



# Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

## Cork County Council

**Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork and by Microsoft Teams on 9<sup>th</sup> May at 11am.**

### **I LATHAIR**

#### **Comhairleoir Cathal Rasmussen, Leas -Mhéara**

Comhairleoiri: , Ó Colmáin, Ó Murchú C, Ó Suilleabháin S, Uí Shuilleabháin M, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Coileáin, Ní Chroinín, Ó Conaill, Mac Craith, Úi Daltún, Ó Muircheartaigh, Uí Bhuachalla, De Faoite S, Daltún Ó Suilleabháin, Ní Cheallacháin, Barra, Sheppard, Rasmussen, Ó Conchubair S, Ó Conchubair A, MacCarthaigh N, Ó Flionn, Uí Bhriain, Dawson, De Róiste, Ó Muineacháin B, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Sé SP, Ó Murchú G, Críod, Ó Muineacháin G, Ó Luanaigh, Ó, Ó Cochláoin M, Uí Loinsigh, Ó Luasa, Ó Haodha Padraig, Ó Murchú Gearóid, Ó Cinnéide, Ó Madaoin, Ó Sé T, Léineacháin Uí Foghlú, Ní Heachthigheirn, Uí Thuama, MacCarthaigh S, Mac Uaid, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Cearbhaill, Ó Muirthile, Uí Chaochlaoidh, Ó Haodha Pól

### **PRESENT**

#### **Councillor Cathal Rasmussen, Deputy Mayor, presided.**

**Councillor:** Coleman, Murphy K, O'Sullivan J, O'Sullivan M, O' Donovan, Collins, Cronin, O' Connell, McGrath, D'Alton, Murtagh, Buckley A, White J, Dalton – O' Sullivan, O' Callaghan, Barry, Sheppard, Rasmussen, O' Connor S, O' Connor A, McCarthy N, O' Flynn, O' Brien, Dawson, Roche, Doyle, Moynihan B, O' Shea JP, Murphy G, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, Kennedy, Madden, O' Shea T, Linehan – Foley, Ahern, Twomey, McCarthy S, Quaide, Kelly, Carroll, Hurley, Coakley, Hayes Paul

Chief Executive, Head of Finance, Senior Executive Officer Corporate Services

### **[a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**1/5-1**

*Proposed by Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley*

*Seconded by Cllr. Frank O'Flynn*

### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

### **[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

**2/5-1**

**TO:** Minister Paschal Donohoe on the death of his mother Caitlin Donohoe.

**TO:** Ann-Marie Searls on the death of her husband Nicholas Searls.

**TO:** The Cronin Family on the death of their daughter Niamh Cronin.

**TO:** The Ahern Family on the death of their mother Nina Ahern.

## **[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS**

**3/5-1**

### **DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY:**

#### **SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001:**

*Members noted the following disposals: \_*

*Disposal of land at rear of No.21 Mahon Terrace, Blackrock, Cork City*

**3(a)/5-1**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

**Situation:** Disposal of land at rear of No. 21 Mahon Terrace, Blackrock, Cork City. Land has comprised a residential garden since circa 1959.

**Area:** 0.027 hectares/0.066 acres

**Consideration:** €1

#### **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CARRIGALINE:**

*Disposal of site at Raffeen Terrace, Shanbally, Co. Cork*

**3(b)/5-2**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

**Situation:** Disposal of land at Raffeen Terrace, Shanbally, Co Cork.

**Area:** 0.009 hectares/0.023 acres

**From Whom Acquired:** Record not available. Land acquired by Council in 1984.

**Consideration:** €1

**[d] FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

**4/5-1**

**UNAUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT:**

Members noted the Unaudited Annual Financial Statement of Cork County Council for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and resolved to approve additional expenditure as set out below for that year per Local Government Act, 2001-section104 (as amended):

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b>€</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Services</b>	Government funding of €19.1m was received to provide waiver of commercial rates to qualifying businesses as a result of COVID 19.	- 21,774,665
<b>Housing and Building</b>	The increase in Expenditure in Housing and Building is driven by the newly launched PPP scheme €4.8m and an increase to the Payment & Availability scheme €1.8m, both of these schemes are fully funded	- 7,253,179

