

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the December Kanturk / Mallow Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 4th December 2020 at 11.30 a.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, Ian Doyle, 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

- (a) Confirmation of the Minutes of Draft Budgetary Plan Meeting held on 6th November 2020 at 9:30a.m. in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork – Minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. J. P. O'Shea, seconded by Cllr. I. Doyle.
- (b) Confirmation of the Minutes of November Meeting of the Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District held on Friday, 6th November 2020 at 11.15a.m. in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork - Minutes were approved and signed on the proposal of Cllr. John Paul O'Shea, seconded by Cllr. Ian Doyle.

Cllr. John Paul O'Shea requested a suspension of Standing Orders from 1pm to discuss the lack of an operational Pedestrian Crossing at Dun an Oir Housing Estate in Kanturk. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Gerard Murphy and agreed by the Members.

2. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Senior Executive Officer gave a report on Project ACT. It was confirmed that Cork County Council COVID-19 Community Call Helpline is still operational and contact details were provided to Members.

The Senior Executive Officer also provided updates to Members on the following issues:

- A Real Cork Christmas – Project ARCC
- Update on Project ACT for the five towns in the Municipal District
- Village Renewal Fund in respect of Ballydesmond and Dromahane
- Town & Village Renewal National Scheme 2020 in respect of Accelerated Measures

- Clár Grants
- Sports Capital Funding 2020
- Tree Planting in Mallow

The Senior Executive Officer referred to a Notice of Motion on parklets which was discussed at the November meeting, whereby Cllr. T. O'Shea and Cllr. L. Madden sought an increase in grant funding to €1,500 and €3,000 for one or two buildings respectively. Members were advised that any additional grant monies would have to come from Project ACT for the relevant town. The Senior Executive Officer agreed that the level of funding for parklets could be increased as once off funding only, with the sum of €12,000 to €15,000 being set aside once endorsed and agreed by Members. She also advised that conditions would apply regarding safety criteria. The Senior Executive Officer sought Members' approval to proceed granting half the cost of erecting a parklet with a maximum grant of €1,500 for one building or €3,000 for two buildings. There was unanimous approval from the Members to proceeding this way with the detail regarding specific criteria around same to be resolved by the Executive.

Members raised the following queries/made the following observations:

Cllr. Pat Hayes thanked the SEO for the detailed report given to Members. Cllr. Hayes stated that while he was in favour of parklets as they enhance the appearance of the town, he would also like to see more funding spent on advertising and promoting businesses in the town. The SEO responded by saying it was specified that Project ACT money was not to be used for promotion locally, but that the Communications Department of Cork County Council is responsible for promoting every town centrally for Christmas and project ACT.

Cllr. Gearoid Murphy stated that he cannot see the wisdom in having a central Council policy when it comes to marketing and would like to see a more dissolved approach to promoting towns. Following Cllr. Murphy's query regarding the amount of funding allocated to parklets, the Senior Executive Officer advised that the overall funding allocated to Mallow under Project ACT was €31,000 - providing €7,000 for Painting Scheme, €1,400 signage for general approach roads regarding parking, €12,000 to €15,000 proposed to ring fence for parklets, €9,000 proposed for essential maintenance works.

Cllr. James Kennedy spoke of the importance of advertising for towns, but stressed that it was equally important having more pedestrian friendly solutions and commended the parklets already erected.

Cllr. John Paul O'Shea queried the timeframe for completion of works in Kanturk. The Senior Executive Officer advised Members that when funding was allocated to Kanturk, it was given to the various local groups who were driving the initiatives. She advised that she would engage with the local groups in order to ascertain progress on works to be completed. Cllr. O'Shea highlighted the importance to note the Project ACT proposals to the different communities and stressed the need for more parklets in Kanturk, proposing that funding would come from Kanturk's Town Development Fund 2021.

Cllr. Liam Madden acknowledged that every town is different and would welcome an increase in funding for parklets in Mallow.

Cllr. Tony O'Shea welcomed the Senior Executive Officer's proposal on increased funding for the parklets and commended the success of the parklets to date.

Cllr. Ian Doyle welcomed the new initiatives brought to the towns under Project ACT and spoke of the huge success of shop local vouchers in Charleville. He raised a query regarding insurance required for parklets. The Senior Executive Officer advised Members that while the licence for outdoor seating was amended this year, there would be terms and conditions that must be adhered to in respect of public liability insurance.

Cllr. Gerard Murphy welcomed Project ACT in Newmarket and commended the co-operation among the local community.

