

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 15th September 2020**

**In Attendance:** Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Noel McCarthy, Deirdre O' Brien, Frank O' Flynn, William O' Leary, Frank Roche; Brendan O' Gorman SEE, Mary Hayes SEO, Pauline Moriarty MDO, Diane Finucane A/MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO.

**1. MINUTES**

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of Fermoy MD July 2020 meeting held on 21st July 2020.**

The Minutes were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank Roche, seconded by Cllr. William O' Leary.

**2. FERMOY WEIR UPDATE**

**1. Fermoy Weir - presentation by TJ O'Connor and Associates to include the following: History of the project; Progress to date; Options considered; Most viable option.**

**For TJ O' Connor's: Diarmuid Cahalane and Michael Vaughan and for Cork County Council: Mr. Kevin Morey, County Engineer and Cormac Manning, Project Engineer were in attendance.**

Kevin Morey, County Engineer said that after today's briefing the public consultation process for the weir project can commence. He then introduced Diarmuid Cahalane from TJ O'Connors; adding that Member's questions will be dealt with after the presentation.

Diarmuid Cahalane gave a brief history of Fermoy Weir which is in place for about two hundred years and which measures 110m wide. Some of the main points of note from the presentation are:

- surveys and inspections carried out by the Consultant to date have identified major issues of concern throughout the structure.
- the Blackwater River is an SAC (Special Area of Conservation) with integral obligations in respect of the Habitats Directive.
- the weir is made up of two sections - west of the bridge (upstream) a crump weir and fish pass and east of and below the bridge the mill race weir wall. The mill race weir wall is now significantly breached with the remaining section badly damaged and there are also works required to repair the crump weir and fish by-pass (removal of concrete etc.).
- ongoing consultation and co-operation between Cork County Council, the OPW, IFI (Inland Fisheries Ireland) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service will be required to take this project to completion.
- there are nine possible options as repair/renovation solutions with option nine, a 'rough channel pool by-pass' on the northern bank near the park triangle, being the most viable one. Option nine will fulfil Cork County Council's statutory obligations towards the weir as a protected structure and is also acceptable to the IFI to protect the numerous fish species native to the river.

The next stage of the process will be the preparation of planning documents using and collating data gathered from bathymetric and many other surveys which have been and will be done. Full consultation with all relevant statutory bodies and the public will be arranged in due course, and then the planning phase of the process can commence. Of course, funding for the project will need to be secured in order for the project to proceed.

There followed questions from the elected Members further to which the following was confirmed:

- all stakeholders with an interest in the weir project will be implicated in securing funding for this project with all potential funding sources being considered including national and European options.
- the final option choice will determine the cost, which is estimated at between €3 to €4 million.
- the Flood Relief works carried out in Fermoy which were complete by 2015 were not detrimental to the weir or mill race weir wall.
- works will be carried out at suitable times of year from the Habitats Directive perspective.
- all heritage and conservation requirements will be met when works are being planned / done.

The Members thanked those in attendance for a comprehensive and informative presentation and will welcome the progression of the Fermoy Weir project to the next stage.

### **3. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **1. REPORT : MDO Report September 2020**

Diane Finucane A/MDO went through the items on her report, uploaded for the Members information.

- In relation to the upgrade proposal for Waterloo Lane, the Members welcomed the plans here, requesting local residents be kept fully informed of all proposed works.
- The painting of the south-side buildings on Pearse Square was commended and complimented.
- the elected Members welcomed news of the Fermoy Leisure Centre re-opening date.
- Cllr. William O' Leary asked for a timeline on works in Rathcormac playground to which Diane replied this work will be complete by November 2020.
- Cllrs. Noel McCarthy and Frank O' Flynn proposed that parking in the Library carpark lower section be charged by the hour, same as the on-street carpark. Cllr. O' Leary enquired if Fermoy parking by-laws will be considered before the re-introduction of pay parking. Mary Hayes SEO replied that all issues pertaining to car-parking and pay-parking in Fermoy will be discussed at a later date and in conjunction with the Project ACT Fermoy town team.
- Further to a request, Mary Hayes SEO said the request for the 'lighting-up' of the clock on Pearse Square will be considered, pending funding.
- As no response has been received to date from the authority in Nova Deba, Cllr. Noel McCarthy requested Fermoy MD write to them again. This was agreed. Pending their reply, or in the event of no reply being forthcoming, Cllr. Noel McCarthy proposed Fermoy MD now terminate the Fermoy twinning agreement with Nova Deba, this was seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

#### **2. REPORT : 2020 RI / RM / LIS / CIS / Drainage Programmes Updates**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through all the 2020 works programmes, progress reports for which have been uploaded for the Members information. Surface dressing and grading works are ongoing in the district, progressing according to plan and within budget, with progress to date at 95% of the surface dressing and circa 65% of the RI works. Remaining 'blacktop' work will be done in October and all planned drainage works are now finished. There are two LIS projects both of which have been paid for and will be done before year end. In relation to four planned CIS jobs, no contributions have been paid to date and it is now unlikely they will proceed in 2020, but may carry forward and be done in 2021. The Members thanked Brendan for the update and commended the works to date.

#### **3. RECOMMENDATION : Active Travel Measures / NTA / Climate Change Adaptation Allowance Funding.**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the measures proposed under these funding streams as follows:

- Active Travel Measures - €45k for public lighting in Rathcormac; €30k for footpath on Ballyhooley Road from Rathcormac; €105k for footpath extension and new cycleway design costs between Moorepark and Kilcrumper Cemetery.
- NTA - €25k for pedestrian crossing in Mitchelstown; €10k for Fitzgerald Place, Fermoy.
- Climate Change Adaptation - €120k for a storm sewer in Conna; €35k for bridge wall in Glenseskin. All these works are planned for completion by mid-November 2020 subject to contract constraints.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION : New Zebra Crossing - Section 38 - Upper Cork Street, Mitchelstown**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that this project, cost estimate €25k, has gone to public consultation with the press notice published. With no impediment works are planned to commence in six weeks. Brendan added that there are two other Age-Friendly crossing points, approved previously. This zebra crossing proposal to go for a Section 38 at Upper Cork Street was approved on the proposition of Cllr. Kay Dawson, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn and agreed by all the Members.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATION: Bright Sparks Crèche - public realm improvements**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that the proposal here is to (potentially temporarily) convert the outer green areas to carparking space, this currently being highly warranted due to Covid-19 requirements. This work, if sanctioned, will be done over the next six weeks. This proposal was approved on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien and agreed by all the Members.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATION: Removal of Tree - on rear lane Devlin Street, Fermoy**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that a tree at this location is damaging the road surface tarmac and undermining the wall of an adjacent private property, therefore he is recommending its removal. The Members approved Brendan's recommendation on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn.

#### **4. NOTICES OF MOTION**

##### **Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien**

1. "that this Council make safe the entrance to Mandeville Park Estate, Mitchelstown, from the Glanworth approach road where cars turn in at high speed onto the estate."  
We will undertake some additional road lining here to improve safety at the locus. (BO'G)

##### **Cllr. William O' Leary**

2. "that this Council would put in place safety measures (i.e. signage or road markings) at Strawhall, Fermoy on the approach to the cluster of dwellings including P61VP64, particularly coming from the Kenny's cross direction owing to the fact that there is a number of dangerous bends and the speed that traffic flows at".  
Some additional road markings will be placed here to highlight the risks. (BO'G)

##### **Cllr. Noel McCarthy**

3. "that a survey be carried out on all footpaths in the Fermoy Municipal District so as to ascertain where works may be required to make footpaths more wheelchair and mobility scooter friendly".  
In advance of a 2021 footpath programme, a more detailed examination of footpath crossings will be undertaken in the town. Some locations can never be wheelchair / mobility friendly owing to stepped locations and differences in height between road and footpaths, e.g. famine road/wall along the R639 through the town, which is dominated by hills on all sides. However, with small diversions, we can put alternative options in play. (BO'G)  
Cllr. Kay Dawson recommended using the Age-Friendly model for this 'walkabout' / accessibility study.

##### **Cllr. Kay Dawson**

4. "call on Cork County Council for potholes to be filled on L-5633-10 and L-5633-26".  
Will be done. (BO'G)

##### **Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien**

5. "that this Council would investigate public lighting in the vicinity of Araglen Church, poles are rotting and some are an endanger to the Church"  
Will be forwarded to our public lighting section for action. (BO'G)

##### **Cllr. William O' Leary**

6. "that this Council would invite representatives from the HSE into a meeting in order to discuss the future use of St Francis Welfare Home, Fermoy following recent refurbishments that have been undertaken there".  
Further to a brief discussion it was agreed that Fermoy MD would communicate with the HSE on this matter, and Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to write to them accordingly.

**Cllr. Noel McCarthy**

7. "that an Engineer's report on the possibility of installing speed ramps on the Pike Road and Rathealy Road in Fermoy on health and safety grounds be published".

To undertake widespread traffic calming at the locus identified, a feasibility report and public consultation is undertaken as per our 2020 Traffic Calming Policy in Towns & Villages document. This initial engineering assessment is detailed in order to determine a warrant for traffic calming measures and to be in a position to target limited resources to the highest priority cases. The initial **assessment** will be used, subject to the establishment of sufficient data by traffic counting/speed measurement devices and a general examination of the location. This work will be programmed for Q4 2020. Driver feedback signs have also been erected here on the northern approach here and whilst these continue to be effective for the vast majority of motorists, there are those motorists who require more physical obstructions to force them to slow down. In addition, the Gardaí and 'Go Safe' speed monitoring vans have a significant role to play in controlling driver behavior and are attending this location. Please be advised we still have no dedicated traffic calming budget in this district. (BO'G)

**Cllr. Kay Dawson**

8. "call on Cork County Council (a) that road markings be re-instated on approach to Ballyaghaderg Bridge, (b) the surface alignment be corrected and pothole filled, (c) water pooling on the left hand side coming from Mitchelstown and (d) general cleaning on and around the bridge".  
All works in hand presently. (BO'G)

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**6. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**(1) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Shanowen estate and Residents Association**

Cllr. Noel McCarthy requested the taking-in-charge of Shanowen estate, Rathcormac be raised at the meeting scheduled to take place at 2.00 pm, on behalf of the Resident's Association representative who is in attendance at the MD meeting.

**(2) Brendan O' Gorman SEE – Safety Improvement Schemes : Glenville and Ballyarthur Cross, Fermoy projects**

Brendan gave out maps for these two proposed SIS schemes.

**(3) Mary Hayes SEO - Thanks to Catherine Price**

Mary offered thanks to Catherine Price, CO Fermoy MD for her work on the painting scheme in Fermoy.

**(4) Cllr. Kay Dawson - Welcome back and Thank you**

Cllr. Dawson welcomed Pauline Moriarty back from her leave and thanked Diane Finucane for all her work as Acting MDO.

Signed Kay Dawson

Date 20.10.2020