

MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6TH MARCH, 2023 AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH.

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

Officials: Mr. P. Lynch, S/Senior Executive Officer
Ms. M. McSweeney, S/Municipal District Officer
Mr. G. O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

1.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of: Monthly Meeting held on 7th February, 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, the minutes were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising.

2.1 Main Street, Carrigtwohill:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the drains had been jetted and repaired.

2.2 Tay Road Signs, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that Infratec would repair the sign this week.

2.3 Brown Island Pier:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the flexible bollards had been ordered and would be installed in the next few weeks.

2.4 Leonards Lodge, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated further limited works had been carried out at this location.

2.5 Decorative Lights, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that a contractor had been appointed and repairs should commence shortly.

2.6 Carrignafoy, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the Council was in the process of appointing contractors to carry out hot patch repairs, this area was one of the locations requiring same and would be repaired, once the contractor was in place.

- 2.7 **Pitch & Putt Club, Carrignafoy, Cobh:**
G. O’Hora stated that the job was progressing and hoped to have scheme layout drawings for the next meeting.
- 2.7 **Cobh Town Centre footpaths:**
G. O’Hora stated that having met the members and walked through the town centre, the locations discussed were listed for the 2023 Footpath programme.
- 2.8 **Seafield Estate, Cobh:**
G. O’Hora confirmed that a stonemason had been appointed and hoped the works would commence next month.
- 2.9 **Supervalu Cross:**
G. O’Hora stated that an inspection had been carried out and will carry out a traffic survey at this location. However, speed was a factor here, as the sightlines were good, additional signage may be required.
- 2.10 **Ballard Hill, Cobh:**
G. O’Hora confirmed that the engineers had been in regular contact with the manager of the waste facility and that a letter had been sent to the operators of the facility.
- 2.11 **Glassons Avenue, Cobh:**
G. O’Hora confirmed that repairs would be carried out this week.
- 2.12 **Ballyleary Road, Cobh:**
G. O’Hora confirmed a hot patch would be carried out when a contractor was appointed.
- 2.13 **Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill:**
G. O’Hora stated that resources were presently stretched and therefore only limited works could be carried out at this location, particularly since the restricted season on hedgecutting had begun.
- 2.14 **Little Island Cross:**
G. O’Hora confirmed a contractor had been appointed and works would be carried out shortly.
- 2.15 **Old Cork/Dublin Road:**
G. O’Hora stated that the location of the knotweed was noted, however this was the wrong season for treatment, it would be added to the list for treatment in September.
- 2.16 **Blackstone Bridge:**
G. O’Hora stated a member of CCC staff had met with the landowner on site and agreed to carry out some works.
- 2.17 **Gogginstown Road:**
G. O’Hora stated that works were listed.

2.18 Salt Bins:

G. O’Hora stated that he would review putting the Bartlemy road to the R639 on the P3 routes for gritting in future.

2.19 Ard Cashel:

G. O’Hora stated that a speed survey was required before determining what traffic calming measures needed to be carried out.

2.20 Bishops Road/Burma Steps, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that having examined the area it was determined that road lining was not necessary.

2.21 Coolamber:

G. O’Hora stated that a speed survey was required before determining if additional signage was required.

2.22 Playground, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that he had discussed the issue with the Councils safety officer and had been informed that it was policy not to put latches on playgrounds, as children needed to be able to get out in an emergency. All children should be under adult supervision while using the equipment, so a latch was not necessary to prevent children leaving unaccompanied. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that other playgrounds within the Municipal District did have latches on the gate. G. O’Hora to pursue.

2.23 Roches Row, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the majority of the construction material had been removed, while the remainder was being stored in a tidy manner.

2.24 Statue, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that he and other council staff had met with representatives of the family to discuss the placement of the statue and the requirements for same. As soon as drawings are available, they will be presented to the members prior to the start of the Part 8 process.

2.25 High Road, Cobh.

Cllr. Rasmussen asked if there was a date for the activation of the pedestrian crossing near Whartons Corner? R. O’Sullivan stated lights would be switched on week of the 21st March.

2.26 Road Surface, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen asked if the road repairs to the road in the town centre would be carried out before St. Patricks Day, including the area near Hardware House. R. O’Sullivan stated that the main road would be completed before the end of the week.

2.26 Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. O’Connor asked if any other approach could be taken to deal with the overgrown vegetation. Has the estate been taken in charge? G. O’Hora replied that the estate was in the charge of the Council, but the green area remains the responsibility of the developer.

2.27 Tay Road, Cobh:

Cllr. S. O'Connor stated that another serious accident had taken place on the Tay Road over the weekend and requested further traffic calming measures such as ramps. G O'Hora stated the road had a 50km speed limit and was not suitable for ramps. He would carry out a speed survey on the road and examine erecting additional road safety signage.

2.28 Carrignafoy:

Cllr. S. O'Connor queried the progress of the pedestrian crossing near the supermarket in Carrignafoy. G. O'Hora replied that a scheme was being finalised and would bring drawings to the members as soon as possible.