Cllr. Tony O'Shea welcomed the tree planting in Mallow and sought an update for the rest of Mallow Town Park. The Senior Executive Officer spoke of the positive impact of the tree planting and advised Members of the bigger proposals to improve the aesthetic of the park, including plans for a pump track, traffic calming measures and retaining a small element of the old playground for a skate park. The Senior Executive Officer also advised Members that general pitch playing area in Mallow Town Park would be for public use and that the Council have engaged with local clubs to incorporate their needs. Members were also advised that reinforced grass areas would be used for events and that funding of approximately €100,000 was secured in respect of fishing stands. Members were also informed that the Blueway to Killavullen was advancing and that it was hoped to go to Part 10 to An Bord Pleanala next year.

(b) **SENIOR ENGINEER'S ROADS REPORT:**

The SEE gave an update to members on Mallow Boardwalk as follows :

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. Widening of the road and set back of the kerb at the Park Road/Bridge Street Junction has also been completed. Paving works at the park road junction and the installation of anchors in the bridge are ongoing.

Traffic Management

Works are proceeding at the present without any lane or road closures and none are proposed for the coming weeks.

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 and the widening of the existing road has been completed. Paving works are ongoing and are intended to be substantially complete by Christmas. The

provision of the road widening together with the new footpaths will improve safety for all road users and 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. In the coming weeks the contractor will continue to work on the Park Road junction. In January of next year works will be concentrated at the revised entrance to the park and reinstalling the monument. The installation of the boardwalk is now scheduled for April 2021.

Queries

Any queries can be directed to mallowboardwalk@corkcoco.ie

The SEE presented his report informing members of the of the following:

- Works on Main Street ongoing by night.
- Ramps installed in St. James Avenue, Mallow.
- Pedestrian Ramp scheduled for installation in the New Year at O'Brien Street, Mallow.
- Old Walls Liscarroll resurfacing works deferred until January 2021.
- Kanturk Roundabout complete.
- Footpaths in Dromahane complete.
- Erection of Christmas Trees through project ARCC completed.
- Flood Barriers which were erected in Mallow are for the most part taken down remainder will be taken down next week.

Cllr. Gearoid Murphy highlighted his concerns regarding the surface of the road on the N20 south of Annabella. Cllr. Liam Madden and Cllr. James Kennedy were in agreement and also raised their concerns regarding the poor lighting at night. The Senior Executive Engineer agreed to check out the issues raised by Members.

Cllr Liam Madden raised his concerns that the Disability Spaces in the town were not refreshed when works were carried out recently. The SEE stated it was scheduled to be done and he will follow up.

Cllr. Tony O'Shea queried the Horses and Riders Sculpture asking when it will be installed at its new location on the Cork Mallow Road. The SEE confirmed it is to be installed the week after next.

Cllr. Pat Hayes queried if there was plans for a pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Muddy Hill. The SEE stated he will investigate further, talk to the design team and see if this is possible. Cllr Hayes also highlighted the issue in relation to ramps in Dromore Drive to Forest View and stated that one has been installed however it is his recommendation that two ramps are required. The SEE stated he will look into it however funding may be an issue. Cllr. Hayes raised the query if cameras could be put in place in Sandfield Terrace as dumping is recurring at this location. The SEE stated he will refer to the Environment Department.

(c) Part VIII – Redevelopment & Upgrade of Mallow Swimming Pool:

The Senior Executive Officer presented the Part 8 Report which was circulated to Members, including Scheme Background, Proposed work, Environmental Restrictions, Impact of the scheme and Drawing showing Site location map, Proposed Elevations Proposed Floor Plans, Existing Elevations and Existing Floor Plans.

Cllr. Pat Hayes welcomed the proposed development stating it would be of huge benefit not only to Mallow but to North Cork. He said it is a great facility with a huge number of users and to see it being updated is wonderful.

Cllr. Gearoid Murphy echoed Cllr. Hayes comments on the development. Cllr Murphy said it was a very important facility in Duhallow being utilized by numerous schools. He queried if the pool would remain open while works are being carried out and why are communal changing areas being installed, and also requested a timeline for commencement of works.

Response: Mary Hayes, SEO stated that the works are extensive and therefore she can not envisage the pool will remain operational for the duration of the works. She advised that mixed gender changing facilities are family friendly. She stated that schools were finding it difficult to get volunteers as a result of mixed changing facilities, so less volunteers will be required. She will revert with a timeline.

