

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on 16th January 2024**

In Attendance: Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Deirdre O’ Brien, Frank O’ Flynn, William O’ Leary, Frank Roche; Aidan Creagh SEO, Brendan O’ Gorman SEE, Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO.

Apologies: Cllr. Noel McCarthy

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. William O’ Leary welcomed all to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year, acknowledging that the elected Members have a busy six months ahead with Local Elections taking place in early summer.

Cllr. O’ Leary proposed a vote of sincerest congratulations to Cllr. Noel McCarthy his recent marriage to Sharon (Roche). He wished them both all the best for the future and many years of happiness together. These good wishes were seconded by the other elected members and officials in attendance at the meeting.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Kay Dawson, seconded by Cllr. Frank Roche.

2. PRESENTATION

draft LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN Framework Plan

Presentation by: Sharon O’Connell, Programme Manager, LECP

Sharon O’Connell was welcomed to the meeting by Cllr. William O’ Leary and she proceeded to go through the draft LECP Implementation and Framework Plans, sharing the relevant documentation onscreen for the Members information. These documents had also been uploaded to QuickMinutes for the information of the elected Members. It is proposed that the LECP will go to full Council in March 2024 for adoption. Cork County Council LCDCs (Local Community Development Committees) and SPCs (Strategic Policy Committees) had a significant input to these draft plans along with other outside stakeholders representing various sectors of society. This is a six year plan, the progress of which will be monitored annually, with annual reports to full Council. This plan is dynamic, meaning adjustments can be made to reflect changes such as new funding streams etc.

The elected Members thanked Sharon for her presentation, welcoming the content of the draft LECP Framework Plan. Sharon answered queries raised by the elected Members as follows:

- the implementation of the plan will be lead by outside agencies while the monitoring role will be undertaken by the LCDCs and SPCs.
- while the plan is for the entire county of Cork, the implementation of same will vary to meet the needs of the three divisions, with three annual divisional reports to be prepared.

The draft Local Economic and Community Plan, as presented, was proposed by Cllr. Kay Dawson, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien.

3. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. REPORT : January 2024 MDO Report

Margaret O’ Donoghue went through the January MDO report, the content of which was noted by the elected Members, who welcomed news that applications are now open for 2024 Community Funding.

b. RECOMMENDATION : draft 2024 RI Programme

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE circulated maps and draft 2024 road work programmes to those in attendance and went through the works proposed throughout the district for this year. He said all feasible requests on file from the past twelve to eighteen months have been incorporated into the proposed works, with a fifty-fifty division between Fermoy and Mitchelstown areas. Departmental confirmation is pending on the budget but the figure presented today is €3,975 million. Any funding granted in addition to this value will be utilised for blacktop works. The RI programme works will commence on 6th February 2024 in Mitchelstown and continue on from there throughout the year.

c. RECOMMENDATION : draft 2024 RM Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the proposals for works in the RM programme for 2024, the objective of which being to keep water out of the sub-base of 48km of the roads in the FMMD network. Again, these proposed works are divided equally between Fermoy and Mitchelstown areas and currently have a budgetary provision of €1,031 million. Brendan replied to queries in relation to these programmes as follows:

- Brendan confirmed that drainage work is carried out prior to roadworks on all roads included in the roadworks programmes. Additionally, other discretionary road drainage work is ongoing throughout the district as a high priority, with dedicated road crews tasked with this work on a full-time basis.
- further to Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien's query if there are any plans to do 'micro-surfacing' works in the area this year (as done in 2023), Brendan replied yes, the 2023 trial location at Billeragh had proven to be satisfactory thus far and these contracted works may be arranged again this year on roads suited to this surfacing treatment.
- Cllr. William O' Leary enquired if there are any planned works in Lackandarragh, which requires attention. Brendan replied there are two roads to be done in Killally and Kilcor, works to be funded from Phase 1 storm damage funding. Lackandarragh is likely to come through under Phase 2 of this funding stream. Furthermore, there will be €800k available from wind farm planning / development contributions to carry out other road works in this general area over the lifetime of that planning permission.

2024 CIS (Community Involvement Schemes)

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed those present that there is €386,000 provisionally allocated for nine CIS schemes to be done in 2024, all of which are located in Mitchelstown area. The final figure for CIS has not yet been confirmed. Brendan said these nine road have, in effect, failed so this is an ideal opportunity to carry out much needed restoration work under this scheme. Fermoy MD is poised ready to proceed with these nine schemes so can avail of this funding as soon as it is announced and available. Brendan noted to the elected Members that these CIS schemes will only proceed on full receipt of the community contribution levied.

4. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Cllr. William O' Leary

1. "that this Council would receive a deputation of an agreed number of residents from Rathcormac, who were effected by the recent flood events, at the February MD meeting".
This proposal was supported by all the elected Members in attendance, who agreed that those effected by the Rathcormac floods should be afforded an opportunity to present their case to the Council. Brendan O' Gorman SEE recommended the attendance also of a representative of Cork County Council River and Coastal Section, this was agreed, and this request to attend will be communicated by Brendan accordingly. Cllr. O' Leary will liaise with the Rathcormac community.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

2. "that Cork County Council would repair the potholes in Devlin Street Fermoy in the interest of safety".
This route has been patched and will continue to be so until the road receives an overlay, which is scheduled under 2024 RI for mid-summer works. (BO'G)

Cllr. William O' Leary

3. "that this Council would consider the provision of traffic calming measures in the Cul Mona Estate, Fermoy".
Council constructed estate designed in a series of short spurs and a 90 degree bend midway. Roadside Parking also observed on estate road which lends itself to calming also. No funding available for traffic calming in the district and the request would not be high on our agenda for scheme inclusion. I would expect the estate to go under a 30kph zone in the revised 2024 speed limits bylaw. (BO'G)

4. “that this Council would seek funding under the Climate Adaptation Resilience fund to attend to the longstanding surface water issues on the L-1527-0 Kilcor, Castlelyons”.
Funding has been ringfenced from drainage code 1060 to attend to this in Q1 2024. A lot of works done here previously but further works at the junction required to stop water coming to the low point here. (BO’G)

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn

5. “that Cork County Council would refurbish the footpaths in Patrick Street, Fermoy in the interest of safety”.
A request for TII funding via the defect App has been made and I will brief the elected members on updates here, as we receive them. There is 55m of cobbleblock that needs a new bedding foundation, on the southern side. Excessive settlement observed. (BO’G)
6. “that Cork County Council give an update and timeframe for the much needed resurfacing of Patrick Street, Fermoy”.
Cork County Council is currently awaiting details of the TII 2024 Grant Allocation which may include funding for the resurfacing of Patrick Street Fermoy. Subject to confirmation of same Cork County Council hope to be in a position to progress these works in Q3/Q4 of 2024.
(Sean Callery, NRO)

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien - that continual flooding at Bridgetown Upper, Castletownroche be dealt with. Rainfall lodges on road at the brough and dip on the road (Eircode P51 P046).
Brendan O’ Gorman SEE undertook to investigate this flooding issue.

2. Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien - that continual flooding at Tankardstown/Ballyshonack, Kildorrery be dealt with. (One kilometre up from Farrahy Cross. It is between Sheehan’s house and John Hanley’s house).
Brendan O’ Gorman SEE advised that this is on a 2024 CA&R project list and we are awaiting funding confirmation.

3. Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien - Request OPW to open upper gate for entry into Doneraile Park.
This request was supported by the elected Members and Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO undertook to pass this request on to the OPW.

Signed _____

Date _____