



MINUTES OF MEETING OF WEST CORK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**held at Dunmanway Municipal Pool and MS Teams at 11.00am
on 4th December 2023**

Members Present: Cllrs Joe Carroll, Paul Hayes, Deirdre Kelly, Caroline Cronin, Declan Hurley, Danny Collins, Karen Coakley, Patrick Gerard Murphy, Ross O'Connell

In attendance: Noreen O' Mahony, S.E.O. W.C.M.D.
Jacqueline Mansfield, M.D.O. W.C.M.D.
John Ahern S.E.E. Skibbereen
Ruth O'Brien, S.E.E. Bantry
Martina O' Driscoll, Meeting Administrator W.C.M.D.

Cllr. J. Carroll presided.

Statutory Meeting

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(a) Minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 6th November 2023

Proposed by Cllr. Karen Coakley, Seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Kelly

Resolved:

"That the minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 6th November 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

(b) Minutes (as circulated) of West Cork Municipal District IN COMMITTEE SKIBBEREEN REGENERATION PLAN meeting dated 6th November 2023

Proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Kelly, Seconded by Cllr. Declan Hurley

Resolved:

"That the minutes of Municipal District IN COMMITTEE SKIBBEREEN REGENERATION PLAN meeting (as circulated) of 6th November 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

(c) Minutes (as circulated) of West Cork Municipal District SPECIAL DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN 2024 meeting dated 6th November 2023

Proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Kelly, Seconded by Cllr. Paul Hayes

Resolved:

"That the minutes of Municipal District SPECIAL DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN 2024 meeting (as circulated) of 6th November 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

MATTERS ARISING

A member wished to clarify his query on the Watery Boreen Clonakilty from the previous minutes. He outlined that his query was to ask the officials if there are any plans to resurface it, and he also highlighted the concerns that Dúchas had with online reports that this old, historically significant pathway was going to be made into a greenway and be resurfaced with tarmac. He stated his preference was that it shouldn't be resurfaced with tarmac, and that the road and adjoining walls would be treated sensitively in line with heritage guidelines.

In reply to a query on whether a letter had issued to Fáilte Ireland regarding the Old Railway building in Baltimore, the S.E.O. noted that further information on the matter had been sought internally which outlined that a structural survey on the proposed building had an estimated 6 figure sum to restore it for this project and that when Cork County Council asked the 3rd party if they could carry out these works in addition to the business plan submitted coupled with the terms of lease, it was deemed that this project would have exposed the council to a significant risk. As a result of this information no letter had issued. The third party was also asked to provide a business plan proposal. The proposed plan, on examination, was deemed inadequate. The Chair informed the members that concerns regarding the building being sold had been expressed at the recent Tourism meeting as the ground which was given to Bord Failte was treated as an asset for financial gain. The members highlighted the remaining ground at Bull Point and expressed a keen interest in what were the plans for this. Cllr. Coakley informed the members that when she brought the motion originally regarding the project that Bord Failte had stated they were not in the property business and were not selling the property. The members all agreed that a letter should issue to Fáilte Ireland regarding the matter.

A member requested an update on the Chateaulin Orchard in Clonakilty. The M.D.O. noted that both the SEO and MDO had met with the Tidy Towns recently and had informed them that a stone mason had been appointed to repair the stone wall and was hoping to commence works this week and works is expected to be completed by mid December. The tree report consisted of some variance on costs, resulting in further discussion, which has caused a slight delay.

2. STATUTORY BUSINESS

Section 183 –Notices

In accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the transaction of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members.

(a) Church Road, Durrus, Co. Cork

Situation:	Disposal of land at Church Road, Durrus, Co. Cork
Area:	Area of land measuring c.0.0099 hectares / 99m ² acres
Acquired From:	In Cork County Council ownership since 2000
Dispose To:	Proposed to dispose to Donna Cleary
Consideration:	€1.00

On the proposal of Cllr. Danny Collins, seconded by Cllr. Caroline Cronin, members approved the above disposal and recommended it to full plenary Council for consideration.

(b) Ardmanagh, Schull, Co. Cork

Situation: Disposal of land at Ardmanagh, Schull, Co. Cork
Area: c.0.028 hectares / 0.056 acres
Acquired From: in Cork County Council ownership since 1997
Dispose To: proposed to dispose to John and Noreen Seward.
Consideration: €5,000

On the proposal of Cllr. Danny Collins, seconded by Cllr. Ross O'Connell members approved the above disposal and recommended it to full plenary Council for consideration.

