

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD VIA MS TEAMS ON TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2022.

Present: Cllrs. S. Sheppard, A. Barry, C. Rasmussen, A. O'Connor, S. O'Connor & S. O'Callaghan.

Officials: Mr. S. O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer
Mr. G. O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

1.0 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow a discussion in relation to reports that work on the proposed N25 Upgrade between Carrigtwohill and Midleton had been stopped.

Cllr. Barry stated that final detailed design was being worked on at present in relation to the scheme and that this had been due to go before the members of Cork County Council in February 2022. He stated that he had been approached recently by a landowner whose land was going to be taken for the scheme who had advised that all work had now stopped on the scheme. He stated that this road was constructed in 1968 and that no significant works had been carried out since despite the huge increase in traffic using the road. This is one of the busiest non-motorway stretches of road in the country and has a number of domestic and agricultural accesses onto it. He stated that a failure to upgrade this road would be a disaster for Cork, given the fact that 5,000 new houses were planned for the Carrigtwohill and Water-Rock areas. He proposed that letters issue to TII and the Minister for Transport seeking clarification of the plans for this scheme. He also proposed that given the plans for development of the Amgen site a letter should issue seeking the view of the IDA on the impact halting the scheme would have on this proposal.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that this was very disappointing for the region given the proposed housing and other development in the area. He stated that it was paramount that this road be made safer for users, and he seconded Cllr. Barry's proposal.

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that she agreed with the previous speakers. It was necessary to have clarity in relation to this scheme particularly in view of the current ongoing review of the County Development Plan. She asked what the plans were to make the road safer if this scheme did not proceed.

Cllr. A. O'Connor stated that very little detail of what was proposed had been made available and he agreed that clarification was required. He stated that while he was not normally in favour of road-led development, there was a need to ensure that the existing road network was made safe for all users.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan stated that he agreed with all previous speakers. He stated that this scheme was a major piece of infrastructure that would impact on the County Development Plan.

Cllr. S. O’Connor stated that he agreed with the previous speakers and supported the decision to write seeking clarity.

It was agreed that P. Lynch would issue letters as proposed by Cllr. Barry.

2.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 6th December 2021.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that his proposal to send a letter of congratulations to the Tidy Towns committees was not recorded in the minutes for December and the record should be corrected.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O’Connor seconded by Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, the corrected minutes of the monthly meeting held on 6th December 2021, were adopted.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING:

Norwood School:

G. O’Hora stated scheme drawings were prepared and submitted to the Green School Co-Ordinator for approval and he would be meeting her shortly to progress the scheme.

Watergrasshill Lights:

G. O’Hora stated that lights were now installed, and he was awaiting ESB networks to connect power to the lights.

Retrospective Permeability in Housing Estates:

P. Lynch stated that this matter had now been referred to the Roads SPC, but no meeting was scheduled for this committee until February.

Belmont, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the green area was scheduled to be cut again in late February.

Ballywilliam:

G. O’Hora stated that the ESB had requested a fee to be paid for the works and that the matter was progressing.

Aherns Place:

G. O’Hora stated that the Councils’ horticulturist would examine the trees.

Newtown Road, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that new road safety signs would be put up on the Newtown Road.

Cross River Ferry:

G. O’Hora stated that this issue was being examined and he would be organising a meeting on site with Cllrs. Rasmussen and Cllr. Sheppard in mid-January.

Harpers Island:

P. Lynch stated that he had circulated a map in relation to Harpers Island, if the members were happy with the area outlined, he would write to the Minister requesting that the changes be introduced when the regulations were next amended.

Carrigane Road:

G. O’Hora stated that he received the correspondence from Cllr. A. O’Connor and would include it in the 2022 Public Lighting Programme.

Assumption Place:

G. O’Hora stated that a contractor had been appointed and he would follow up with same.

Sullivan’s Place:

G. O’Hora stated that the Councils horticulturist would inspect the trees and report back.

Cobh Hospital:

G. O’Hora stated that he would examine the area in the next few weeks and have an update for the next meeting.

Spar Shop:

G. O’Hora stated that the double yellow lines would be done shortly.

Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora stated that new safety signs would be in place near the school in the next few weeks and pathway cleaned.

West End, Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora stated that the potholes at West End, Carrigtwohill and at Ballyregan had been repaired.

Great Island:

G. O’Hora stated that the overgrowth had been cut back before Christmas.

Top of the Hill:

G O’ Hora confirmed that the road had been repaired.

Cuskinny:

G. O’Hora stated that the wall at Cuskinny car park would be repaired early January.

Lake Road:

G. O’Hora stated that the road lining contractor had been advised of the need for lining at the Lake Road, Carrignafoy and Ballymore.