<b>Development Management</b>	An amount of €1.9m was paid to small businesses as part of the Government's initiative to help with additional costs as a result of COVID19. The amount was received in full from Enterprise Ireland. There was an increase in the amount for funding to LEO Enterprises this was received in full from Enterprise Ireland.	- 3,912,062
<b>Roads, Transportation &amp; Safety</b>	Additional roads grant spend covered by increased Grant allocation.	- 13,014,350
<b>Recreation &amp; Amenity</b>	Parks & Open Spaces, Capitalise Town Development Fund/GMA/TDF/Pay Parking Dividend/Arts	- 2,683,568
<b>Environmental services</b>	Street cleaning, CAS and Fire services	- 165,403
<b>Water services</b>	Irish Water SLA and public conveniences	- 264,426

*Proposed by Councillor John Paul O'Shea*

*Seconded by Councillor Kevin Murphy*

5/5-1

**RATES REPORT:**

Members noted Rates Report – Schedule of Uncollected Rates 2021.

6/5-1

**AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT:**

Members noted Audit Committee Report on the Audited Annual Financial Statement 2020 and the Local Government Audit Report, pursuant to Section 121 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

7/5-1

**AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT:**

Members noted the Audit Committee Annual Report on Activities for 2021.

**CORPORATE POLICY GROUP**

Approval of attendance by Members at conferences on the Conference list for May 2022. Members requested to add the upcoming AILG module to the list.

*Proposed by Councillor Gearóid Murphy*

*Seconded by Councillor Frank O'Flynn*

**COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

“The members of the Cobh Municipal District request that when Cork County Council are developing road crossing points, controlled crossings should be developed where possible and where uncontrolled crossings are being developed adequate signage should be provided to ensure greater awareness for motorists”.

*Councillor Cathal Rasmussen proposed, seconded by Councillor Sinead Sheppard*

**RESPONSE:**

Whether a pedestrian crossing is controlled or uncontrolled depends on a number of parameters, principally the volume of pedestrian traffic, and the volume & speed of vehicular traffic. There is design guidance as follows:

**1. Design Manual for Urban Roads & Streets (DMURS)**

Section 4.3.2 of DMURS sets out the parameters for where the various types of crossings are appropriate and states that, in general:

- Signalised crossings should be provided on busy arterial & link streets;
- Zebra crossings should be provided on arterial and link streets within lower speed zones and where traffic volumes are more moderate;
- Courtesy crossings may be used in lower speed environments. These are typically uncontrolled raised ramp or change of surface texture/colour to define the crossing;
- Uncontrolled crossings may be used on local roads due to their lightly trafficked/low speed nature. These are typically defined by dropped kerbs either side.

In relation to the signage, DMURS encourages the use of minimal signage on local streets due to their low speed nature and low movement function and promotes the minimal use of signage on arterial and link streets, in accordance with the minimum requirements set down in the Traffic Signs Manual.

**2. Traffic Signs Manual**

The Traffic Signs Manual suggests that a “Pedestrians Crossing” sign is available for use where the visibility to an uncontrolled crossing is impaired by a bend or hump on the road. It states that, at a zebra crossing, the sign will not be needed if both beacons at the crossing are visible from a distance of 45m on a 50km/hr road.

The Traffic Signs Manual states that a “Traffic Signals Ahead” sign should be erected in advance of a junction controlled by traffic signals on roads with a speed limit greater than 60km/hr, or on roads with a speed limit <60 km/hr following a risk assessment, if their use is warranted.

### **3. TII Treatment of Transition Zones to Towns & Villages on National Roads (DN-GEO-03084)**

DN-GEO-03084 sets out the methodology for crossing provision and crossing type selection within the transition zone approach to a town or village. This methodology is based on surveys to determine a number of parameters including:

- Pedestrian crossing desire;
- Traffic volumes;
- If the pedestrian route is to a school, shop, rail or bus station, or other essential services;
- Crossing difficulty rating.

The results of the surveys are used to derive:

- P = pedestrians crossing per hour;
- V = 2-way vehicle flow per hour.

A calculation based on the above values will illustrate whether the location is suitable for a controlled or uncontrolled crossing. A low value will indicate that a controlled crossing would not generally be justifiable, and an uncontrolled crossing should be considered.

