

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD VIA MS TEAMS ON MONDAY
7TH FEBRUARY 2022.**

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

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

1. Proposed Strategic Housing Development at Lackenroe & Johnstown Townlands, Glounthaune, Co. Cork.

Noel Sheridan, Cork County Council, outlined the details of the development to the members, including the history of applications on the site. He stated that the development proposed to construct 289 units, a creche, a commercial unit and a community unit. The closing date for receipt of submissions had passed. He advised that An Bord Pleanála had contacted Cork County Council to state that a total of 86 submissions had been received. The Board have posted hard copies of the submissions, but these had not yet been received.

The members were unanimous in their objections to the scale of development on this steeply sloping site. Concerns were raised by the members regarding access to the site which is served by a series of narrow rural roads, unsuitable for the volume of traffic now proposed as well as the level of construction traffic required. Members were also concerned that the local social and community infrastructure did not have the capacity to accommodate such a scale of development.

Cllr. A. O'Connor stated he was concerned with the scale rather than the density of the proposal. He stated that the proposed walkway linking the lower part of the site to the greenway and access to the railway station does not lend itself to use by pedestrians or cyclists, given the gradient. He also raised concern with the loss of significant trees as a result of the development.

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the councillors spent considerable time and effort on the County Development Plan which was then overturned by these types of developments granted directly by An Bord Pleanála.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan welcomed the diversity of accommodation contained in the plan but was extremely concerned, as were the other members, on the pressure this development would put on local amenities which were already struggling. As it was the main amenities i.e. the playground and pub were across the main road and railway line from the existing houses.

Cllr. A. Barry raised concerns about the road network, stating everything in the area went through the 'dry bridge' which was totally unsuited for the volume of traffic, he

stated that proximity to the railway line and greenway did not remove the necessity for a car. He also questioned the traffic numbers used in the report for the dry bridge, stating that in his opinion, this was underestimated. He expressed concern with the reduction in parking on the site, while the site is within walking distance of the train station, the village does not have all the services required by the residents and they would need to travel to access these. Cllr Barry also raised concerns with the useability and long term maintenance of these spaces.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen queried the practicality of the green spaces given the slope of the site, he observed that much of the green areas were heavily planted and unusable for children as an amenity area. Several members expressed their concerns that while the green areas may reach the technical and legal requirements for planning permission they were of little practical value to the residents and that the costs in the long term to residents associations to maintain inappropriate plantings were considerable as well as inviting anti-social behaviours.

Cllr Barry asked for the view of the Council Officials on the scheme. In reply the council officials stated that at this stage the report had not been completed. Noel Sheridan stated that the minutes of the pre-planning meetings were a matter of record and had been circulated to the members as part of the agenda. He stated that concerns had been raised with regards to scale and topography. He recognised that there had been modifications made by the developer to try and address this. A recent planning decision in the area had included a special contribution to upgrade the pedestrian connectivity via the dry bridge. If this application is to be granted by ABP, a similar contribution may be imposed. The Members' concerns will be included in the report of the Chief Executive.

Cllr. Rasmussen thanked the officials for their presentation but expressed his frustration at the system, which while inviting the members to put forward their opinions, would not make a difference to the outcome. The officials then withdrew.

2. DEIMHIÚ MIONTUAIRISCÍ/CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MD MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 4TH JANAUARY 2022.

On the proposal of Cllrs. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 4th January were adopted.

3. MATTERS ARISING.

Norwood School:

G. O'Hora stated the traffic calming scheme had been prepared and requested that the members meet him on site to discuss same as well as changes proposed at Carrigaloe and Aherns Place. Cllr. C. Rasmussen to co-ordinate a suitable time and contact Mr. O'Hora.

Watergrasshill Lights:

G. O'Hora stated that he had contacted the ESB with a view to expediting the connection of the lights.

Ballywilliam:

G. O’Hora stated that the fee had now been paid to the ESB and the works were progressing.

Carrigane Road:

G. O’Hora stated that works had been included in the 2022 Public Lighting Programme.

Cuskinny:

G. O’Hora stated that the wall at Cuskinny car park had been repaired.

Lake Road:

G. O’Hora stated that the road lining contractor had been on site last week and requested that the road sweeper clean the road before lining could be completed.

