

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD VIA MS TEAMS ON MONDAY
1ST MARCH 2021.**

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
Mr. R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

1.0 Attendance by Eirgrid re Celtic Interconnector:

The members welcomed the attendance of Michelle Walsh, Des Cox and Sean Kenny from Eirgrid who gave a presentation on the progress to date on the Celtic Interconnector project which was now in the Detailed Design and Consents Phase 2019 -2021, construction is currently scheduled to start at the end of 2021. The members had a number of concerns in relation to the impact the construction would have on local residents and stressed that communication with the residents was key to minimising disruption. Concerns were also raised in relation to the reinstatement of the road network following the laying of the cables, the members wanted to know how long after the works had finished were Eirgrid responsible for the repairs and emphasised their preference for full resurfacing rather than a 'patchwork quilt' approach. The Eirgrid representatives acknowledged the members concerns and stressed that Eirgrid had a comprehensive plan in place to mitigate against these concerns and had a dedicated team selected to work with local groups. Eirgrid have also established a Community Fund to support local projects, which would be decided on by local steering groups, this fund was in addition to the one off proximity payments that some residents may be entitled to. The members thanked Eirgrid for the comprehensive presentation, who then withdrew.

2.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí/Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 1st February 2021 were adopted.

3.0 Matters Arising:

Connolly Street:

G. O'Hora stated that a contractor had now been appointed and had started on site to carry out remedial works in the area. Cllr. O'Connor stated that a landslide had occurred recently and that it was not safe for Sorensens to move in and begin works. Following a discussion on the issue, it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. S.

O'Connor seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, that the matter would be referred to Coastal Management to carry out an urgent review.

Cuskinny Hill, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that works had commenced.

Ticknock Hill:

G. O'Hora stated that the footpath works had commenced.

Carrigtwohill Railway Station:

G. O'Hora stated that the works were completed.

Road Subsidence, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that a programme of pothole filling was ongoing in Cobh.

Cul de Sac Signs, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated works on erecting the signs were ongoing.

Norwood School Signage:

G. O'Hora stated that a Driver Feed Back sign had been ordered and would be installed mid-summer. Cllr. S. Sheppard thanked him on behalf of the residents. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that there were ongoing issues with traffic exiting the new estate and queried the direction of the traffic flow. G. O'Hora to examine.

Litter at Harbour Row, Cobh:

P. Lynch stated that he had spoken to the Council's Data Protection Officer. The current situation is that there are ongoing discussions at national level in relation to the issue of who the Data Controller for Community CCTV schemes will be. The Council's position is that until this issue is resolved, no action will be taken by the Council in relation to supporting additional CCTV schemes. In relation to the scheme itself, the Dept. of Justice grant scheme would provide 60% of the cost of installing CCTV schemes to a maximum grant of €40,000. The balance would have to be met from MD finances – presumably the GMA. Assuming a grant of €40,000, the balance to be funded from the GMA would be €26,666 and any realistic scheme in a town like Cobh would cost well in excess of this amount. Ongoing maintenance costs would also have to be funded from the GMA. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated she accepted that for the moment the issue was out of the members hands, however she would be in favour of using funds to support any initiative to eliminate litter.

College Manor, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated a lining contractor had been appointed and that the works were due to start soon.

Carrignavar:

G. O'Hora stated that once the traffic survey had been undertaken, traffic calming proposals would be examined.

Litter Plan:

P. Lynch stated that the Litter Plan was currently being examined and will be on the agenda of the next MD meeting. The plan needs to take boundary changes into account

e.g. the loss of Glanmire, City environs and Glenville and the addition of Watergrasshill, and the new Public Park at Haulbowline.

Burma Steps, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the works required on the Burma Steps were quite extensive, the issue of access would also be a challenge however he hoped to have a update on a works programme for the next meeting.

Barryscourt, Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora stated that he was examining a new footpath for the road. R. O’Sullivan stated that remedial works had taken place at Barryscourt to alleviate flooding.