In summary, the type of crossing selected for an individual location must be appropriate to the circumstances. Whether it is controlled or uncontrolled is determined on a scientific basis using the parameters as outlined. In relation to signage, there are guidelines for appropriate signage which aim to minimise signage clutter, and which outline the circumstances where warning signage for crossings are appropriate, depending on the speed limit of the roadway and the forward visibility to the crossing. All crossings designed by or on behalf of Cork County Council are in accordance with the above design guidance and best practice, including all signage where required.

#### **During this discussion, Members made the following points:**

- Members said uncontrolled crossings are cheaper but they are not safe
- Signage could be improved
- Would like to see the phasing out of uncontrolled crossings
- Said the crossings are not the correct thing to be installing
- They always require more signage and bollards
- Members said there are issues around the unmanned crossings
- Said putting a raised table on the road as a crossing point is not enough
- Said an awareness campaign and signage is needed for existing crossings
- Members said there needs to be a culture change around driving in built up areas
- Zebra crossing is a good universal signal
- Members spoke of controlled crossings in Kilkenny where the pedestrian has priority
- Said there is confusion around who is in charge of the various types of crossings
- Said pedestrians also must take responsibility for their safety
- They said there should be a PR campaign done by the RSA
- Members requested for this motion to be sent to the Transport SPC

“Carrigaline Municipal District requests a comprehensive update on the Council’s draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws, their current status, and any short term measures to assist in the regulation of casual trading which may be under consideration”.

*Councillor Marcia D’Alton proposed, seconded by Councillor Kay Dawson*

**RESPONSE:**

In 2016, Cork County Council commenced the process of adopting byelaws under the Casual Trading Act 1995 to regulate casual trading. At the time the draft byelaws were approved by the 8 Municipal Districts. The public consultation process concluded in December 2016.

The Council received over 60 submissions and, as provided for in the legislation,<sup>11</sup> appeals were submitted to the District Court. Arising from the submissions / appeals the Councils legal team advised that an extensive review of “market rights” should be undertaken. This onerous task has been completed. There is also an ongoing Hight Court case relating to “market rights” which may impact on any proposed casual trading byelaws. At the time of writing, we are awaiting further legal advise on this matter.

The regulation of occasional mobile trading requires a multi-agency response, including the HSE and An Garda Siochana in particular. Occasional mobile traders who are causing a public health nuisance, public safety issues, nuisance/noise issues and/or road traffic hazard or other safety hazard issues, would be of primary concern, and the HSE and AGS have specific powers in that regard. The Council will support such agencies in taking specific enforcement action, if necessary.

Where the Council has byelaws in place, the occasional mobile trader is required to comply with same. Where byelaws are not in place, occasional mobile trading is not capable of being regulated by the Council for areas where the public have access as a right (as set out in the Casual Trading Act 1995). Casual trading byelaws do not apply to areas where the public do not have access as a right. Such areas may be council owned and capable of being closed / controlled to such right of access, (e.g. parks, carparks, beaches etc), owned by other public bodies, or be in private ownership. For its part, on Council owned lands, the Council can facilitate mobile trading if it deems it to be appropriate. Any such arrangement would be governed by a specific contract between the Council and the trader. Where occasional mobile trading is taking place on privately owned lands, the Council has no specific role but planning implications may arise.

It is now recommended that, through the Municipal Districts, we will be proceeding to review the casual trading areas that were agreed in 2016, amend these areas where necessary and move ahead with the process of making casual trading byelaws.

**During this discussion, Members made the following points:**

- Members said this issue has arisen continuously in Carrigaline MD over the past number of years
- Said they are uncertain about the status of casual trading bye laws in the County
- Members said casual trading bye laws need to be decided on as there is currently a lack of control in particular areas, creating issues with parking
- Said many coffee trucks started trading during Covid 19
- Difficult to explain casual trading to business owners who are paying rent and rates
- Members said they would like something to manage the situation before the summer season begins
- They asked if bye-laws can be adjusted by Municipal District?
- Said as public representatives they would like to get information on approved applications for casual trading permits
- Said fairness is needed between business owners and casual traders
- Said casual trading can be beneficial and many successful businesses can start off at farmer markets
- Members asked if there is discretion to assign areas for trading in the absence of casual trading bye laws?
- Said there are parking issues in Cobh caused by the casual trading bye laws
- Members asked if the 2016 casual trading bye laws will be going back out to public consultation?
- Asked if there would be capacity on a pilot basis for MDs to trial their own byelaws?

