

## CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the October Kanturk / Mallow Municipal District meeting held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 10.30a.m. in the Hibernian Hotel Mallow, Co. Cork.

### **PRESENT:**

In the chair: Cllr. Pat Hayes

Councillors: Gearóid Murphy, Liam Madden, Gerard Murphy, Tony O'Shea, John Paul O'Shea, James Kennedy.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Ian Doyle, Cllr Bernard Moynihan.

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mary P. Hayes, Senior Executive Officer, Municipal District Operations & Rural Development, Jim Moloney, Senior Executive Engineer, Jennifer Murphy, Staff Officer and Anita Leader Meetings Administrator.

### **1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Confirmation of the Minutes of September Meeting of the Kanturk / Mallow Municipal District held on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 10.30a.m. in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork. – Minutes were approved and signed on the proposal of Cllr. Gerard Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Liam Madden.

### **2. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

**Cllr. James Kennedy** requested a suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the following Notice of Motion originally submitted in July 2020. The Members agreed.

**“To ask for a list of properties in Mallow where the Derelict Sites Act is being applied, specifically, the number of notices served, the number of compulsory land purchases carried out or proposed to be carried out and to provide a copy of the Derelict Sites Register.”**

**Cllr. Kennedy** raised his concerns regarding the effect derelict buildings has on Mallow Town, dragging the image of the town down, stating that it was a priority for the business community of Mallow to resolve the issue as it is vital for the regeneration of the town. He is seeking a comprehensive report detailing the following:

- List of properties where the Act has or is being applied
- Number of Site Notices Served
- Number of Compulsory Site notices carried out or being carried out
- A copy of the Site Register for the last 20 years

**Cllr Liam Madden** said that it goes to the heart of Mallow's economy.

**Cllr Gearóid Murphy** agrees with the principal that a comprehensive report is required.

**Cllr Tony O' Shea** said that it is an issue which is being raised with him on a daily basis by his constituents.

**Cllr. Gerard Murphy** stated that similar issues arise in Towns and Villages across Cork County due to depopulation, resulting from a lack of services and now with further post office closures this will result in further decline. It is necessary to develop our towns and villages to encourage people to relocate to more rural settings.

The Senior Executive Officer responded as follows:

She noted the motion. She confirmed that a lot of work has and is being done on this issue. She commended the staff in the KMMD office for the hard work they have put in referring in particular to the Painting Scheme which had an immediate positive impact, transforming the appearance of the town. She also referenced the Buy and Renew Scheme and the Rent and Repair Scheme. In her response, she noted Derelict sites is not an easy issue to resolve. Most of the derelict sites are there in excess of 20 years due to issues with ownership. She stated the Derelict Site Act is not fit for purpose. Members were advised that a judgement mortgage was registered against the Central Hotel, but this can't be recovered due to the Derelict Sites Act. Work was carried out by Cork County Council following a fire at the site of the Central Hotel to make it safe. The SEO stated that there is no quick solution to this problem. She is working with numerous directorates on this issue. A consultant engineer was appointed to engage with the owner of the Central Hotel which is ongoing twice a week to work through the process. The SEO stated that it was never the Council's approach to serve notices. A more successful approach is to engage with the owners. Working with them, resulting in a more favourable result for all. The priority are the Derelict sites which have the most visual impact on the town namely The Central Hotel and Tuckey's Hill.

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

#### **(a) MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER'S REPORT:**

The Senior Executive Officer presented a report on Project ACT. It was confirmed that Cork County Council COVID-19 Community Call Helpline is still operational. Full report detailing progress on works and allocations circulated to Members.

**Members raised the following queries/made the following observations:**

**Cllr. J.P. O'Shea** sought an update on the Clár and ORI Applications. The SEO confirmed that two applications were received for Kanturk and Liscarroll in relation to footpaths. Two applications were received for ORI in relation to Mt. Hillary Trail Head and the Island Wood.

**Cllr. Gerard Murphy** acknowledged the tremendous work done in relation to the laying of new footpaths from Charleville Road in Newmarket to CCC Business Park. He queried if a premises already sanctioned for funding under the Painting Scheme would be honoured if the owners were experiencing delays in getting painters. The SEO responded that if work was sanctioned, then the budget will be provided.

**Cllr. L Madden** made the observation that the parking spaces in Mallow town required repainting, in particular Disability Parking Bays. The Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that liners will be working in the next few weeks refreshing Age friendly and Disability Parking Bays.

**Cllr. P Hayes** highlighted the need for a Pedestrian Crossing at the Spa. The Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that pedestrian crossing N72 / St. Joseph's Road is in progress. This is part of a broader Part 8 application which will be published in the next few weeks.

(b) **SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS REPORT**

Jim Moloney SEE presented his report informing Members of the following main points:

- Community Involvement Scheme – Some applicants were not availing of this scheme, so it was now being offered to other applicants on approved waiting lists
- Low Cost Safety Scheme – erecting signs on Hospital Road to Lisriffin
- Section 38 approval for Kanturk Roundabout expected by end of November
- Speed Limit Signs 30kph for Estates expected to be erected in the coming weeks
- Riverwalk contractor is on site with works expected to be completed by end of November
- Active Travel Scheme - footpath repairs in Dromahane should be completed during Mid Term break
- Kanturk and Newmarket Footpaths works to commence in the near future
- Footpaths in Dromina completed
- Resurfacing works in Liscarroll to commence late October
- Further to requests at Town Activation Meetings earlier in the summer successful applications have been made to the NTA to fund pedestrian crossing improvements in Newmarket (Church Road) and in Mallow at Main st junctions with St. James Ave, Fair St, and O'Brien St.

**Members raised the following queries/made the following observations:**

**Cllr. P. Hayes** highlighted his concerns regarding the condition of the surface of Spa Road and sought a timeframe for resurfacing of Spa Road from the speed limit to Oliver's Cross. The SEE advised Members of TII

proposals to do N72 improvement works from Annabella roundabout to John A Woods quarry via Park Road and Olivers Cross over a number of years. Members were advised that currently a tender to do an element from the Muddy Hill junction northwards for approx. 200m was being assessed. TII have not advised yet when works further north towards Ballylough X will be advanced.

**Cllr. Gearoid Murphy** welcomed the signage on the hospital road to Lisgriffin, but raised his concerns regarding dangerous speeds on these roads. The SEE advised Members that he would liaise with Gardai regarding speed checks on this particular road.

**Cllr. J. Kennedy** spoke of his concerns regarding speed on St. Joseph's Road, Mallow and queried the possibility of installing another ramp between the lower entrance of Castlepark and Castlegrove. The SEE advised Members that as part of improvements on St. Joseph's Road, it was hoped that a pedestrian crossing be installed at the entrance of Castlepark, along with traffic calming measures up St. Joseph's Road.

**Cllr. L. Madden** sought an update on the installation of bus shelters in Buttevant. The SEE advised Members that he would seek an update on same.

**Cllr. J.P. O'Shea** raised his concerns regarding overhanging trees on Edel Quinn Road and queried if they would be cut back. The SEE advised that he would follow up on this query.

### **Mallow Boardwalk Project Update 2<sup>nd</sup> October – presented by the SEE:**

#### **General.**

Works are ongoing on the project. To date, completed works include relocation of existing ducting; installation of new service ducts; installation of new water mains; removal of electrical poles; undergrounding of electrical lines; demolition of the disused public toilets; the installation of the retaining wall at the northern end of the Boardwalk is substantially complete and pointing and cleaning of the existing bridge.

#### **Traffic Management.**

Works are proceeding at the present without any lane or road closures. The existing pedestrian crossing at the Park Road junction will be relocated on a temporary basis in the coming days to facilitate the ongoing works at the junction.

In addition to facilitate the road widening and relocation of footpaths at the Northern side of the Park Road Junction for the midterm break period 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October, it is intended to reduce a section of Park Road from three to two lanes at its Northern end, i.e. one lane of traffic in each direction.

#### **Park Road Junction.**

Works are currently ongoing in this location and a temporary footpath has been put in place to facilitate removal of existing footpaths. It is intended to carry out road widening works here during the period 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October. The provision of the road widening together with

the new footpaths will improve safety for all road users and in particular vulnerable road users.

### **Programme.**

The contractor programme has been delayed due to a delayed return to site this year due to Covid 19 restrictions and due to the floods and high water levels throughout August. The floods and high water levels in August prevented critical in-stream works from taking place, these works included drilling, grouting and installation of anchors into the bridge, the completion of which are critical for the installation of the boardwalk and for the fabrication process.

The Contractor is in the process of preparing a revised programme and once this is completed Members will be advised further.

In the coming weeks the contractor will continue to work on the Park Road junction and continue with the in-river drilling and grouting works.

### **Queries.**

Any queries can be directed to [mallowboardwalk@corkcoco.ie](mailto:mallowboardwalk@corkcoco.ie)

- (c) **Update on Contract Signing for Lower Castlepark pathway works Phase 2** – the SEO updated Members on the works being currently undertaken, which she described as positive news for Mallow. Members were advised that the €200,000 contract would be ongoing with the area restricted to the public for the next few weeks.
- (d) **Update on Contract Signing for construction of improved access, parking, feature playground and associated site works at Mallow Castle** – the SEO provided Members with details of the €2million contract. Members were advised that resurfacing of the back lane of the grounds of Mallow Castle would commence in the next week. Cllr. P. Hayes described the project as a huge investment in Mallow and a great addition for both residents and visitors of the town.

## **4. NOTICES OF MOTION**

- (a) ***“To seek an update on the undergrounding of electricity wires and the repairs of the footpath on the main street of Mallow.”***  
*Cllr. Gearoid Murphy [23/06/2020] Deferred at KMMD Meeting on 04/09/2020*  
*The motion was proposed by Cllr. Gearoid Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Pat Hayes.*

**Response:** The Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that both the undergrounding of electricity wires and the footpath repairs will need to be carried out together to minimise disruption.

- (b) ***“Tipp O’ Neill Park – The need to make this more user friendly and more regular maintenance of the amenity”.***

*Cllr. L. Madden [30/06/2020] Deferred at KMMD Meeting on 04/09/2020*  
**The motion was proposed by Cllr. Liam Madden, seconded by Cllr. James Kennedy.**

**Response:** The Senior Executive Engineer advised Members that there is a number of open spaces in Kanturk Mallow Municipal District and regular maintenance of parks and open spaces is ongoing during summer months. He advised that the best course of action is to bring any issues to the attention of Roads Staff.

- (c) ***“That this Council notes the importance of recent announcements and developments in Mallow and economic and financial impacts for Mallow and its hinterland and need for backing by all groups and organisations.”***

*Cllr. L. Madden [27/08/2020] Deferred at KMMD Meeting on 04/09/2020*

**The motion was proposed by Cllr. Liam Madden, seconded by Cllr. James Kennedy.**

**Response:** The Senior Executive Officer stated that more economic activity is required in the town to attract people. A huge consideration is the location of a new hotel a decision needs to be made if it is going to be in the town or on the peripheral in a green field site resulting in further decline of the town centre. This is a huge opportunity for the town of Mallow and therefore must be considered carefully, public consultation and workshops would be in order as the correct location could future proof Mallow Town.

- (d) ***“That Cork County Council would install speed calming measures on the road between Dromore Drive and Forest View.”***

*Cllr. P. Hayes [23/09/2020]*

**The motion was proposed by Cllr. Pat Hayes, seconded by Cllr. James Kennedy.**

**Response:** The Senior Executive Engineer stated that he was aware that traffic calming measures were required and possibly will be delivered in early 2021.

- (e) ***“That Cork County Council would top the trees at the top of Blackrock Park and Blackwater Drive. These trees are posing a danger to the surrounding houses and children playing in the pitch.”***

*Cllr. P. Hayes [23/09/2020]*

**The motion was proposed by Cllr. Pat Hayes, seconded by Cllr. Liam Madden.**

**Response:** The Senior Executive Engineer advised that quotations are being sought to get the work done.

- (f) ***“That Cork County Council complete a survey of all vacant properties in Mallow Town.”***  
*Cllr. P. Hayes [23/09/2020]*

**Cllr. Pat Hayes** stated he has submitted a similar motion to Full Council which is relevant to this. He highlighted the need to carry out a feasibility study to include a list of vacant buildings, derelict sites, businesses, a list of vacant buildings which could have the potential to be converted from commercial to residential. He highlighted the importance of a county wide approach. Cllr. P. Hayes proposed that this motion should be removed

from the agenda. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. J. Kennedy.

**(g) “As part of project ACT, that council would look at alternative sites for parking with the site across from Bus Stop Town Park in particular due to its location.”**

*Cllr. L. Madden [24/09/2020]*

**The motion was proposed by Cllr. Liam Madden seconded by Cllr. Pat Hayes.**

**Response:** The Senior Executive Officer stated that additional parking would be required during the summer months to facilitate events in the Castle and town. Cllr. Hayes queried if this grass was reinforced grass to enable parking. It is proposed to have a multi use grass area suitable for parking in the summer months.

**(h) “That this Council would look for a few more age friendly spaces on Mallow’s Main Street and would look at placing one outside Bohan’s Shop Opposite the Hibernian Hotel.”**

*Cllr. T. O’Shea [24/09/2020]*

**The motion was proposed by Cllr. Tony O’Shea, seconded by Cllr. James Kennedy.**

**Response:** The Senior Executive Engineer advised Members that there are currently two age friendly parking spaces on the Main Street in Mallow. He is amenable to putting in additional spaces on the agreement of the Members. If it is agreed, this can be accommodated in the near future.

The Senior Executive Officer stated that the towns needs must be catered for. Therefore, feedback from businesses and users would be crucial in determining the need for additional age friendly spaces. Members are to get feedback and revert.

## **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District will take place on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – venue to be confirmed.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON

Date: \_\_\_\_\_