Ryan Ahern Place, Carrigtwohill:

R. O’Sullivan stated that he had been in contact with Irish Water and the repairs had now been carried out.

Whitepoint Estate, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that repairs to the footpath in Whitepoint had been included in the 2021 programme. He had contacted Sorensens to clean up the area following works. The additional signage was ordered and would be put up shortly.

Ryngs Corner, Cobh:

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the barrier and footpath were now in worse condition. G. O’Hora stated that repairs to the barrier had been listed and would be carried out shortly.

4.0 Comhfhreagras/Correspondence:

P. Lynch stated that no response had been received to the letter sent to National Broadband Ireland.

5.0 Tuairisci ó Ofigigh/Officer’s Reports:

G O’Hora presented a copy of his 2021 road drainage programme to members. G O’Hora confirmed that funding allocations for both the RI and RM road programmes had been received and work on both road programmes will now proceed.

P. Lynch presented the members with a report on the issues and procedures for the making of a Tree Preservation order, which is a reserved function and a matter for the members at Municipal District level. The procedure requires the publication of a Notice and a public consultation period of 6 weeks. The Order may prohibit the cutting down, topping, lopping or wilful destruction of trees and requires the owners/occupier affected by the order to enter into an agreement with the local authority to ensure proper management of the trees or woodlands. The Order will not prevent the cutting down or topping of any tree which is dying or has become dangerous. Cllr. A. O’Connor wished to proceed with the making of a Tree preservation order, even though the developer of the lands was liaising with the Planning Department and a tree survey had been submitted as part of the planning

process. He felt that any agreement reached between the developer and the planning department would be informal and wished to ensure that more robust protection was put in place. Cllr. C. Rasmussen felt that people qualified in relation to this matter should be making any decisions and that the tree survey would form part of the planning application and did not feel comfortable undertaking a process with which he was not familiar. He requested that further advice should be obtained from County Hall. Sean O'Callaghan stated that the agreement would not be informal and would be dealt with by the planning department as part of the planning submission or as a condition. Cllr. A. O'Connor expressed his satisfaction that the insertion of a planning condition would be sufficient protection and was willing for the planning process to take its course. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the process and planning application would still need to be watched carefully.

6.0 Review of Parks Use Policy:

P. Lynch presented the Members with the proposed updated Parks Use policy, the changes to which included the addition of criteria for the issuing of a licence for a mobile coffee/tea stall and for the Farmers Market. P. Lynch reminded the members that the Policy had been deferred from last month's meeting and issues which remained to be resolved included the number of licences to be issued for each location, the length of time of the licence, the number of trading days approved and the fee. P. Lynch stated that it was not possible to issue an annual licence under a tendering system, however if the number of applicants exceeded the number of licences available, then the licence would be awarded by drawing lots. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that he, like the other members, had been approached about the possibility of having a second stall in the promenade selling hot food including fish and chips and had reservations about the granting of only one licence. Cllr. Rasmussen understood that other members are against the idea of a second licence personally had no issue with it but if the majority decide against then he would abide by that decision, however the fee of €300 for unlimited time and space needed to be increased. Cllr. Rasmussen also felt that in the interest of transparency, the licence needed to be sent out for tender. Cllr. A. Barry also expressed surprise at the inability to undertake a tendering process as this would provide the best income available to the Council and solve the issue of trying to set a fee without knowing the commercial value of the licence. He queried whether the licence charge was the same all over the District and observed that any trader in Haulbowline Park should do well for lack of competition. Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan asked if the parks were closed in the evening time and commented that the running of generators would cause noise issues for residents in the evening. P. Lynch stated, in response to members queries, that the licence being issued was an annual one and that there was no guarantee that it would be renewed, this was a risk that the current licence holders and future applicants would be made aware of. On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, it was agreed that one licence would issue in respect of each park and the fee would be increased to €600.00. It was also agreed that the licences be advertised in local press.