The Chief Executive stated that the bye laws in 2016 are correct but there is a need to review designated casual trading areas at each Municipal District level. He said the existing bye laws relate mostly to former town councils. He said there is an ongoing court case regarding byelaws in Bantry. He said the areas in Cobh that are not being utilised fully should be discussed with the MD Officer. He said that the permits issued set out dates and times for casual trading. He said byelaws can be made at MD level per the Local Government Act 2001. He said he will come back to the next meeting of CPG on this issue.

**[f] REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF OFFICERS  
TUAIRISCÍ AGUS MOLTAÍ Ó OIFIGH**

10/5-1

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL:**

Quarterly report of the Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism Directorate for the 3 month period up to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022

*Members noted the Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism Directorate Quarterly Report.*

**[g] CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS  
COMHFHREAGRAS Ó RANNA RIALTAS**



**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, PLANNING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Correspondence received 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in response to the Council's letter dated 28/02/2022 in relation to the current terms and pay of conditions of retained firefighters and responders.

*Members noted the correspondence.*

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT**

Correspondence received 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 from the Department of Transport in response to the Council's letter dated 28/02/2022 in relation to the Motor Tax payment system.

*Members noted the correspondence.*

**[h] NOTICES OF MOTION  
FOGRAÍ RÚN**

**TRANSPORT PASSES FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES**

“That Cork County Council would call on the Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan TD to make Bus Eireann, Rail and Local Link free transport passes available to all Ukrainian refugees, who have fled to Ireland recently, for a defined period of time”.

*Councillor Frank O'Flynn proposed, seconded by Councillor Noel McCarthy*

**During this discussion, Members made the following points:**

- Members said they were asked by the Ukrainian Support Group in Fermoy & Mitchelstown to raise this issue
- Refugees are dealing with the effects of war trauma, difficulties in communication and separation from family
- Said this is an issue all over our Municipal Districts and across Ireland
- This initiative would help Refugees to travel to different locations and to meet their friends
- Said it will help give independence to the Refugees
- It will be a temporary solution until they get jobs
- Members agreed to write to the Minister to ask for transport to be made free to Ukrainian Refugees for a reasonable length of time

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME**

“Requesting a report on the proposed Affordable Housing schemes across the county, identification of the sites selected. Also including the current stage of planning of each site and projected timelines for delivery”.

*Councillor Susan McCarthy proposed, seconded by Councillor Jon Paul O’Shea*

**RESPONSE:**

The following sites have been identified for Affordable Housing in the County;

Beechgrove, Clonakilty: 29

Commogue, Kinsale: 120

St Josephs Road, Mallow: 107

Kilnagleary, Carrigaline: 69 (Cost rental)

Abbeywood, Midleton: 45

Broomfield, Midleton: Up to 120

All six sites were previously approved in principle for funding from the Serviced Sites Fund. Following the establishment of the Affordable Housing Fund a revised submission was made to the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage for the proposed developments in Clonakilty, Kinsale, Mallow and Carrigaline. A decision on that application is awaited.

Subject to Departmental approval the planning process for these four sites will be completed this year and construction will commence in early 2023.

The Housing Department has also sought expressions of interest from builders/developers for the provision of affordable housing through turnkey developments and is assessing proposals that have been received.

In early May, it is proposed to invite people who are interested in Affordable Housing to register that interest online. The purpose is to get some indication of the actual level of demand in advance of proceeding with the above schemes. The online form will be available on the Council’s website in the coming weeks.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has now made regulations relating to local authority Affordable Purchase and Cost Rental. The regulations, which deal with assessment of income, eligibility, prioritisation of applicants and maximum & minimum equity, came into effect on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

**During this discussion the Members made the following points:**

- Members welcomed the report.
- Members said that the provision of housing is the most important thing that will face this Council.
- Members stated that Affordable Housing is the only option for a section of the public.
- Members stated there was a housing crisis that needs to be addressed as quick as possible.
- Members said there was a section of the public caught between two stools. They earn too much to qualify for social housing and they do not earn enough to qualify for a mortgage.
- Members were disappointed that only 2 sites appeared on the list for Affordable Housing for Midleton.
- Members asked if the website for Expressions of Interest was up and running.