Ballymore:

G. O’Hora stated that the road lining had now been completed.

Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the walkway had now been cleaned.

Top of Hill:

G. O’Hora stated that the pothole had been repaired.

Carrigtwohill:

The pothole at Barryscourt has been repaired.

Lower Park/Park Villas, Cobh:

The yellow box had been painted in outside Lower Par/ParkVillas.

Belvelly/Pottery Road, Cobh:

The engineer has been in contact with Irish Water about reinstating the road correctly and filling the pothole.

Ellen’s Kitchen, Rushbrooke, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that he had examined the location again and had plans to include a pedestrian crossing on the R614 and to deal with the surface water issue at the same time as the Rushbrooke school traffic calming measures.

Aherns Farm, Belvelly:

G. O’Hora stated that he had been in contact with Irish Water regarding the state of the road.

Whitepoint, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that he had been in contact with Sorensens regarding the railings and had received a commitment that they would be repaired as soon as possible.

High Road Junction/Whitepoint Estate:

G. O’Hora stated the potholes had been repaired.

Top of the Hill:

G. O’Hora confirmed the lights had been connected.

Lower Road/Harbour Hill, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the drains had been cleaned.

Fota Road:

G. O’Hora stated that the road verges on Fota Road had been cleaned and the hedges cut.

Cobh Connect Bus:

G. O’Hora stated that he would contact Cobh Connect.

Knockraha:

G. O’Hora stated that he would contact ESB Networks and highlight the inordinate delay in connecting the lights.

Kilquane Cemetery:

G. O’Hora confirmed that works to relieve the ponding at the entrance to the graveyard had been listed.

O’Shea’s Boreen, Watergrasshill:

G. O’Hora stated that additional measures to deal with flooding could be incorporated into the works scheduled for the school.

Little Island:

G. O’Hora proposed installing a yellow box at the junction.

Dry Bridge, Glounthaune:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the contractor had been appointed and was due to start this week on repairing the road this week.

Rushbrooke, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the road leading from Mills Garage to the Dockyard was listed for cleaning.

Harbour Row:

G. O’Hora stated that repairs works to the footpath on Harbour Row had commenced.

Newtown Road:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that a car had crashed on the Newtown Road and requested additional signage. G. O’Hora stated that additional signage had already been purchased and would be put in place soon. Cllr. S. O’Connor enquired whether rumble strips could be put in, but G. O’Hora replied that these were discouraged in urban areas due to noise.

Loading Bay, West Beach:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen again raised the issue of the loading bay outside of Centra, the lines were very faint, and people were getting parking tickets.

4. COMHFHREAGRAS/CORRESPONDENCE.

P. Lynch stated that the following correspondence had been received since the last meeting and circulated to the members:

Letter from the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamonn Ryan, in relation to the upgrade of the R624;

Report from the Director of Services for Environment in relation to the roll out of WIFI in Cork County;

An invitation from Cobh Tourism to events scheduled for 2022 in connection with Titanic, Lusitania, and Spike Island.

5. TUAIRISCÍ Ó OFIGH/OFFICER'S REPORTS.

P. Lynch requested the members approval to start the public consultation process in respect of the Part 8 for the Carrigwohill Public Realm, following on from the briefing that the members had received on Friday 4th February. Cllr Rasmussen asked that members be provide with a set of drawings for the scheme. He also asked for clarification as to when the Part 8 would be published. P. Lynch stated that the intention was to start the process on 18th February. He agreed to contact the relevant officials to request drawings for the members.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O'Connor seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed to start the public consultation process.

G. O'Hora outlined the proposals for this year's Road Drainage Programme and Footpath programmes. The members sought clarification on some of the locations listed, but overall were in favour of the proposals

6. TUAIRISCÍ Ó OIFIGEACH CEANTAIR BARDASACHA/MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER'S REPORTS.

P. Lynch detailed the amounts spent under the GMA and TDF for 2021 and reminded members that applications were currently being accepted online for the 2022 Community Funds Programme. He stated that it was important for the groups to get an application in before the deadline, even if it was not complete.