Ballynoe:

G. O’Hora stated that the road lining contractor would be carrying out the work shortly.

Loading Bay:

G. O’Hora stated that this was on a list for the road lining contractor.

Tay Road:

G. O’Hora stated that he would have a report on traffic calming measures for next month’s meeting.

Ballymore:

Cllr. S. O’Connor stated that the road lining in Ballymore village had yet to be carried out, he added thanks for the stop sign which had been put up before Christmas. Engineer to follow up on road lining.

Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. Barry expressed his thanks for the signage at the school campus, however, was concerned that the walkway had yet to be cleaned. Also a major water leak had occurred again in the West End area, badly reinstated. G. O’Hora replied that the walkway was scheduled to be cleaned during January and that he would pursue the reinstatement works at West End with Irish Water as a matter of priority.

Watergrasshill:

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan stated that according to Airtricity everything was now in order regarding the lights at the cycleway, it was now up to the ESB to connect them to the grid.

Top of Hill:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen expressed his thanks for the recent works carried out to potholes at Top of the Hill, however a new pothole had now appeared just before the newly repaired section. He also looked for a timescale for the road lining contractor. Engineer confirm new pothole would be repaired this week.

4.0 COMHFHREAGRAS/CORRESPONDENCE:

P. Lynch stated that no correspondence had been received.

5.0 TUAIRISCÍ Ó OFIGIGH/ OFFICER’S REPORTS:

P. Lynch stated that in response to the query raised last month in relation to Election Posters, he had looked into the legislation, which was the 2009 Act, which allowed posters to be placed in public areas after the order by the Minister had been signed. The act allowed for posters to be displayed up to 30 days before the election and 7 days after, without it being a litter offence. Cllr. Sheppard stated she was aware of the terms of the act, however at previous elections an agreement between candidates at the behest of the Tidy Towns committee banned posters from town and village centres. Cllr. A. Barry stated he appreciated the benefits of election posters even in

the modern social media age as it created awareness of the election and the issues. However he also appreciated that the display of posters were often a danger to motorists and pedestrians and was conscious of the waste also involved. Cllr. A. O'Connor suggested that for the next election that an informal agreement would be entered into again and in the longer term that the Council should write to Minister and seek changes in the legislation. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that he was in favour of the approach taken previously by the Tidy Towns committee in writing to all the candidates seeking co-operation in limiting the number and location of election posters and queried whether a motion should be raised at full council. P. Lynch stated that this was a county wide issue. The members agreed that they would draw up a motion on the issue to be sent to full Council.

G. O'Hora stated that he was currently in the process of drawing up a Footpath programme for the repair of short lengths of pavement and requested that members forward any locations needing attention to him as soon as possible and also recommendations for the Road Drainage programme. Cllr. S. Sheppard raised the footpath at Whitepoint which had been scheduled for repair for last year and this had not been carried out. G. O'Hora replied that some repairs would be carried out over the next few months.

6.0 TUAIRSC Ó OIFIGEACH CEANTAIR BARDASACHA/ MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER'S REPORT:

P. Lynch presented the Municipal District Officer's report to the members and stated that 2 organisations were seeking extensions to their grants.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, it was agreed to extend the grant given to Cobh Museum until February.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O'Connor seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed Association to the end of June.

P. Lynch stated that a Disability Awareness Grant had been received for the sensory garden planned for Glounthaune, construction of which would commence in 2022.

P. Lynch reminded members that the closing date for submissions to an Bord Pleanála in relation to the development at Lackenroe was 1st February 2022. Cllr. A. Barry stated that he was very concerned about this application.

7.0 Quarterly Derelict Sites Report:

P. Lynch stated that notices were issued to several properties, other than the listed in the report. The CEO of Cork County Council, Mr. Tim Lucey, has requested that officials concentrate on derelict sites in the main towns within each Municipal District. While this meant that most efforts would be aimed at Cobh and Carrigtwohill within the Cobh Municipal District, sites in Watergrasshill and Little Island would also be considered. Cllr. A. O'Connor asked if financial penalties were being imposed on landowners of derelict sites. P. Lynch replied that the legislation allowed for the imposition of levies in the case where an owner has been positively identified, however this has not been done in Cobh M.D. to date. Cllr A. Barry asked what the

procedure was where an owner could not be found. P. Lynch responded that in this case it may be possible to acquire the property via CPO, however the Council must have a specific purpose in mind, and this would be a last resort. Cllr. O'Connor enquired about 14 and 16 Harbour Row and noted that a planning number was now available for both. P. Lynch stated that the outcome of that case was exactly what the Council was trying to achieve. Cllr. S. Sheppard asked whether the Heritage Unit was involved in the new grant which had been announced to renovate derelict properties, she expressed her disappointment that Cobh had not been included in the pilot scheme. S. O'Callaghan replied that the Town Activation Unit have now a central role with MDs in relation to vacant and derelict sites and that Bandon, Mallow, Youghal and Passage West had been chosen for the pilot project.