- Suggested it should be available on the Council website.
- Asked that the regulations relating to Local Authority Affordable Purchase and Cost Rental be published.
- Members would like to see a plan in place for all 23 towns.
- Members are grateful for the amount of social housing in Macroom but are disappointed that Macroom is not mentioned on this list.
- Stated that St. Joseph's Road in Mallow is a green site at the moment. It is along way from development.
- Stated that no housing will be available until 2024. Affordable Housing is the way forward. The Council must make it easy for the public to access them.
- Suggested that a media campaign is needed.
- Enquired if there is a certain percentage of funding from the Central Government used to provide Council Loans.
- Stated that there is nothing west of Clonakilty, Skibbereen, Schull and Bantry on the list. Housing is very expensive in these areas.
- Asked if Housing Grants will be reintroduced.
- Stated that houses are as expensive to build in urban areas as in rural areas.
- Recommended that Voluntary Groups be asked to build in villages.
- Noted that middle income people are those most affected and these are the people left behind.
- Asked when were the last affordable housing built in county Cork.
- Asked what the Council's policy was on Part V units in new estates.
- The Council should be doing more to ensure vacant units are reused.
- Noted that people can get stuck in the rental system.
- Hoped that the application system will be easy for applicants for the new Affordable Housing Scheme.

The Chief Executive stated that regulations were updated and an update will be given to May Development Committee. There are 682 units on the Housing Delivery Action Plan up to 2026. 381 will be built by the Council, 132 will be turnkey, 69 affordable and 100 units by Affordable Bodies. He said the national target set for Cork County Council was 189 units. He outlined targets set for comparable Local Authorities.

He stated that the Council has been in regular contact with the Department on the 4 schemes. He cannot give a timeframe for when the approval will be given by the Department. He hopes that if the Council can deliver more, approval will be given for additional schemes.

Regarding Expression of Interests, he confirmed there will be a media campaign and the Members will be briefed on Expression of Interests submitted.

He stated that affordable units can be taken in a Part V schemes but the Council needs to prove there is a need for them in the area.

The Deputy Mayor stated Affordable Housing will be discussed at the next Development Committee meeting.

### **AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE**

**16/5-2**

“That this Council support my motion to write to the Government seeking a commitment to provide state funding on an annual basis to support the operation and continued development of the Irish Community Air Ambulance service which is based in Rathcoole, Mallow, Co. Cork”.

*Councillor John Paul O'Shea proposed, seconded by Councillor Ian Doyle*

**During this discussion the Members made the following points:**

- Members stated the Community Air Ambulance has to fund everything itself.
- It is necessary to get a long term funding agreement with the Government.
- Requested that this letter be sent to the Minister of Health.
- Members stated that many lives have been saved due to the service.
- It was noted that there were 512 missions in 14 different counties in 2021.
- It is a vital service for the Munster area and in particular for the farming community and the hard-to-get to rural areas.
- This service is too important to be solely dependent on charity funding.
- Some Members stated they had seen the service firsthand in their personal lives.
- Members said that everyone now knows of someone whose life was saved by the service.
- Noted that the service has been nominated for the Mayor and LAMA Awards in the past.
- Requested that the service should be incorporated into national funding.
- Stated the service is very important for the peninsula areas as an ambulance could take 2 hours to get from Castletownbere to a hospital.
- Said that in Germany many similar services are funded by the Government.
- Coastal towns depend on the Air Ambulance for the fishing community.
- Members stated a lot of interaction between local Deputies and the Department have already taken place.
- Members said that this is one of the most important Motions to come before the Council.
- Recommended that the Motion be sent to other Local Authorities in Munster.
- Stated that it is estimated that the yearly cost of running the service is €2 million.

**Members agreed to write to the Minister of Health to provide state funding on an annual basis to support the operation and continued development of the Irish Community Air Ambulance service which is based in Rathcoole, Mallow, Co. Cork. Members also agreed to send the motion to the other Munster Local Authorities.**

**EXTENSION OF TIME:**

As the time was now 1.15pm an extension of time was agreed.