P. Lynch also detailed proposals for the 2022 Village Enhancement Scheme. He recommended that the fund be allocated to Little Island in 2022, to tie in with the grant already confirmed under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme for Carrigrenan. He also recommended that funding for 2023 and 2024 be allocated in principle for Whitechurch and Knockraha respectively. On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Callaghan seconded by Cllr. A. Barry the proposals were accepted.

7. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to dispose of 0.0423 hectares of lands at Ballintubbrid East, Carrigtwohill to James Collins and Ann Collins, Ballintubber, for the consideration of €1.00.

8. CONSIDERATION OF INTRODUCTION OF 30 MINUTE PARKING ZONE.

P. Lynch stated that a sub-committee of members had been set up, the report from which had been circulated and discussed at the December meeting and had subsequently sent to businesses. One submission had been received which related to Top of the Hill. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, it was agreed to start the process to introduce the 30 minute zones as per the original map.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen queried what the position was currently in relation to Street Furniture. He asked if the issue of the fee and the allocation of parking spaces to specific businesses would be a matter for the members to decide. P. Lynch explained that the fee had been waived by the Minister for 2020 and 2021, but this had now been re-introduced for applications received after 1st January 2022 and each application was dealt with on its merits. S. O'Callaghan suggested that the matter might best be dealt with in committee, in the meantime P. Lynch to prepare a report on the number of applications received to date and in 2021.

9. FOGRAÍ RÚN/NOTICES OF MOTION.

1. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:

That Cobh MD would look at contacting owners of many overgrown trees on private property in the district, as many are now blocking street lighting in areas and causing a safety issue.

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that there were a number of trees on private property from the Tennis Club to the High Road which are blocking lights. Could the Council write to the landowners? G. O'Hora responded that there only a short window left to carry out this type of work. He also advised that the Council issued a large number of such letters on an annual basis.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen the motion was carried.

2. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:

That this MD would look at public street lighting for Glenmore, Valley road area.

Cllr. Sheppard stated that this area was very busy with walkers and runners but had no public lighting. G. O'Hora responded by saying that the funding for public lighting was very limited and was concentrated in the urban areas.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed that the engineer would carry out an assessment to determine the feasibility of public lighting in the area.

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

That a breakdown be given of the number of parking fines by month over the last 12 months and by reason in the town of Cobh.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that P. Lynch would supply this report by the next meeting.

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

Can details be given and the logic of the chosen route be provided to members for the new cycling route that has popped up all over the Great Island over the last few months.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked who had decided on the new cycle route on the Great Island as the roads chosen were not conducive to cycling. G. O’Hora responded that the Non National Roads Design Office had responsibility for this.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with the engineer dealing with this project by G. O’Hora.

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

That this Municipal look at having a policy for the installation of traffic calming ramps like other Municipals appear to have.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that other Municipal Districts seemed to be ramps to deal with excessive speed within their areas, but the Cobh M.D. was not. G. O’Hora explained that Cork County Council had a number of policies dealing with ramps and rumble strips which were discouraged in built up areas due to the noise created. Cllr. S. O’Callaghan stated she was pleased that such measures were being proposed for Buck Leary’s Cross, and accepted that there were strict guidelines in place governing the locations that such measures may be used.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard

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

That this council write to Irish Water asking that the water main from Ryan and Ahern place to Ballyadam be replaced as a matter of urgency.

Cllr. Barry stated that there had been at least 10 water breaks in the area and the road had only just been resurfaced when it had to be dug up again as a result of a burst water main.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed that the Cobh Municipal District would write to Irish Water on the issue.

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

That this council consider resurfacing Main Street Carrigtwohill from the Centra supermarket to the entrance to Carrig Downs estate.

Cllr. Barry stated that the road surface was appalling following a series of water breaks.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen the motion was carried.

8. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the names of Cllrs. Sheila O'Callaghan and Anthony Barry:

We are calling on Cobh MD to install Digital Speed display units, table ramps and to improve the connectivity of the footpaths in Knockraha Village in the interest of pedestrian safety.

Cllr. O'Callaghan stated that there is a disconnect in the pedestrian walkways in the village, which is causing problems for children going to school. G. O'Hora responded by saying that substantial works had been carried out in the village over the last few years and that when the lights are working, traffic should slow.

9. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan:

Cobh MD would apply for funding to sensitively remove debris build up along roadside verges and open existing culverts and drains along Old Cork/Dublin Road and the Old Mallow Road, both now regional routes.

Cllr. O'Callaghan stated that the road is used now as an amenity route by walkers and cyclists and that the road had narrowed considerably due to overgrown verges, particularly in Kilcronan Lane. G. O'Hora replied that widening the road by cutting back the verges would lead to an increase in speed.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Callaghan seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the motion was carried.

10. AON GHNÓ EILE/ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Cllr. S. O'Connor:

1. Ballywilliam:

Road leading to the creche is very busy, needs road lining signage – Slow etc., from the corner to the far side of the school. Engineer to examine.

2. Cathedral Road:

The road surface in the vicinity of the Cathedral is very poor. Engineer to examine.

3. Carrignafoy Terrace:

The road is subsiding. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. A. Barry:

4. Carrigtwohill Community College:

Thanks for cleaning the walkway leading to the school.

5. Barryscourt Roundabout:

Road lining is required at the Barryscourt Roundabout and near the school, giving a warning about the school entrance. Engineer to examine.

6. Little Island:

A single white line is required from the golf club to Cork Plastics. Engineer to examine.

7. Whitechurch School:

Any update on the lights? G. O'Hora stated that he had met with the Community Group, the lights were ordered, it would be approximately 2 weeks for delivery.

8. Knockraha/Springhill:

There are very large potholes on the road and a huge depression at the side of the road. Engineer to examine.

9. Carrigtwohill to Knockraha Road

Another car recently went over the embankment, signage required. Engineer to examine.

10. Cobh Business Hub:

A business hub for Cobh had been included in the new County Development Plan, was there any information on a potential site. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that his understanding was that the Library building was to be used for this.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

11. Ballybrack:

Thanks for the works done at Ballybrack.

12. Ballinagluck Road:

The roadside verges had been taken away and drainage put in, very wide road now and a white line was needed. G. O'Hora stated that road resurfacing was due to be carried out shortly.

13. Blackstone Bridge:

A driver recently hit the crash barrier, an extension to same is required. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

14. Lynchs Quay:

Flooding near the Old Custom House, the road also needs to be cleaned. Engineer to examine.

15. West Beach:

The road needs to be cleaned opposite Centra, also potholes at English's Corner and Pearse Square. Engineer to examine and pursue potholes with Irish Water.

16. Top of Hill:

The lights at the of the Hill need to be upgraded. Engineer to examine.

17. Colaiste Muire:

What is the status regarding the report on the pedestrian crossing? Is there a start date? G. O'Hora stated that the report was still being processed and will be presented to the members as soon as possible.

18. Ballymore Cemetery:

Is there a budget to allow the grass cutting to continue? S. O'Callaghan stated that he was in discussions with the Director of Services regarding funding for this location and will revert to the members as soon as possible.

19. Bus Shelters Cobh:

There would appear to be no plans to erect bus shelters in Cobh despite the fact that the town was now well served by Cobh Connect. Engineer to forward to the Transport Section.

20. Tea & Coffee Licence – Cobh Promenade:

Cllr. Rasmussen queried the position in relation to the length of the licence and how they are granted. P. Lynch stated that the current licence would expire on 31st March and that there was a policy in place outlining the criteria for the licence. Cllr. Rasmussen asked for the policy to be sent to the members. It was agreed that if members had any suggestions in relation to changes to the policy that they would submit those in advance of the March meeting so that the issue could be included on the Agenda for that meeting.

Cllr. S. Sheppard:

21. Glasson's Avenue:

Speed calming measures are required for Glasson's Avenue. R. O'Sullivan stated that the road at Glasson's Avenue had been repaired and signage put up recently.

22. Funfair:

Sharon Piper had requested permission to place a carousel in the promenade for every Saturday in July and August. P. Lynch replied that a funfair licence would require the permission of the members and Ms. Piper should contact the office to obtain the relevant forms.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.