2.29 Connolly Street, Cobh:

Cllr. S. O'Connor stated that the issued of the landslide in the area still had not been dealt with. R. O'Sullivan replied that he had met with Coastal Management regarding same and some small remedial works needed to be carried out but that Coastal Management were continuing to monitor the area.

3.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence.**Whitepoint/Cuskinny Water Quality Testing:**

A response to the members motion to add Whitepoint and Cuskinny to the Councils Water Quality testing programme had been raised at the Councils beach monitoring committee. Before an area is added to the list for testing, an assessment must be carried out on the location to determine its suitability under a number of criteria. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen , it was agreed that this process would be initiated.

Battery Strand, Cobh:

Peter Kidney had submitted a brief report and petition in relation to Battery Strand. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the cost involved in re-opening the battery strand would be enormous, but agreed that the amenity was a huge loss to the community. P. Lynch stated that the strand had been closed in 2013 on safety grounds, a report in 2020 estimated that the cost of providing a full report detailing the works required to re open the strand would be in the region of €60,000 to €70,000. The only funding available to the Municipal District was the General Municipal Allocation, which this year was €180,000. Cllr. S. O'Connor stated that Cork County Council should seek government funding. The members agreed to seek government funding and also to write to the environment and coastal management section of Cork County Council seeking support.

Phone Boxes, Casement Square, Cobh:

Cobh Tidy Towns had expressed concern at the state of the phone boxes in the centre of town, which had been forwarded to Eir for comment. No reply had been received from Eir as to the level of usage.

4.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigigh / Officer's Reports.

County of Cork Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws - Proposals for changes to Speed Limit Bye-Laws under 2023 Review for National Routes.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the changes outlined by G. O'Hora, were adopted.

5.0 Tuairisc ó Oifigeach Ceantair Bardasacha / Municipal District Officer's Report.

M. McSweeney read through her report for the month.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry it was agreed to extend the time of the 2021 grant to Carrignavar Community Council to September to allow the works on the tennis courts to be completed.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to meet in committee to discuss the Litter Plan, which was due for review in 2024.

6.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.

To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry.

“To ask what junction upgrades are to be installed to facilitate the opening of the new Carrigtwohill School Campus”

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the school, when it opened, would be one of the biggest in the country and he had concerns regarding traffic management in the area. Cllr. A. O'Connor supported the motion. G. O'Hora stated that it was envisaged that a full signalised junction, as well as 2 uncontrolled pedestrian crossings would be in place eventually as part of the public realm for Carrigtwohill.

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

To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry.

“That some form of pedestrian signalisation be installed at the Barryscourt/Main Street Junction and also at West End.”

Cllr. Barry emphasised the dangerous nature of the road at these locations. G. O’Hora responded by stated that a ramp had been already installed, with improved road lining and that this area was also being included in URDF/public realm update. Cllr. A. O’Connor stated that some interim measures were needed before the public realm. R. O’Sullivan to review.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. A. O’Connor, the motion was adopted.

To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry.

“Due to the large increase in traffic volumes on the L3615/Anngrove road could flashing speed signs be installed”

Cllr. Barry stated that speed was an issue and the road was dangerous. G. O’Hora replied that a traffic survey was required.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. A. O’Connor, the motion was adopted.

To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen

“That this Municipal would consider installing a speed repeater sign in the location of Dock Terrace to the area of the old Rinn Ronan Hotel, Cobh, owing to the obvious excessive speed of motorists and the ongoing complaints from residents in relation to safety on this stretch of road.”

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that another accident had taken place last week in the area and that the road was very dangerous. R. O’Sullivan stated that there was no suitable location for the driver feed back sign.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to examine the area in order to facilitate a driver feed back sign.

To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen

“That this Municipal would look at painting yellow lines at the entrance to Bellvue Hill as the garbage truck as well as other delivery vans cannot access the hill at times due to cars blocking the entrance.”

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that residents in the area complained about the lack of access for larger vehicles, recently a resident had to be stretchered down the hill as the ambulance couldn't get up. The refuse truck was also couldn't get access on a regular basis.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, it was agreed that the double yellow lines should be extended.

7.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

7.1 Whitchurch Cemetery:

The extension has now been fenced off, however is there going to enough car parking? Engineer to examine.

7.2 Carrignavar/Whitechurch Bus:

The bus used to stop on the Cork side of the triangle in the road opposite the Church but this area has now been incorporated into the new estate and the bus had no where safe to stop. G. O'Hora stated that this piece of ground was private land owned by a developer. He would consult with the bus service provider to try to identify a solution.

7.3 Park View Estate, Carrignavar:

This estate did not qualify for traffic calming measures under the Low Cost Safety Scheme, is there any funding available under another scheme to facilitate works in the area? G. O'Hora will endeavour to source funding from another scheme e.g. the safe school scheme.