(c) Carrig Rossa, Rossmore, Co. Cork

Situation: *Grant of a Wayleave at Carrig Rossa, Rossmore, Co. Cork to facilitate Council housing Scheme*
Area: *area of 54m x 10m average width*
Dispose To: *proposed to dispose to Uisce Éireann.*
Consideration: €1 nominal fee – as part of exchange of lands

On the proposal of Cllr. Paul Hayes, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Kelly, members approved the above grant of wayleave and recommended it to full plenary Council for consideration.

(d) Knockeenbwee, Drimoleague, Co. Cork

Situation: *Grant of Right-of-Way at Knockeenbwee, Drimoleague, Co Cork*
Area: *area 18m x 5m wide*
Acquired From: *records not available, registered to CCC since 1972*
Dispose To: *proposed to dispose Anthony & Eleanor Daly.*
Consideration: €1 plus Cork County Council's costs

On the proposal of Cllr. Deirdre Kelly, seconded by Cllr. Declan Hurley, members approved the above grant of wayleave and recommended it to full plenary Council for consideration.

(e) Speed Limit Amendment – Gallanes, Clonakilty

Proposed reduction in existing speed limit on R600 Gallanes, from 60 kph to 50kph.

On the proposal of Cllr. Paul Hayes, seconded by Cllr. Karen Coakley, members approved the above reduction in speed limit and recommended it to full plenary Council for consideration.

3. NOTICES OF MOTION/ FOGRA RUN

(a) Proposed by Cllr Karen Coakley, seconded by Cllr Joe Carroll

"I am calling on Cork County Council to: examine the feasibility and advantages of employing a Manager to run the Town Hall in Skibbereen".

Cllr. Coakley outlined to members that the Town Hall Theatre was a social hub and core of the town in years gone by and following the recent works completed it should be utilized to its full potential and a Manager could be trialled on a parttime basis.

The S.E.O. noted that the MD recently got additional resources to enhance and promote Council run facilities. The Town Hall in Skibbereen is included in this brief and options for future use will be explored.

(b) Proposed by Cllr Declan Hurley, seconded by Cllr Deirdre Kelly

"That Cork County Council request a face to face meeting with representatives of Uisce Éireann to discuss the on-going issues with the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Dunmanway, which has stalled and is preventing any development in the town for the foreseeable future."

Cllr Hurley reported that the future growth and development of Dunmanway town was stalled for the foreseeable future and in the height of a housing crisis as a discharge pipe from the towns waste water plant has a licence to discharge treated water into the Bandon river, but the section of river where the discharge pipe is located is designated as a special area of conservation and is also home to a protected species of freshwater pearl mussel. He outlined that this section of river is governed by a Water Framework Directive, which requires measures to be implemented, so as to achieve good ecological status and this has placed the town's treatment plants in breach of its discharge licence. He thanked Cork County Council for hosting a recent meeting with representatives of Uisce Éireann's Asset Operations, which resulted in some possible solutions to the problem being proposed, one being the relocation of the discharge pipe outside of the SAC. He called for this and other possible solutions to be prioritised and funded from Uisce Éireann's Capital Plan 2024-2028.

The S.E.O noted that the A/County Engineer has undertaken to discuss the matter further with Uisce Éireann and she would request an update on the matter.

The members agreed that a letter should issue to Uisce Éireann requesting a meeting with the relevant Capital staff and that this letter should also highlight ongoing communication issues that members raised.

(c) Proposed by Cllr Ross O'Connell, seconded by Cllr Danny Collins

"That this council would make it a priority to raise a short stretch of the road at Ballyrisode between Kealfadda Bridge and Hungerford Woods to prevent the main Schull to Goleen road (R591) from becoming impassible during future intense rainfall events. Furthermore, that the criteria for activating the existing flood warning sign on the approach to this frequently flooded area be looked at, as the warning lights failed to activate during the last flooding event."

Report from Ruth O'Brien S.E.E.

We will investigate the possibility of raising this section of road, which would involve the construction of seawalls and possibly other mitigation measures. The structural integrity of the road and existing structures would have to be assessed. It should be noted that the road is also within the SAC screening area. The lights are programmed to come on during darkness hours and if they failed to do so, we will contact the Supplier to look at the programming of the lights.