*Proposed by Councillor Frank*

*Seconded by Councillor John Paul O'Shea*

**[K] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

**17/5-1**

**TO:** Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty on winning the Ladies Gaelic Football All Ireland Post Primary School Senior C Championship Final.

**TO:** Geraldine Byrne Nason on her an appointment as the Irish Ambassador to the United States.

**TO:** Skibbreen Rugby Club Ladies on winning the Division 2 Cup Final.

**TO:** Skibbreen Rowing Club on their magnificent performance at the Ghent International Regatta 2022.

**TO:** Cork County Board for hosting the Ed Sheeran Concert.

**TO:** Carbery Group for being named Company of the Year by Cork Chamber.

**TO:** St. Mary's Secondary School, Mallow on winning the All Ireland Basketball Title.

**TO:** Fermoy Karate Club on winning the best club award in the recent National Karate Championship.

**TO:** The Brew Boys on winning the first division of the Cork Business League.

**TO:** Skibbreen Community School Senior Boys Football team on winning the Simcox Cup.

**TO:** Paul O'Sullivan, Blue Hat Productions, Whitechurch on the success of directing 6 performances of the "The Whiteheaded Boy" at Whitechurch and Waterloo Community Centre and to the cast on being chosen to perform on 31<sup>st</sup> May in The Everyman Theatre, Cork.

**TO:** Buckley brothers, Mallow for receiving a Lifetime Award for their boxing success.

**TO:** Whitegate Rowing Club on their recent success.

## **[I] ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**18/5-1**

**18/5(a)-1**

### **UNION HALL & GLANDORE PIERS**

Members stated there is anger in Union Hall and Glandore over issues with the piers being closed off.

#### **During this discussion the Members made the following points:**

- Asked that the pier users would be consulted about changes being made.
- Requested an alternative be made available
- Noted that 102 submissions were received for Glandore.
- Stated it was previously discussed at the Municipal District meeting and Council officials said they would meet with locals. Members asked that this would be done straight away.
- Members stated something should have been done earlier.
- Members requested that the process be changed so that locals are communicated with before starting works
- Members acknowledged that Health and Safety issues must be improved.

The Chief Executive said that the Municipal District had started the process of resolving this issue. An upgrade is being done and funding is in place for this. He is confident there will be a successful outcome.

The Deputy Mayor said a response will be issued in due course for Union Hall.

**18/5(b)-1**

**PAY PARKING**

Members said they were told at Bandon/Kinsale Municipal District Meeting that Pay Parking will be re-introduced in Bandon and Kinsale. They were told at the meeting that it is an Executive function. Other Municipal Districts have been told it is a Reserved function.

**During this discussion the Members made the following points:**

- Members said this is creating a discrepancy for traders when it is in some towns and not others.
- Members requested that it be deferred if possible.
- Members said it was previously brought up at Budget time and it was not supported.
- Members suggested it is a decision for the Members (reserved function).
- Some Members want to see it re-introduced.
- It is not equal in all towns. If it is brought back to one town, it should be brought back to all towns.
- It helps with parking control as well as bringing in revenue.
- Pay Parking has helped the town of Cobh and it pays for the Traffic Warden.
- Suggested that towns should get the benefit of the funding – a new scheme for pay parking income is needed.
- The lack of wardens is the issue.
- Recommended it should be based on population size e.g. Mallow has a population of 12,000 and Buttevant has a population of 1,000 so different parking measures are needed.
- It is very important to have Traffic Wardens. It is not the function of the Gardai.
- Said it is working well in Fermoy and the Members had the final say.

The Deputy Mayor said that Cobh tried a Traffic Warden without Pay Parking and it did not work. He said the first hour of parking is free and 2 hours, or three hours is paid for after that.

The Chief Executive said that where byelaws are in place, they remain in place and can be enforced. He said the funding from Pay Parking is crucial to balancing the budget. If there is a loss of Pay Parking income, then this funding will have to be found and will impact on revenue reserves. There will be a challenge for the 2023 budget if there is no Pay Parking income. He has a responsibility to generate income that was approved in the Budget and where byelaws exist to enable same.

**~ THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING ~**