7.4 Cork/Dublin Road:

The verges of this road were cut recently, which exposed the level of littering, which was very bad. G. O'Hora agreed that the area was littered but that resources wouldn't allow for crews to litter pick, however the Council would assist in providing bags, gloves etc and would collect the litter for disposal.

7.5 Little Island:

Delighted that the roadworks carried out near the Church.

7.6 Carrignavar:

Very positive feedback from the general public about the ongoing works in Carrignavar.

Cllr. A. O'Connor:**7.7 High Road, Cobh:**

The hedges are very overgrown, obstructing pedestrians, were landowners sent letters prior to seasonal ban? Does Cork County Council provide information/guidelines on what is permitted and how to carry out the works? G. O'Hora replied that the Council have sent letters to landowners requesting road hedges to be cut back. If a landowner wants information on required hedge cutting, then a meeting can be arranged to discuss.

7.8 Aldi carpark, Carrigtwoill:

The internal arrangement of the car park could be better and the footpath needs attention. G. O'Hora confirmed footpath included in this years programme and will include an area currently occupied by a flowerbed.

7.9 New School Campus, Carrigtwohill:

Will a traffic management plan be put in place once the schools have opened? Concerned about the amount of traffic at this location. R. O'Sullivan replied that a plan for managing the traffic flow in and around the school would have formed part of the planning application, but once the schools have opened, the area would be monitored.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:**7.10 Battery Strand, Cobh:**

Could a letter be sent to the owners regarding the dangerous overhang? P. Lynch replied that this would be difficult as there were a number of landowners involved. Also in the absence of a proper assessment, Cork County Council are not in a position to give instructions to the landowners on the nature and extent of the works to be carried out.

7.11 Tay Road, Cobh:

Following a road traffic accident last week, the pillar of a private house was demolished, is there anything else that can be done to reduce speed on this long, dangerous stretch of road? G. O'Hora replied that a lot of works had been carried out on this road in the last few years, however he would request that a speed van be located there for a few weeks.

7.12 Ballard, Cobh:

Can a concrete plinth be installed from the wheel wash to the edge of the public road, to minimise the amount of mud being deposited on the public road? How long more are the works due to go on? R. O'Sullivan to contact the operator again and request that the concrete apron be extended.

- 7.13 **Rushbrooke Manor, Cobh:**
Very bad potholes in the area. R. O’Sullivan stated that the repair of potholes had started.
- 7.14 **Rushbrooke, Cobh:**
Trees are falling behind Great Island Motors garage. Engineer to arrange for road verge to be cleaned and trees cut back.
- 7.15 **Public Realm, Cobh:**
Is there a start date for the public realm plan for Cobh and also for the school safe zone near Top of the Hill? P. Lynch stated that he was still awaiting a call for funding for this project and that it could take up to 6 months.
- 7.16 **Amenity Grants:**
Is there a date for the release of the grants? P. Lynch replied that the work was ongoing and a date would be announced as soon as possible.
- 7.17 **Cooline, Cobh:**
Capping on the wall at Cooline had been pulled down, the estate has been taken in charge. Engineer to examine.
- 7.18 **Signs, Cobh:**
Could the pole opposite the fire station be included in the ongoing repairs of signs around the town. Engineer to examine.
- 7.19 **Fota Road:**
Is there a date for a clean up of the Fota Road? Engineer to revert.
- 7.20 **Graveyards, Cobh:**
Has a new contract for grass cutting been put in place for the Old Church and Ballymore Graveyards? P. Lynch replied that funding had been approved.

Cllr. S. O’Connor:

- 7.21 **Elton Estate, Cobh:**
There is a regular problem with the sewer lines in this estate. R. O’Sullivan to contact the water curator.
- 7.22 **Top of East Hill, Cobh:**
The hedges/verges in the area are very overgrown, as is Cottrells Row. Horticulturist to examine.

7.23 **Kirkwood Villas, Cobh:**

A pedestrian crossing and a speed ramp are needed to tackle the speed of traffic using this road. Engineer to examine erecting additional road safety signage.

7.24 **Inishmore Park, Cobh:**

A business operating from one of the houses in the estate was parking cars on the footpaths, obstructing access for other residents. R. O’Sullivan to examine. P. Lynch suggested the residents should contact the planning enforcement section.

7.25 **Top of Hill to Cathedral:**

The road is in very bad repair. Road listed for repair.

Cllr. A. Barry:

7.26 **Bellvue Mixed National School, Cobh:**

The school is looking for a directional sign. Engineer to examine.

7.27 **Forge Cross to Anns Grove:**

Who is installing the footpath? Engineer is awaiting decision of funding application.

7.28 **Carrigane Road, Carrigwohill:**

Potholes are very bad on the Carrigane Road to the Hedgy boreen. Road listed for repair.

7.29 **Glounthaune Train Station:**

Bollards need to be installed outside the train station. Engineer confirmed bollard would be installed at location.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHOIRLEACH

MUNCIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER.