Cllr. J.P. O’Shea welcomed the development for Mallow and the wider Duhallow area. He queried the cost of the redevelopment. He stated that the Pool needs a rebrand, as the current pool still has the Town Council Logo. It needs to be apparent that the pool was funded by Cork County Council and queried if something similar to what was done in Dunmanway Municipal Pool could be done in Mallow.

Response: The SEO stated that the estimated cost of works is in the region of a couple of million euro, however the market will determine the cost. A number of funding streams are being examined at the moment, but she said that the works were on the CE’s priority list.

Cllr. Gerard Murphy welcomed the redevelopment. He stated in the past Community Groups were incentivized to organize buses from towns in the Duhallow region.

Response: The SEO welcomed the initiative and will explore it further with the pool manager.

(d) Part VIII – Improvements to Spa House / Tipp O’Neill Park.

Proposed Improvements to Spa House Grounds / Tipp O’Neill Park were circulated to Members. The Senior Executive Officer advised Members that the aim of these improvements was to improve the appearance of Spa House with a new road surface and driveway, along with providing for an improved pedestrian crossing at Spa Road. She advised Members that it was due to go to Part 8 for public consultation in January 2021. The members all welcomed the improvement works.

Cllr. Pat Hayes queried the possibility of making a clearway during business hours by Spa Terrace on Spa Road and providing a facility for residents to park their vehicles elsewhere during the

works. The Senior Executive Officer advised that this proposal had been raised and that she would explore same with her Roads colleagues.

Cllr. Liam Madden welcomed the improvement works stating the upgrade is vital for the connectivity.

Cllr. J.P. O'Shea raised his concerns in relation to the proposed footpaths, stating that they are expensive to maintain and labor intensive. Mary Hayes SEO stated that what is proposed is a self compacting gravel, which will improve the appearance and is also aesthetically pleasing and is cheaper. The SEO stated she will bring the concerns back to the Design team. Following Cllr. O'Shea's concerns regarding the need for a pedestrian crossing, the Senior Executive Officer advised Members that there would be traffic calming measures on the approach into the pedestrian zone.

3. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Cllr. John Paul O'Shea requested the suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the lack of a functioning Pedestrian Crossing at Dun an Oir Estate Kanturk. Seconded by Cllr Gerard Murphy.

Cllr. O'Shea highlighted the safety issue regarding the half completed Pedestrian Crossing at Dun an Oir Estate Kanturk. He stated that works commenced a year ago but remain 50 % complete. He stated what was proposed for this pedestrian crossing was a fully controlled crossing but what was installed was a zebra crossing with yellow flashing beacons which are not operational and should at the very least have black bags placed over the lights to show it is not working. He also highlighted his concerns about the lining that was never changed, and the lettering of the word STOP is now TOP. He asked due to the lack of progression of works by the Estate's developer if CCC could step in and make it safe for all road users. His concerns are that a very serious accident could occur if something is not done immediately. He stated he has made efforts along with the Resident Association to contact the developer without success. Cllr. O'Shea said that a constituent had made him aware of a very serious incident involving a school child crossing the road to the estate recently, highlighting the need that something must be done before a serious accident occurs. Cllr. O'Shea requested that if the developer had not rectified the situation by close of business today, that the Council should step in with immediate effect and show that the crossing is non-operational at present. Cllrs Ian Doyle and Gerard Murphy both fully supported Cllr. O'Shea stating something must be done to make it safe.

Response: Jim Moloney Senior Executive Engineer CCC stated that a site resolution plan was put in place with the new developer which is managed by Estates section in the Planning Department who have contacted the developer. CCC will withhold money from the developer until such time the pedestrian crossing is made safe. Planning Department are waiting to hear from the Developer when these works will recommence and that a reminder will issue to the developer if CCC do not get a response by this afternoon. The SEE stated CCC will move in if necessary.

4. NOTICES OF MOTION

Cllr. Liam Madden [30/10/2020] Deferred at KMMD meeting on 06/11/2020

(a) " Following recent approval for upgrading facilities in Mallow people have asked what about the need to accommodate extra tourists and the need to provide extra facilities like a camper car park"

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Liam Madden and Seconded by Cllr. J.P. O'Shea.

Response : The SEO responded by saying that having consulted with the Tourism Department they came to the conclusion that CCC should encourage private operators as there is a lot of logistics involved in the operation of Camper Car Parks.

Cllr. Madden stated that it was vital that Mallow is seen as a destination, not a gateway town. The nearest camper Park is in Adare and he asked if this could be looked into and if CCC would consider the Proposal.