(d) Proposed by Cllr Caroline Cronin, seconded by Cllr Danny Collins

"I am calling on Cork County Council for support with concerns regarding public safety and environmental protection at Kilkileen Beach in Lisheen. Signage of safety measures, in relation to speed on the road and litter on the beach, to ensure the safety and well being of local beach users and the preservation of the natural surroundings.

Report from Ruth O'Brien S.E.E.

This matter was also raised in March 2022 at an MD Meeting. The only piece of infrastructure at Kilkileen is an access ramp onto the foreshore and there is no port activity at this location. Any development would need to consider foreshore licences, potential impact of works in an SAC and NHA. We can look at 'Pack it in / Pack it out' signage and discuss other signage with the Water Safety Officer to see what is appropriate.

(e) Proposed by Cllr Danny Collins, seconded by Cllr Paul Hayes

"Following my previous motion I am calling on the Council to confirm the proposal on a new layout for Bantry town centre and to clarify if we have contracted anyone for a proposed design. It is imperative we work on this now as the proposed culvert works are supposedly starting next year."

Report from Ruth O'Brien S.E.E. on behalf of the Regional & Local Road Design Office

A draft of the proposed layout was unveiled on the Public participation Day on the 13th Oct. Suggestions and queries were received from attendees which are being incorporated into the planning drawings where feasible. As part of the detailed design process landscape architect services will be allowed for as part of the Consultants Brief. The Consultants Brief is currently being updated and scheduled to be advertised in December 2023.

(f) Proposed by Cllr Danny Collins, seconded by Cllr Patrick Gerard Murphy

"I am calling on the Council write to Kerry County Council so we can work together on a letter to be sent to the T.I.I. to install some led lighting along the Caha Pass Tunnel that separates Co. Cork and Co. Kerry."

Ruth O' Brien informed the members that the Caha Pass Tunnel is under the management of Kerry County Council and the TII. The members supported the motion and highlighted the various traffic issues that occur at this location and highlighted that it affected traffic from

both counties. The members agreed that a letter should issue to both the Mayor and Chief Executive of Kerry County Council asking for support to install lighting.

(g) Proposed by Cllr Danny Collins, seconded by Cllr Ross O’Connell

“I am calling on the Council to confirm when a full time Engineer for the Schull Council Area office will be appointed.”

Report from Ruth O’Brien S.E.E.

Cork County Council’s HR Recruitment Section are engaged in the process of appointing a replacement engineer for the Schull Area Office.

(h) Proposed by Cllr Paul Hayes, seconded by Cllr Karen Coakley

“That Cork County Council would apply for the Community Monuments Fund on behalf of the medieval church at Rathbarry. This grant, which would cover 100% of the preservation costs, would ensure that the necessary work would be carried out at the earliest possible time, without any cost to the Council.”

Cllr. Paul Hayes outlined that grants were available up to 30k and 100k and highlighted that time was of the essence to secure grant funding. The M.D.O. advised that the M.D.O. report would outline some detail on these grants and she would liaise with the Heritage Unit regarding Rathbarry.

(i) Proposed by Cllr Paul Hayes, seconded by Cllr Declan Hurley

“That this Council would again examine the possibility of providing a footpath from Clonakilty to Ring village, and would also upgrade and clear the vegetation on the existing stretch of footpath along the coast road from Faxbridge towards Ring.”

Report from John Ahern S.E.E.

John Ahern S.E.E. noted that there was clear physical constraints and funding constraints in providing a footpath at this location. He advised that he will check with colleagues in the Flood Projects section as to whether there was a feasibility report produced on the provision of a footpath at this location at the time of the Clonakilty Flood relief scheme. He further advised that it is CCC’s intention to remove the vegetation from the existing pathway in the coming weeks.

4. REPORTS & CORRESPONDANCE

(a) Municipal District Officer's Report – 4th December 2023

Municipal District Meeting indicative times and dates for the next four months

Friday 5 th January 2024	Friday 2 nd February 2024	Monday 4 th March 2024	Monday 1 st April 2024
Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid
Teams & Skibbereen Chamber (Town Hall/Library Building	Teams & Location TBC	Teams & Location TBC	Teams & Location TBC

1. Arts Grants Scheme

Applications are currently being invited to the **Arts Grants Scheme 2024**.

The following funding strands are open for online applications until 5pm Tuesday January 9th:-

- Arts Grant Scheme
- Artists in Schools Scheme
- Na hEalaíona atá bunaithe ar Ghaeilge/ Irish Language Arts
- 5 No. Artists' Funding Schemes (open to practicing artists only)

The Arts Grants Scheme is the Council's general grant scheme for funding events and activity. This call includes a number of targeted funding strands including: support for developing arts through the Irish Language, a scheme to support artists working in schools and a set of funding opportunities for County based professional artists of all disciplines that include support for the making of new work, to develop international opportunities, or for time for reflection, collaboration and development of new work.

In order to support persons who may have difficulty with typed forms, the Arts Service in conjunction with the Council's Customer Services Team has developed an accessibility feature for the 2024 Scheme to enable the submission of a video or audio application. Further details can be found [here](#)

Submission can be made here -

[https://www.yourcouncil.ie/service/Arts Grant Scheme Accessible Submission](https://www.yourcouncil.ie/service/Arts_Grant_Scheme_Accessible_Submission)

Any enquiries regarding applications contact: The Arts Office, Cork County Council, County Hall, Cork. Tel 021 4346210 Email: arts@corkcoco.ie

2. Protected Structures & Archaeological Monuments

The following funding streams have been announced for 2024 for owners and custodians to apply for funding to safeguard protected structures and archaeological monuments in County Cork:-

- **Community Monuments Fund 2024**

The Community Monuments Fund will enable conservation works to be carried out on archaeological monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of support. It aims to build resilience in monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change, to encourage access to monuments and to improve their presentation. The Scheme has three streams of funding, all of which offer up to 100% of eligible costs. The Community Monuments Fund, for example, which has been operating annually since its establishment in 2020, has seen an investment of over Nine Hundred Thousand Euro (€911K) for 17 different archaeological sites in County Cork. [Application Form Link](#)

- **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2024**

Under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, successful applicants can receive grants of up to €15,000 for small-scale works to repair and preserve their historic properties. These grants relate to protected structures and properties located within Architectural Conservation Areas and a range of different properties and projects are awarded funding each year. The 2023 scheme supported 17 different projects, ranging from churches and thatched houses to country houses, town houses and retail premises. [Application Form Link](#)

- **Historic Structures Fund 2024**

This fund will focus on conservation projects that deliver a major community benefit and successful applicants may receive up to €200,000 for their project. The scheme also offers funding for vernacular structures and for historic shopfronts. [Application Form Link](#)

Cork County Council's Heritage Unit and Conservation Office administer the above schemes. For those interested in hearing more about the schemes, Cork County Council's Historic Monuments Advisory Committee will host an online Grants workshop in December from 14:00 to 15:30 on Thursday 14 December, and one can register by emailing corkheritage@corkcoco.ie

There are a number of documents available to view and download on Cork County Council's website pertaining to each scheme, which can be viewed [here](#)

The deadline for applications under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund is **16:00 on Thursday, 18 January 2024**, and the deadline for the Community Monuments Fund is **16:00 on Wednesday 31 January 2024**.

3. Information on Government Grants applied for through West Cork MD

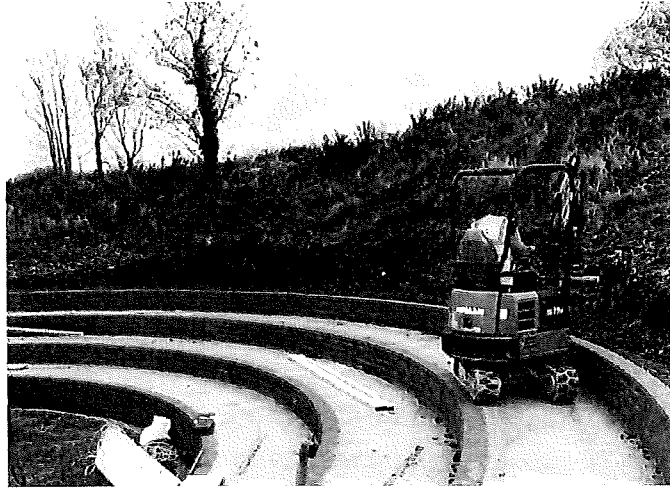
The following are status details of a number of grants that were applied for and awarded funding by Government Departments, which are either complete / ongoing / to commence this year:-

Grant Name	Year	Project Name/Description	Funding Awarded by DRCD
Town and Village Renewal Project Development Measure	2021	St Peter's Church Castletownbere – professional report re Refurbishment & Redevelopment of St. Peter's Church	€39,582 funding, completed and claimed
Town and Village Renewal	2022	Bantry Peace Park - to develop an accessible playground and carry out peace park enhancement works	€216,000 funding, was provided. Project commenced Nov 23
Town and Village Renewal	2022	The Rock Skibbereen - upgrade the amenity area known locally as The Rock	€243,000 funding, was provided. Project underway
ORIS (Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme) M3	2020	Blue Pool (Glengarriff) Nature Reserve Upgrade	€500,000 funding, completed and claimed
ORIS (Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme)	2021	Gallanes Amenity Area Phase II	€146,205 funding, completed and claimed
ORIS (Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme)	2021	Clonakilty Birdwatching Enhancement Project	€20,000 funding, completed and claimed
ORIS (Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme) Project Dev Measure	2021	Beach Access Feasibility Study	€23,235 funding, completed and claimed
ORIS (Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme)	2022	Tragumna Beach Access upgrade	€34,000 funding, provided
CLÁR	2021	Durrus Community Sensory Garden	€44,179 funding, completed and claimed
CLÁR	2021	Bantry Drone Technology and Pilot Training	€21,355 funding, completed and claimed
CLÁR	2022	Glengarriff MUGA Installation	€50,000 funding, completed and claimed
CLÁR	2022	Scoil na Chroi Ro Naofa Castletownbere – Upgrade of tarmac ballcourt facility with all-weather playing facility	€50,000 funding, completed and claimed
CLÁR	2022	Dunmanway Community Sports Hall – Reroof 50% of Hall	€50,000 funding, completed to be claimed
CLÁR	2022	Schull Upgrade of MUGA	€43,200 funding, completed to be claimed
CLÁR	2022	Tragumna Upgrade of Public Toilets	€43,830 funding, contractor appt'd, works to start shortly

CLÁR	2022	Dunmanway Upgrade of MUGA	€33,676 funding, contractor being assessed, works to start once assessment complete
WC Island Minor Capital Works	2022	Sherkin Island Cow Strand	€12,258 funding, completed and claimed
WC Island Minor Capital Works	2022	Sherkin L-4201	€6,771 funding, completed and claimed
WC Island Minor Capital Works	2022	Sherkin L-8202 Phase 1	€50,662 funding, completed and claimed
WC Island Minor Capital Works	2022	Sherkin L-8201 Phase 1	€35,100 funding, completed and claimed
WC Island Minor Capital Works	2022	Cape Clear Helipad Lights	€8,100 funding, completed and claimed
WC Island Minor Capital Works	2022	Whiddy Island Middle Battery Feasibility Study	€18,000 funding, project ongoing
WC Island Minor Capital Works	2022	Bere Island Refurbishment of Public Toilets	€3,240 funding, complete and claimed
WC Island Minor Capital Works	2022 & 2023	Heir Island East Pier Pontoon Installation Phase 1 & Phase 2	€24,005 funding, complete and claimed
WC Island Minor Capital Works	2023	Sherkin L-8202 Phase II	€46,665 funding. First layer of surface dressing in 2023. 2 nd layer of SD in 2024 due to weather
WC Island Minor Capital Works	2023	Sherkin L-8201 Phase II	€35,100 funding. First layer of surface dressing in 2023. 2 nd layer of SD in 2024 due to weather
WC Island Minor Capital Works	2023	Sherkin Island Dock Pier Slipway	€22,986 funding. Contractor appt'd. Works commencing is weather dependent, expect work to be completed in 2024
WC Island Minor Capital Works	2023	Bere Island L-49227-0 (originally two separate projects, now one project as per agreement with DRCD)	€148,500 funding. Weather dependent, late approval rec'd, to be deferred to 2024
WC Island Minor Capital Works	2023	Bere Island L-8959-0 – Dept of Defence owned, therefore 100% funding approved	€122,000 funding. Weather dependent, late approval rec'd, to be deferred to 2024
WC Island Minor Capital Works	2023	Cunnamore Pier Carpark	€9,000 funding, further info sought, therefore late approval by DRCD. To be deferred to 2024
WC Island Minor Capital Works	2023	Heir Island L-8493-0	€120,420 funding sought. AA screening completed and submitted. DRCD deferred decision on approval to 2024

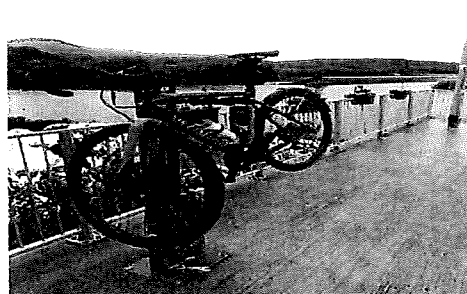
4. TVRS 2022 Schemes update

- Bantry Peace Park: Playground works commenced on Monday 27th November.
- The Rock Skibbereen: The amphitheatre is approximately 80% complete. Preparations ongoing for connection to power for wires to public lighting.



5. NTA funded project

The following Glengarriff project was funded by the NTA, and installed by Castletownbere Area Office, to facilitate cyclists visiting the popular cycling routes in the area.



6. West Cork Greenway

Cork County Council has announced the appointment of Consultant AECOM-ROD Alliance as Technical Advisors to progress with the first phase of development of the West Cork Greenways Project. The project is being developed by the Council as part of its ongoing commitment to developing greenways across the county, aligning with the Government's National Development Plan 2021 - 2030.

Funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland and valued at €3.8m, the project presents a unique opportunity to develop safe and attractive greenways in West Cork. This appointment is for the Skibbereen Sections, and will take the project from Concept and Feasibility through to the Statutory Process. It is proposed that all routes will originate in Skibbereen, and connect to the communities of Baltimore, Schull and Drimoleague, if deemed feasible.



7. Christmas Parking Arrangements

West Cork MD continues to provide free public parking all year round, including the upcoming 2023 festive season from **7th December to 5th January**. We ask the Public to give due consideration to the regular parking time limits in place in each town, especially during the busy festive period, and West Cork MD would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

A member reported that a previous grant application for the Protestant Church in Castletownbere was unsuccessful and requested that it should be considered as part of a heritage type grant scheme. The S.E.O. noted this request.

Cllr. Murphy requested a report be compiled on how much community grants were spent and how much was as yet to be drawn down to see what the up-to-date status of these grants were.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a members request for the Ballineen Toilets report the S.E.O. advised that a design was being finalised for the toilets and the Part 8 would be advertised in early 2024. She noted that the design included 1 unisex toilet and 1 accessible toilet and storage room. The members requested that the local community groups would be informed of the progress on the matter.

A member reported that the road to Tullagh cemetery was in poor condition and needed repair works.

A member highlighted the recent installation of a weigh bridge in Baltimore and expressed disappointment that a photograph was shared on Cork County Councils social media outlets where only one Member was in attendance. The member who raised the issue, requested that in future, invitations to official photographs / launching of projects should issue to all Members. The Members were advised that there was no official photo op in relation to the installation of the weighbridge.

In reply to a query regarding who is responsible for the maintenance of Drimoleague Old Graveyard, Ruth O'Brien S.E.E. noted that she would follow up on this query.

A member reported that there were issues with the Hydrotherapy pool in Dunmanway not having a hoist lift available which meant it was restricting its use to members with limited mobility. The S.E.O. noted that matter for investigation.

A member queried the timeline of the speed limit reduction at Gullanes, Clonakilty and Ruth O'Brien noted that matter for follow up with Michael Cotter.

A member reported that the traffic calming measures on the approach road into Dunmanway opposite the pool were not working. John Ahern S.E.E. advised that there was a plan to deal with this issue and works would begin the New Year.

A member requested that time be set aside at the January MD meeting to discuss in more detail the Service Enhancement Scheme of 650k referred to in the 2024 Budget.

A member queried whether the Council own the land on both sides of the proposed new footbridge at Enniskeane Bridge. John Ahern S.E.E. noted that matter for follow up.

The members agreed to hold the January WCMD meeting at Skibbereen Council Chamber on 5th January 2024 at 11am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH _____ DATE _____

