

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT COBH HERITAGE CENTRE, COBH ON TUESDAY 5TH MAY, 2020.

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

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

Apologies Apologies for their inability to attend were received from Cllrs. S. O'Connor and S. O'Callaghan.

1.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 2nd March 2020, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

College Manor, Cobh: G. O'Hora stated that he would arrange a meeting to agree the exact location for the barrier.

Elmwood Grove, Cobh: G. O'Hora stated a new sign had been ordered and would be erected by council staff shortly.

Community College, Cobh: G. O'Hora confirmed that the dog fouling bin at the finish line of the Junior Park Run had been moved

Cycling signage: G. O'Hora confirmed that the signage depicting safe distances for vehicular traffic to overtake cyclists had been ordered.

Castelake, Carrigtwohill: G. O'Hora confirmed that the Property Manager had been contacted and asked to clean the stream

Assumption Place, Cobh: G. O'Hora confirmed that the Disabled Parking space outside no. 19 Assumption Place had now been moved to no. 6 Assumption Place.

Maryville, Carrigtwohill: G. O'Hora stated that the overgrown trees at Maryville would be examined by the horticulturalist.

Inis Álainn, Cobh: G. O'Hora stated that the Council would not be in a position to install speed ramps at Inis Álainn, Cobh as the estate had not yet been taken in charge.

Bishops Road, Cobh: G. O'Hora confirmed that the depression in the road opposite Bellavista was listed for work.

Top of the Hill, Cobh: G. O’Hora confirmed that the potholes near the Youth Centre at Top of the Hill had been repaired.

Dockyard, Cobh: G. O’Hora confirmed that the potholes by the Dockyard had been repaired.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that another pothole had opened up by the Dockyard since the repairs. G. O’Hora said that this would be repaired.

Leeview Court, Cobh: G. O’Hora confirmed that the potholes at Leeview Court had been repaired.

3.0 Update on the 2020 Roads Programme

G. O’Hora advised the Members that pothole repair and work with the velocity patcher were going ahead at the moment. Footpath repair however has been classed as non essential at the moment therefore no works can be carried out on footpaths.

G. O’Hora also advised the Members that there was no guarantee that the 2020 roads funding allocation would not be cut in the current financial climate.

Cllr. Sheppard asked if the missing section of footpath by Inis Alainn could be included in the footpath programme, together with some signage.

G. O’Hora stated that he would examine and include section of footpath in footpath programme.

Cllr. Rasmussen asked if footpath repair could recommence after 18th May.

G. O’Hora stated that he had not been notified, but in the meantime he asked members to notify him of any footpaths in need of repair and CCC would carry out repair when the government restrictions were lifted.

4.0 Tuairisc ó Ofigeach Ceantair Bardasacha / Municipal District Officer’s Report

A) Cobh Public Realm

P. Lynch told the Members that meetings were ongoing. He explained that once the documents are ready, they will be subject to a road safety and conservation audit and then brought to the Members for consideration. It is anticipated that this will happen by the end of June, 2020.

B) Cork County Council – Covid 19 Community Response Programme

P. Lynch advised the Members that almost 3000 calls had been received to date from members of the public since the introduction of the programme in March.

P. Lynch also commended all the various local groups and volunteers who had assisted their local communities in these unprecedented times.

C) Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme 2019

P. Lynch told the Members the County Architect’s Department are currently surveying the site for the Spike Island Coastal Walkway and it is hoped to go to tender in relation to this project as soon as possible.

D) Town & Village Renewal

P. Lynch advised the Members that the tender process in relation to the new Playground in Carrigtwohill has been completed and Cork County Council is currently in discussions with the preferred tenderer. He said that the playground should be completed by 29th June, the date when playgrounds are due to be reopened.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that it would be problematic to maintain social distancing and sanitising in playgrounds once they reopen. P. Lynch said that the Council will comply with whatever requirements are announced.

E) Pride of Place Competition, 2020

At the March meeting of Cobh Municipal District, members approved the nomination of Cobh Vitality Day for the Pride of Place competition under The Community Well Being Initiative. P. Lynch advised members that the closing date for receipt of nominations has now been extended to 30th June so that if members wish to put forward an alternative nomination for 2020 and consider The Vitality Day for 2021, they could do so. On the proposal of Cllr. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen it was agreed to nominate The Vitality Day for 2021.

F) Harper's Island Wetlands

P. Lynch told members that Harper's Island Wetlands has remained open and is regularly inspected to ensure that social distancing is maintained. He told members that there have been no issues to date.

Cllr. Barry asked whether the grazing programme would go ahead in Harper's Island Wetlands. P. Lynch confirmed that it would as it was deemed agricultural.

G) County Development Plan

P. Lynch informed the members that due to Covid 19, the Public Consultation period on the Pre Draft Public Consultation Period has been extended to Tuesday 2nd June 2020. As a result of this, P. Lynch stated that all CDP Review timelines have been moved forward 23 days. All meetings between the Planning Department and the Municipal Districts would be reorganised.

Cllr. Barry expressed his concern at the delay in making a decision on amenity grants especially for Residents Associations, and asked if a meeting could be held in the near future. S. O'Callaghan stated that the Chief Executive was undertaking a review in relation to all funding schemes and a meeting can take place once the review is completed in mid May.

Cllr. Barry asked for an update on the land by the railway station in Glounthaune which the local Men's' Shed group wish to lease for the provision of allotments.

P. Lynch stated that the lease has been approved in principal and that he would contact the property section in the County Hall in relation to the matter. P. Lynch also said that the Men's' Shed group should liaise with local residents to get their approval.

Cllr. Sheppard raised the issue of the amount of household rubbish being dumped in the street bins and around the town.

Cllr. Rasmussen asked if the Council could contact business owners who have CCTV cameras to see if the offenders could be identified. P. Lynch to get advice on this.

Cllr. Rasmussen asked what funding could be sought in relation to the Public Realm.

P. Lynch stated that the only guaranteed funding is up to the detailed design stage.

S. O'Callaghan stated that as the Cobh M.D. was already on the U.R.D.F. system, that it may be easier to seek funding. He also added that Cobh M.D. was committed to paying Irish Water for the ducting at the Top of the Hill first.

Cllr. Sheppard asked if the business owners in the town agreed, whether it would be possible for Sorensens to continue their work in the town centre during the summer months while so many shops/businesses are closed.

P. Lynch said that Sorensens would have to get the go ahead from Irish Water.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that some business owners do not want this to happen in case the tourist season returns in July/August.

Cllr. Rasmussen asked if it would be possible to introduce a one way system for walkers at Whitepoint as one section is too narrow to facilitate social distancing.

P. Lynch said that it is a very short section and once Irish Water completes their work in the area then that will solve the problem. He added that the situation would be monitored in the meantime.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.