7.0 Tuairisc ó Oifigeach Ceantair Bardasacha/Municipal District Officer's Report:

P. Lynch presented the members with the report for March and invited the members to propose schemes under the Village Enhancement Scheme. P. Lynch explained to the members that proposals from Whitechurch included costs which were outside the scope of the scheme. Similarly the proposals for Knockraha included the costs of land acquisition which is also outside of the scope. Cllrs. S. O'Callaghan and A. Barry expressed disappointment that the groups from Knockraha and Watergrasshill were ineligible for the scheme. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that a community group in Carrignavar were interested in developing a walkway and requested that P. Lynch contact them directly. Cllr. A. Barry stated that the entrance to Harpers Island needs to be examined and the project was almost ready to go. P. Lynch stated that if the project could be completed within this calendar year, this would be the preferred option, the project would also tie in with the works currently being undertaken on the cycle path. Cllr. A. O'Connor asked if the works at Harpers Island would require a section 38 and proposed a pedestrian crossing at Carrigtwohill. Sean O'Callaghan stated that he too would prefer the project to be closed out in 2021 and the Council would work with Knockraha to bring in on their project for next year. On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed that the Harpers Island project would be facilitated.

P. Lynch stated that the 'greening' of Carrig House and the Library building for St. Patricks Day would cost in the region of €1,000 to €1,500.00. Cllr. S. Sheppard enquired about doing the same for the Water Tower, P. Lynch replied that this was now the property of Irish Water.

8.0 Forgráí Rún/Notices of Motion:

8.1 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard: That this Council take immediate action in respect of the derelict houses on the Carrignavar to Whitechurch Road, adjacent to Carrignavar village which have been left ideal for over 12 years and which would appear to have never been successfully completed and if the Council would also clarify if these houses have been connected to.

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that these houses were in very bad condition and immediate action needed to be taken. P. Lynch replied that he had spoken to the engineer about this issue and had also contacted the housing department in relation to same. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the motion was adopted.

8.2 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard: That Cobh Municipal Council would look at the road out at the old church cemetery as it is in very poor condition and also flooding at the entrance to the graveyard.

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the road was in very bad disrepair and the gateway flooded on a regular basis and that there was a mound of discarded flowers near the walls. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed that the engineer would list the area for repairs.

8.3 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:
That this Municipal would look for a report from our roads section on their long term plan for the R624 and Belvelly Bridge to include the infrastructure all the way into Cobh itself.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the upgrading of the R624 must go beyond Belvelly Bridge and all the way into Cobh, contrary to rumours currently doing the rounds. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that the MD would write and seek clarification from the Roads Design Office on the extent of the proposed works.

8.4 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:
That this Municipal would look for an update on the Plan for the 37 acres of Council Land in Newtown, Cobh which includes the land for badly needed social housing in the town of Cobh.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the little or nothing has happened with regard to the proposed masterplan for this land and an update on progress was urgently needed. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. Sheppard, it was agreed to seek an updated report from County Hall.

8.5 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:
That this Municipal would discuss and agree a strategy for dealing with the serious amount of Potholes that have arisen in recent weeks and advise how this strategy will be implemented going forward.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that he would rather see a proactive rather than reactive approach to repairs of potholes and queried if the allocation of a dedicated crew to this problem would provide a better service. The engineer responded that there already was a dedicated crew at work in the Cobh area and they were working through a list, the extreme weather in the last number of weeks has been a factor in the number of potholes arising. Cllr. Sheppard stated that some of the works being carried out were in response to the substandard repairs done by Irish Water.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. Sheppard, it was agreed to contact Irish Water in relation to the poor standard of the reinstatement works being carried out

8.6. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:
That this Council will write to An Post requesting the installation of another post box on the western side of Carrigtwohill. This would facilitate the IDA industrial park and the large number of businesses operating on that side of the town.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that one postbox in a town the size of Carrigtwohill was unacceptable and that the current location brings a lot of traffic into the centre of the town.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, the motion was carried.