8.0 AON GHNÓ EILE / ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr. A. Barry:

8.1 Carrigtwohill:

Pothole outside Coughlan Fuels, Barryscourt, Carrigtwohill. Engineer confirmed pothole would be repaired.

Cllr. S. Sheppard:

8.2 Lower Park/Park Villas, Cobh:

A yellow box is needed outside Lower Park/Park Villas, Cobh. Engineer to examine.

8.3 Belvelly/Pottery Road, Cobh:

Have the road safety signs and speed repeater for this location been ordered? Engineer confirmed that the signs/repeater had been ordered. There is also a deep pothole near Aherns corner following works by Irish Water. Engineer to contact Irish Water and request immediate road repair.

8.4 West Beach, Cobh:

Kelly's Bar has flooding issues since the pedestrian crossing was installed. The resurfacing carried out by Irish Water is not up to standard. Engineer to contact Irish Water and request immediate road repair.

8.5 Norwood School, Cobh:

Cllr. Sheppard expressed her thanks for the traffic calming works carried out near the school.

8.6 Ellen's Kitchen, Rushbrooke, Cobh:

There is flooding near the café, also traffic calming measures are needed, particularly near the school. G. O'Hora replied that it may be possible to install a pedestrian crossing near the café in conjunction with the proposed upgrade and traffic calming scheme on the road at Rushbrooke national school.

8.7 Aherns Place, Cobh:

A meeting is to be scheduled for this month between the members, residents, and officials to discuss possible traffic calming measures.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

8.8 Aherns Farm, Belvelly:

Irish Water did not reinstate the road correctly following a repair. Engineer to contact Irish Water and request immediate road repair.

8.9 Cobh:

Several locations in the town centre have potholes where valves and manhole covers have subsided. Engineer to discuss with Irish Water.

8.10 Whitepoint, Cobh:

The railings at Whitepoint need to be repaired following work by Sorensens. Engineer to examine.

8.11 High Road Junction/Whitepoint Estate:

Several potholes at these locations. Engineer to list for repair.

8.12 Top of the Hill:

Traffic lights still not fixed. Engineer waiting for ESB networks to connect power to the lights.

8.13 Pay Parking:

The parking meters at the Five Foot Way are not working, campervans parking free-of-charge. The pay parking situation has got to be sorted by March at the latest. Cllr. Rasmussen raised concerns over private vehicles parking in the loading bay. How many tickets have been given out for the loading bay in the last 6 months?

8.14 Lower Road/Harbour Hill, Cobh:

The drains are blocked at these locations. Engineer confirmed drains are listed for cleaning.

8.15 Fota Road:

The leaves need to be cleared and the signs are damaged. Engineer confirmed road is listed for cleaning mid-January.

8.16 Cobh Connect Bus:

Buses are parking on the footpaths and damaging them. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

8.17 Knockraha:

Traffic lights not yet connected for the pedestrian crossing. Awaiting ESB network to connect power to the lights.

8.18 Kilquane Cemetery:

There is water ponding at the entrance to the graveyard. Engineer to examine.

8.19 Meelin Road:

This road is partially in the Cobh MD area and partially in the East Cork MD area, there are a number of potholes. Engineer to examine.

8.20 Ballyrack, Carrigane:

Newly repaired road, disappointed to see a number of potholes reappearing and the road is sinking. Engineer to examine.

8.21 O'Shea's Boreen, Watergrasshill:

Drains are blocked, causing flooding. Engineer confirmed drains are listed for cleaning.

8.22 Little Island:

There is a lack of clarity regarding the right of way when using the exit from Little Island to turn right for Glounthaune. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. A. Barry:

8.23 Dry Bridge, Glounthaune:

Cllr. Barry fully supported Cllr. O'Callaghan on the junction leading to Glounthaune. The road is collapsing near the Dry Bridge, Glounthaune. G. O'Hora replied that a survey of the sewer under the road had been carried out and road would be repaired early February.

Cllr. S. Sheppard:

8.24 Rushbrooke, Cobh:

The leaves need to be cleared from the footpath from Mills Garage to the Dockyard. Also there is a flooding issue near Rushbrooke Train station. G. O'Hora replied that the flooding was an ongoing issue and would re-examine the location.

Cllr. S. O'Connor:

8.25 Harbour Row:

The footpath outside of the Credit Union is dangerous. G. O'Hora replied that a contractor had been appointed and the works would commence the following week.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHOIRLEACH

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER