



MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT of West Cork
held on MS Teams at 11.00am on 7th February 2022

Members present: Cllrs. Patrick Gerard Murphy, Declan Hurley, Danny Collins, Karen Coakley, Deirdre Kelly, Joe Carroll, Paul Hayes, Ross O'Connell

In attendance: Mac Dara O H-Ici, S.E.O. M.D.W.C.
Clare Zuk, MDO M.D.W.C.
John Ahern S.E.E Skibbereen
Ruth O'Brien S.E.E. Bantry
Kevin Morey, County Engineer
Eddie Murphy, EE, National Roads Office
Lisa O' Riordan, Communications and Marketing Officer
Ian McDonagh, Arts Officer
Martina O'Driscoll, Meeting Administrator M.D.W.C.

Cllr. PG. Murphy presided.

At 11a.m. the Chairman approved the S.E.O.'s request for an 'IN COMMITTEE' meeting to allow for Mr. Kevin Morey County Engineer to brief the members on a matter concerning the Dursey Cable Car.

Mr. Kevin Morey reported to members that a recent structural review of the infrastructure of the Dursey Cable car has highlighted some essential works that must be carried out in the short term. These works are deemed essential for the cable car to continue in service.

The works relate to the towers which suffered during recent adverse weather events including Storm Barra in December 2021. Cork County Council has been informed that considering their age, condition and likely future exposure to strong winds, these towers must now be reinforced or replaced.

Members were advised that it will not be possible for the cable car to continue in service while these structural works are carried out. As a result, it will be necessary to pause the cable car service from 1st of April 2022 in order to facilitate the essential works. The cable car service is expected to resume in November 2022 following completion of the works and the renewal of consents from the Commission for Railways Regulation to operate the cable car.

This information is being communicated to residents and land users on Dursey Island and Cork County Council is committed to keeping both residents and visitors updated on the progress of these essential works.

The in-committee meeting ended 11.30am and the Municipal meeting resumed.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 7th January 2022

Proposed by Cllr. J. Carroll

Seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes

Resolved:

“That the minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 7th January 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.”

MATTERS ARISING

Following a request for an update on the proposed lease of the Old Railway in Baltimore the SEO advised members that there was no further progress on the matter as the third party leasee’s were unable to provide a comprehensive business plan information that was required. Members expressed their disappointment that progress had ceased on the project and discussed if other groups could be approached to be involved with the project. Members agreed that a letter should be sent to Fáilte Ireland to address the issue of the Old Railway buildings dereliction.

In relation to an update on the Ballineen Toilets the SEO advised that a designer had been appointed.

Following a request for an update on the works due at Chapel Street, Dunmanway Mr. Ahern advised that the tender report was completed and had been sent to Irish Water for approval to fund their elements of the works and pending confirmation that all funding is in place a recommendation for the appointment of a contractor will be made in the coming weeks.

Ms. O' Brien responded to a member's request for an update on the Baile Nua estate drainage works by stating that they would begin in the coming weeks.

STATUTORY BUSINESS

Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993

That, being satisfied that a public right of way exists over it, and the road is of general public utility, Cork County Council hereby declares pursuant to Section 11(1) of the Roads Act, 1993 the following road to be a public road: -

ESTATE NAME	LOCATION	LINEAR METRES
River Valley	Lurriga, Skibbereen	320

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. K. Coakley, members approved the above taking in charge of the road at River Valley, Lurriga, Skibbereen.

NOTICES OF MOTION/ FOGRA RUN

Cllr. K. Coakley proposed, Cllr. R. O'Connell seconded

"I call upon this Council to enforce fines for dog fouling, some of our streets and beaches are in a revolting state, this is a major Health and Safety concern and more resources must be designated to tackle this increasing problem."

Members supported the motion and reported that businesses have to clean footpaths outside of their premises on a regular basis and requested increased monitoring of the issue. The SEO noted that the dog warden would be contacted to increase monitoring of the areas concerned.

Cllr. D. Collins proposed, Cllr. R O'Connell seconded

"Under the latest funding of 35 million announced by the government for the council towards piers and slipways throughout Cork County , what is the criteria and if piers and slipways such as Kilkileen, Turk Head, Cleandra, Dunmanus, Colla and Garnish piers would fit under this funding that money be allocated towards them."

Report from Ms. R. O'Brien S.E.E.