8.7 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Alan O'Connor:
That the process of designating the 'dry bridge'/Lackenroe bridge (carries L-2970-6, becoming L-2970-38, crossing L-2968-0) at Glounthaune as a Protected Structure be initiated, as per part IV of the Planning & Development Act 2000. OS grid ref approx: W 768 735. This bridge dates to 1811.

Cllr. A. O'Connor stated that he had met with Cork County Council planners in relation to this. On the proposal of Cllr. A. O'Connor seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the motion was carried, and it was agreed that P. Lynch would write to the Planning Policy Unit.

9.0 Any Other Business:

9.1 Dog Fouling:

Cllr. Sheppard stated that an email had recently been received in relation to the amount of dog fouling currently taking place in Cobh and elsewhere and queried what more can be done to tackle this issue, however Cllr. Sheppard acknowledged the work being done by Council staff in emptying the bins and the work of the litter warden. Cllr. Rasmussen wanted to know how many litter fines had been issued for this problem, but acknowledge it was a county wide issue. P. Lynch stated that the schools initiative had been copied in other towns in the county and there was a good working relationship with the Tidy Towns committees across the District who kept the dog bag dispensers filled. Cllr. S. Sheppard proposed that a motion for a county wide publicity campaign should be brought to full Council, and it was agreed that this motion would be put on the agenda for next month.

Cllr. S. O'Connor:

9.2 Bank of Ireland, Cobh:

Cllr. O'Connor expressed his sympathy for the staff and customers of Bank of Ireland, Cobh on the recent announcement that the branch would be closing.

9.3 Slipway, Cobh:

The slipway near the Spike Island ticket office is in a very bad state, there are a number of abandoned boats and lots of rubbish. P. Lynch to write to owners.

Cllr. A. O'Connor:

9.4 Road works:

A list of works to be sent to the engineer for inclusion in next year's road improvement programme. Also thanks for replacing the battery in the driver feedback sign at Carrigane.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

9.5 Skehanagh (R639):

The junction of this road near the soccer pitch needs to be upgraded. Engineer to examine.

9.6 Monard Lane:

Monard Lane to Whitechurch in poor condition. Engineer confirmed road repairs had been carried out on the road recently and dumped rubbish collected.

9.7 Dumping:

Dumping near O'Sullivan's Bridge and Rathpeacon school. Engineer to examine.

- 9.8 Clash Road, Little Island:**
Traffic calming measures, perhaps speed ramps, are needed on Clash Road. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

- 9.9 High Road, Cobh:**
The wall on the High Road is in disrepair. Engineer to examine.
- 9.10 Five Foot Way, Cobh:**
Update on toilet. Engineer to revert.
- 9.11 Tay Road, Cobh:**
Sign on the Tay Road damaged. Engineer to examine.
- 9.12 Sea Scout Hall, Cobh:**
Has the handrail been installed? R. O’Sullivan confirmed the work had commenced.

Cllr. A. Barry:

- 9.13 Slatty Pond:**
Cllr. Barry sought an update on Slatty Pond. Engineer to revert.
- 9.14 Barryscourt, Carrigtwohill:**
Potholes near Barryscourt Castle and on Main Street, Carrigtwohill. Further road lining was also needed on the Barryscourt roundabout. Also the issue of a bench on the slip road at Carrigtwohill needed to be raised with TII. Engineer to examine.
- 9.15 Encampment on N25:**
The camp at Little Island is a danger to road users. P. Lynch to write to TII.
- 9.16 Ballyrichard:**
Additional signage is needed in this cul de sac. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. S. Sheppard:

- 9.17 Bayview Estate, Cobh:**
The footpath outside nos. 10 – 13 Bayview estate is need of repair. A tree in the estate also needs to be cut back. Engineer to examine.
- 9.18 Whitepoint Estate, Cobh:**
There is a ongoing issue with leaks under the footpath, there have been over 22 complaints. It is imperative that a complete repair is carried out before the footpath works are commenced.
- 9.19 Speed Review:**
G. O’Hora stated that the Speed Limit Review would be undertaken in 2022 and requested that members send any locations for review to the Council offices in Annabella, Mallow.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHOIRLEACH

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER