatures and photographs) on behalf of the residents of the many residential areas and the parents and guardians of the children attending St. Joseph's National School, requesting the re-instatement of the bollards, preventing vehicular access to the laneway adjacent to Shinnick's Spar shop, which were removed as part of the ongoing signalisation works at Beechfield junction.

There was some confusion in relation to this issue as the removal of these bollards was not indicated on the original plan for the works, but following the consideration of submissions received during the Part VIII process, the removal of the bollards, which in effect re-opens the road, was part of the plans submitted, approved by the Members and funded by the Department.

The Members voiced their support for the petition, acknowledging there is now a safety issue here. Brendan O' Gorman SEE responded by telling those present that the signalisation works ongoing at the junction are still at construction stage and not finished, with other features yet to be installed at the junction. The project has to be constructed and finished according to the plan which is approved and financed by the Department. He stated that the traffic lights are to be switched on imminently and that as soon as they are in operation, he and the NNRDO will be monitoring the lights, the junction and all traffic and pedestrian movements. He confirmed the safety of pedestrians is paramount at this location and assured those present that if changes are required they will be implemented, and that if there are Health and Safety issues, provisions will be made to address them and remedy the situation. He undertook to report to the Members within a short timeframe of the lights becoming operational with his findings and recommendations. This course of action was agreed by the Members and the petitioners who were present at the meeting.

Signed: 

Date: 21/2/2017