The investment scheme focuses on 'shovel-ready' projects to give immediate construction stimulus to the coastal communities affected by the TCA (Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom) and is targeted to attract such projects of up to €1m budget during 2022 and 2023. The Scheme also offers the possibility of funding larger projects where there is particular exposure to Brexit due to proximity to UK waters and loss of fishing opportunities. The projects will be delivered by the local authority which owns and maintains the relevant marine infrastructure.

The objective is to give immediate construction stimulus to the coastal communities *impacted by the TCA* and that the resulting infrastructure development would provide a longer-term platform for the development of new and diversified economic activity in these coastal communities.

The main condition for reimbursing public authorities is that the costs incurred must be *directly linked to countering the adverse effects of the UK's withdrawal*. Funding from the Reserve must be availed of before the end of 2023. Local authorities will need to meet *these and other conditions* to avail of the funding." Cork County Council will have to examine all the criteria (when the details are available) for drawing down the funding and this will inform decisions regarding what piers / works would be eligible for this grant aid.

Members expressed their concern that any projects that have applied for DAFM funding will not be eligible for funding under this new funding scheme and the DAFM scheme has been suspended until 2024. The S.E.O. advised that as soon as specific details of the funding scheme were available, he would revert to the members.

Cllr. D. Collins proposed, Cllr. P.G. Murphy seconded

“As the cutting of dyke’s season is closing on 1st of March, I am calling on the council to cut the dykes on the loop road from Greenmount Ballydehob up the Church Road and all adjacent roads on this loop.”

Ms. R. O’Brien S.E.E. report

We have carried out a land search along that route and are issuing letters today to 18 landowners asking them to cut back the vegetation on their roadside boundaries, where necessary.

REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

a. Eddie Murphy NRDO Briefing – Glengarriff Village to the Nature Reserve pedestrian and cycle link

Preliminary Appraisal/Feasibility Report prepared by Cork County Council in 2019 - 4 options considered: -

- Do Nothing Option – no additional spend other than maintenance of existing infrastructure
- Do Minimum Option - improved warning signage. Possible improvements to sightlines and forward visibility (with the agreement of adjacent landowners).
- Do Something Option 1 – 2m wide footpath from the Village to the Nature Reserve on the southern side of the N71
- Do Something Option 2 - an off-road shared use pedestrian and cycleway from the Village to the Nature Reserve on the southern side of the N71.

Option 2 considered to be the most preferable option.

Technical Consultants - Fehily Timoney and Company – appointed in October 2021

Appointment covers

- Phase 3 - Design and Environmental Evaluation
- Phase 4 - Statutory Processes
- Phase 5 - Enabling and Procurement

Early Activities

- Initial Consultation and site walkover with key stakeholder – National Parks and Wildlife Service – January 2022
- Consultations planned with Inland Fisheries Ireland and Cork County Council Environmental Department
- Initial development of option for shared use pedestrian and cycleway on the southern side of the N71.

The MDO Ms. Clare Zuk left the meeting at 12.30pm.

b. Municipal District Officers Report

The SEO updated members with the following items from the Municipal District Officers Report – January 2022

Details of Cork County Council Island Grant Applications 2022

- Cape Clear Helipad, Remedial Civil and Electrical works
- Bere Island Playground and Surround, completion of outstanding accommodation work
- Heir Island, Completion of design report for bridge
- Sherkin Island, surface dressing and drainage works, L4201
- Cape Clear, repairs to sea wall, South Harbour
- Cape Clear, Rock Armour retaining structure, junction of Junction of L-4426 with L-44261
- Whiddy Island, surface dressing L-4701
- Sherkin, Rock Armour, Cow Strand
- Bere Island, works to create picnic area at Reirin Village
- Heir Island, installation of pontoon at East Pier
- Whiddy Island, surface dressing, Ferry Junction to Bank House
- Bere Island, upgrade of public toilets
- Whiddy Island, feasibility study for creation of Island walks
- Bere Island, Consultant for widening approach to the pier at the request of the Department

Update, Community Fund Grants

WC MD have been in contact with grant recipients for 2019 and 2020. It is expected that the vast majority of applicants will be in a position to claim their grants by end March 2022, with most of the remainder being in a position to claim by August 2022. It was noted that groups have been appreciative of the extra time allowed to them to draw down their 2019 and 2020 grants.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Following a member's query on the recent announcement of €100,000 being allocated to revitalise Skibbereen town centre and to tackle dereliction and vacancy, the SEO advised that following the launch of the scheme last Friday that he was awaiting the specific details of the scheme and would brief members when these became available.

Members queried if a new location for a bottle bank in Ballineen had been found since it was removed from the Church carpark last year. The SEO took note of the situation and forwarded it to the Environmental division for further investigation.

The subject of Dunmanway Orca swimming club training times was discussed, and the SEO stated that the matter would be revisited after the recent recruiting drive was completed.

In reply to the request for an update on the clearing of the pathway between the new Community secondary school and the primary schools the SEO noted that matter for follow up.

A report of a wall at Convent Road in Clonakilty being in danger of falling down the S.E.E. Mr. Ahern noted the matter for investigation.

In response to a question on the traffic calming in Drinagh, Mr. Ahern stated that traffic surveys had been postponed due to COVID limits influencing genuine levels of traffic movement, but that the survey in Drinagh would begin in the coming months. Mr. Ahern also noted to review the location of the speed activation sign to be closer to the eastern end of the school in the interim.

Members expressed gratitude to the MDO, Ms. Clare Zuk, for her support with the recent EIRGRID applications, and the SEO praised the MDO's efforts.

In response to a request for meetings with the Tidy Towns groups to discuss funding and projects the SEO acknowledged the fantastic work of the Tidy Town groups and noted that meetings could be facilitated.

The SEO advised the members that the Part 8 Public Consultation process was due to commence for the extension of the Joe Walsh walkway which would link the Technology Park with the Rugby Pitch.

Ms. R. O'Brien S.E.E. briefed members on a Section 38 at Chapel Street, Bantry where a pedestrian crossing was being advertised. She also briefed members on proposed alterations to parking in Bantry including 2-hour parking at the Harbour View Car Park on Friday's only and double yellow lines on the Harbour View road. Double yellow lines would also be installed from the Boys Club to the funeral headstone premises with a set down area outside the headstone premises.

Members discussed restarting in-person meetings, including a proposal for one meeting to be held at Whiddy Island. The SEO informed members that in-person meetings were currently being explored at CPG, and that a site in West Cork for blended meetings was being considered.

Islands Interagency Meeting Creative Places

Mr. Ian McDonagh gave a presentation to the members Arts Council Cumas Cenatar/Creative Places Award. In 2021 Cork County Council received an Arts Council Cumas Ceantar / Creative Places Award for a three-year developmental arts project centred on the West Cork Islands 2022-2024. This will enable a sustained programme of arts engagement to be delivered over a full three-year period. The briefing included some of the following information:-

Focus of Creative Places West Cork Islands 2021 – 2024:

- Strengthen and structure new and existing relationships between the West Cork islands and coastal communities in West Cork, including the service ports of CastletownBere, Bantry, Schull and Baltimore through socially-engaged arts practice and community-led arts engagement.

- To strengthen existing local contemporary and traditional arts practice through the initiation of a residency programme, off-season engagement with islanders and coastal communities and high-season public events, which will be sustainable post-2024;
- Create a sustainable programme for socially engaged arts practice that positively impacts on islanders' ongoing cultural participation and the preservation and promotion of unique island cultures, whilst connecting the islands to coastal communities through new and existing networks.
- Making visible and strengthening the interconnectedness of the islands through community-led engagement with the arts that can be sustained post-2024.
- Give expression to what it is to be an islander from a person-centred perspective, focussing on the lived experience of inhabitants.
- Supporting creative community engagement with climate adaptation and with the expansion of digital technology opportunities in West Cork;
- Support creative innovation in arts practice in the context of post-COVID rural development at local and national level.

Project Legacy: What success could look like at the end of 2024:

- Residency programme established that is embedded in a resilient and open arts network across the islands and coastal communities that value the arts as part of everyday life and as contributor to a rich island culture and regeneration.
- West Cork Islands viewed as a destination for artists, as a place for creativity, inspiration and reflection.
- West Cork and the Islands viewed as a key destination for the “culturally curious traveller”
- Creativity fostered at local level during the programme will evolve into community-led activities and engagement with high-season public-facing arts events and programmes.

What's been done to date

- Recruitment for the Creative Places project co-ordinator, as required under the Arts Council's conditions of funding is currently underway
- It is planned to formally launch the project in the coming weeks with the Mayor and members for the West Cork MD
- The Arts Council has established the Creative Places Network, an informal information sharing forum for all Creative Places projects, nationally. These meetings are attended by Arts Office personnel and will include the project coordinator in the future.
- Planning phase has been initiated with the project partners.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH _____ DATE _____