Cllr. John Paul O'Shea fully supported the motion. Cllr. O'Shea stated that if Mallow could do something similar to Cobh where the public Car Park has a connection to waste water. He asked if it was possible to incorporate this with town park works

Cllr. Gearoid Murphy stated he had received a number of representations from Constituents highlighting the need for these facilities in Mallow.

Cllr. Pat Hayes stated that people are currently parking in Carrigoon outside the town and that they should be encouraged and facilitated within the town to boost tourism.

Cllr. Ian Doyle [02/11/2020] Deferred at KMMD Meeting on 06/11/2020

(b) That Cork County Council would put Railway Road, Charleville on the road resurfacing programme"

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Ian Doyle and Seconded by Cllr. J.P. O'Shea.

Cllr. Doyle stressed the importance of improving the surface of this very busy Road due to the construction of a nursing home. The SEE advised that this would be submitted for inclusion in the next resurfacing programme, but that it was dependent on funding.

Cllr. Ian Doyle [02/11/2020] Deferred at KMMD Meeting on 06/11/2020

(c) " That Cork County Council would look again at public light provision outside Council office on Old Cork Road, Charleville."

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Ian Doyle and Seconded by Cllr. J.P. O'Shea.

Cllr. Doyle stated that he had raised the issue at Northern Committee Meeting. He stated that elderly people in general use this walkway for daily walks and that lights are in place most of the way however there are poles without lights. He queried the possibility that money could be used from Town Development Fund or Project ACT to rectify the lighting issue.

Response: The SEE stated that the Roads Director, in his response to the Northern Committee, had clarified that this cannot be recognised as a formal loop walk at present. While noting the Councillor's request to provide additional lighting as far as the Council Office, the SEE pointed out that the public lighting budget had limited funds and that this particular location would not be deemed high enough priority, given the existing demands throughout the Municipal District. The SEE stated that he would raise the issue with the Public Lighting Department and highlight there is a safety issue due to lack of lighting.

Members were in agreement that motions (d) and (g) as listed on the Agenda should be dealt with together.

Cllr. Gearoid Murphy [16/11/2020]

(d) " That a pedestrian crossing be considered for the junction between the Spa Springs Road and the Ballyvinter road, on which the Tinley Park, Cairn Woods and Hazelbrook housing estates are located."

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Gearoid Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Pat Hayes.

Cllr. Liam Madden [24/11/2020]

(e) "Following on from previous motions regarding safety and the need to have more pedestrian crossings, proper footpaths, speed ramps and extra lighting especially on the northern side of Mallow, particularly in the vicinity of River Valley, Tinley Park and the Spa Glen area, I implore the Council to ensure that all of these facilities are in place with planning and before housing estate opens up."

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

Response: The SEE advised Members that this matter was recently addressed at Northern Committee Meeting and a response received from Director of Services for Roads. He stated that the Road Design Team are looking at what options are available. The SEE advised Members that the works will require land acquisition. He stated that he will await the Design Team proposals and will explore funding avenues.

Cllr. Gearoid Murphy asked if a report could be presented to them at the January Meeting.

Cllr. Gearoid Murphy [16/11/2020]

(f) " That "Slow Down" signs be placed at Canon Sheehan Place, Mallow, and to seek a report on potential measures to alleviate traffic congestion at this location during school traffic rush hours."

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Gearoid Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Tony O'Shea.

Response: The SEE stated that any measures introduced to address issues around school times would likely have implications at other times and consequently will have an impact on residents. The SEE stated that he will look into the possibility of putting up more traffic calming signs. He

suggested making the road a cul de sac to prevent through traffic of the road. This would require residents' agreement. Cllr. John Paul O'Shea stated this suggestion was narrowly defeated years ago and needed to be revisited as there could be a change of opinion.

Cllr. Gearoid Murphy [16/11/2020]

(g) "To seek an update on the Taking in Charge process for Castlepark Estate, Mallow."

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Gearoid Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Tony O'Shea.

The Senior Executive Officer advised Members that she would get a further update for the next meeting from the Estates Department regarding the commencement of this process in Mallow.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Vote of Sympathy - Cllr. I. Doyle proposed that a Vote of Sympathy would be sent to Niall Healy, Director of Services, Municipal District Operations & Rural Development, on the recent death of his Mother and Father, Nora & Cornelius Healy R.I.P.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District will take place Via MS teams Monday 18th January 2021 at 9.00am.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

CHAIRPERSON