



MINUTES OF MEETING OF WEST CORK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**held at Skibbereen Council Chamber and MS Teams at 11.00am
on 5th January 2024**

Members Present: Cllrs. 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.

Apologies: Cllr. Joe Carroll

Cllr. D. Collins presided.

Statutory Meeting

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(a) *Minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 4th December 2023*
Proposed by Cllr. Karen Coakley, Seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Kelly

Resolved:

“That the minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 4th December 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.”

(b) *Minutes (as circulated) of West Cork Municipal District IN COMMITTEE meeting on Skibbereen Regeneration Plan update dated 4th December 2023*
Proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Kelly, Seconded by Cllr. Caroline Cronin

Resolved:

“That the minutes of Municipal District IN COMMITTEE SKIBBEREEN REGENERATION PLAN meeting (as circulated) of 4th December 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.”



(c) **Minutes (as circulated) of West Cork Municipal District IN COMMITTEE meeting on Housing Developments dated 4th December 2023**

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

Resolved:

“That the minutes of West Cork Municipal District IN COMMITTEE meeting on Housing Developments (as circulated) dated 4th December 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.”

MATTERS ARISING

A member expressed thanks for the wall repair works done at Chateaulin Orchard in Clonakilty, and also for the footpaths cleaned and fixed on the Ring road and welcomed the works commencing with contractors on the strengthening of the sea wall on the Ring road.

In response to a query on whether any reply had been received from Kerry County Council regarding the lights needed at Caha tunnel, the MDO advised she was awaiting on a reply.

A member requested an update on their previous motion on the Skibbereen Theatre requiring Manager and its options for the future use to be made available to the members at future meetings.

2. REPORTS & CORRESPONDANCE

Municipal District Officer’s Report – 5th January 2024

Municipal District Meeting times and dates for the next three months

Friday 2 nd February 2024	Monday 4 th March 2024	Monday 1 st April 2024
Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid
Teams & Location TBC	Teams & Location TBC	Teams & Location TBC

1. Community Fund Scheme 2024

Applications can be submitted online regarding Cork County Council’s 3 No. Community Fund Schemes 2024 from Wednesday 10th January 2024 up to 4pm Tuesday 13th February 2024, When the scheme goes live, the link can be accessed [here](#).

2. Local Festival Fund 2024

Cork County Council is inviting applications for funding under the Cork County Local Festival Fund 2024, a competitive grant scheme supporting the development of festivals that drive domestic tourism and help to improve the visitor experience.

A total of €85,000 is available through the Local Festival Fund for 2024 and applicants can apply for funding up to a maximum of €6,000 per festival. Funding is provided by Fáilte Ireland, at 50%, with Cork County Council providing the additional 50% match funding.

A festival may be eligible for funding under the Local Festival Fund, if:

- It is held within the boundaries of Cork County
- It attracts domestic visitors and improves the visitor experience
- It generates a minimum of 150 visitor bed-nights in paid accommodation
- The festival has a minimum expenditure of €7,500

The scheme is currently open for receipt of applications up to 5pm Friday 26th January 2024. Online applications close on Friday the 26th of January at 5.00pm. For further details please contact LocalFestivalFund@corkcoco.ie Applications can be made [here](#).

3. Update on CRF Schemes in West Cork MD

The following are status details of 2023 Community Recognition Fund Grant Projects that were applied for and awarded funding during 2023:-

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND SCHEME 2023 - WEST CORK MD			
Organisation	Application	Grant Approved	Application Status
West Cork Development Partnership	Purchase of 1 no. Eight Seater Vehicle, West Cork Area	€50,000.00	Project complete. Actual cost of project - €49,995. Applicant's Grant Claim sent to Finance Dept, Co. Hall for payment.
Bantry Boys Club	Upgrade of Community Hall/Sports Complex, Bantry	€10,000.00	Club seeking quotes for flooring but anticipate it will cost much more than grant amount. Club is considering other elements of the project applied for and will revert back to CCC.
Coomhola/Borlin and Glengarriff Active Retirement Group	4 no Laptops, 2 No. Ipads, Interpretation Boards for Biodiversity and Folklore Signage, Establishment of QR Codes on Selected Trails, Coomhola	€2,000.00	CCC awaiting update from applicant on project

Bantry Youthreach	Refurbishment of general recreational area for Basketball and Tennis, Development of a Kitchen Garden and Polytunnel Sensory Garden with Zen Trail Sports Equipment, Bantry	€15,000.00	Applicant has made contact with CCC in relation to progressing their project
West Cork MD	Wheelchair Accessible Active Multiplay Ship, A Wheelchair Accessible Inclusive Junior Multiplay Unit, Car Park with Wheelchair and Parent Friendly Parking, Bantry Peace Park	€60,000.00	The unit has been installed and the car park will commence in January.
West Cork MD	Restoration and enhancement at Deasy's Quay South, Clonakilty Bay Area	€20,000.00	Further clearance works have taken place at Deasy's Quay South to date.
West Cork MD	Rejuvenation of Chateaulin Orchard Town Park, Clonakilty	€30,000.00	The section of the stone wall that had completely collapsed is now rebuilt.
Dunmanway Pitch & Putt Club	Purchase of Green Mower, Dunmanway	€3,000.00	Applicant liaising with CCC re project.
Dunmanway Promotions Association CLG	Upgrade of heating system at St. Patrick's Community Hall, Dunmanway	€30,000.00	Quotes for the heating upgrade far exceed the grant amount, and a large amount of fundraising will be required. Group will contact again in the new year when they have had a chance to review the matter.
Glengarriff Community Sportsfield Association	Development of tennis court/multi-purpose all weather surface, Glengarriff	€75,000.00	Claim 1 for first part of project submitted - €20,611.60, and payment is now to be made to applicant for Claim 1.
Beara United FC	Improve Playing Surface of Beara United FC, Castletownbere	€35,000.00	Applicant liaising with CCC re project.
Rosscarbery Playground Redevelopment Committee	Upgrade of Tennis Courts and Basketball Court, Rosscarbery	€10,000.00	DRCD approval received to change of applicant. Rosscarbery Playground Redevelopment Committee are now delivering the project. Quotation sought.
West Cork MD	Installation of New Concrete Bases to Provide Picnic Seating and Tables in Green Areas and Bus Stops, Schull	€5,000.00	Project complete.
Comhar na nOileáin	Playground Equipment, Sherkin	€25,000.00	Applicant liaising with CCC re project.

Skibbereen Tidy Towns	Wheelchair Accessible Playground Equipment, Skibbereen	€20,000.00	Applicant has been in contact with CCC. Applicant hopes to do this project in two stages
Skibbereen Rowing Club	Purchase of Accessible Rowing Training Boat, Skibbereen	€5,000.00	Project underway
Skibbereen Sports and Fitness Centre	Development of Disability Access to Outdoor Multigames Area, Skibbereen	€12,000.00	Project complete. Grant claim to be submitted to CCC in January.
Clonakilty Community Hall	Removal of Roof and Fitting of New Roof at Community Hall, Clonakilty	€100,000.00	Applicant liaising with CCC re project.
Coomhola and Borlin Development Association	Fencing boundary of amenity space and landscaping works, Priests Leap, Coomhola	€28,000.00	Works are underway on this project
Total:		€535,000.00	

4. Update on 2021-23 Community Fund Scheme West Cork MD

AMENITY GRANTS SCHEME

YEAR	TOTAL AMOUNT CLAIMED	TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE CLAIMED	TOTAL AMOUNT WILL NOT BE CLAIMED
2021	€15,800.00	€5,000.00	€6,300.00
2022	€48,200.00	€0.00	€4,000.00
2023	€8,000.00	€46,300.00	€1,000.00

COMMUNITY CONTRACTS

YEAR	TOTAL AMOUNT CLAIMED	TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE CLAIMED	TOTAL AMOUNT WILL NOT BE CLAIMED
2021	€71,119.76	€0.00	€20,980.24
2022	€77,742.98	€0.00	€5,757.02
2023	€25,396.47	€74,500.00	€103.53

CAPITAL GRANTS

YEAR	TOTAL AMOUNT CLAIMED	TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE CLAIMED	TOTAL AMOUNT WILL NOT BE CLAIMED
2021	€30,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00
2022	€10,000.00	€40,000.00	€0.00
2023	€0.00	€60,000.00	€0.00

5. Budget 2024 - Service Enhancement Scheme

Awaiting update from Finance.

6. Budget 2024 – Playground Funding

Any future capital replacement works required relating to playgrounds, should endeavour to incorporate the use of sustainable materials where possible. For the ‘Renewal of Existing Playgrounds to Sustainable Materials’, a County Wide Programme would need to be determined and prioritised involving; strategic assessment, value for money, compliance with the public spending code, submission of appropriate business cases, requiring the approval of Senior Management.

7. Ballineen Toilets

Cork County Council staff are to meet local groups in the next week on a different matter relating to the same site, and hope to be in a position to provide an update on the progress of Ballineen Toilets also.

8. Rathbarry Church

A costing proposal is being sought at present, to provide an estimate relating to preservation works at Rathbarry Church. This will enable Cork County Council to gain a better picture of the amount of funding required to carry out works, and whether the Community Monuments Fund would be a sufficient source of funding, as the maximum amount available under this fund is €100,000.

9. Proposal to Install LED lighting at Caha Pass Tunnel

Letter issued on behalf of West MD Members to both the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive of Kerry County Council, awaiting response.

10. Former Railway Building Baltimore

Letter issued on behalf of West MD Members to Fáilte Ireland, awaiting response.

11. Waste Water Treatment Plant Dunmanway

Letter issued on behalf of West MD Members to Uisce Éireann, awaiting response.

In response to a query on why €21k was not claimed in Community Contracts the MDO noted that COVID had affected some project works and some contracts were unable to finish out. A member queried whether the €21k can be made available to other projects and the MDO advised that this can be reviewed during the 2024 GMA allocations process.

A member queried whether letters had been sent to applicants advising that there was still monies available and requesting they indicate their intention to apply for it. The MDO noted that it was standard to follow up on projects to query if they need more time to complete their project.

One member asked that 2023 projects should be reviewed to see if other applicants who had not received funding but might still be interested. MDO informed the Members that during the grant assessment process some applicants may have been deemed ineligible, therefore not allocated funds. A Member requested if a reserve waiting list of applicants could be considered. Members requested the unspent 2021-2023 be considered in the 2024 GMA process.

A member queried whether the Women's Project of West Cork could apply for grant funding, and the MDO advised that they should apply for the Community fund Scheme, and their application will be assessed.

Thanks were expressed by a member for the work at the Pitch & Putt in Dunmanway.

A query in relation to how monies were allocated to Tidy Town groups was discussed and whether it should be project-focused as opposed to funding with a deadline to spending it. The MDO noted the matter for review but advised that the current system was working well.

In response to a request for further info on the Service Enhancement Scheme the MDO noted that she was awaiting an update from the Finance Dept.

A member queried the waste ground in Deasy's Quay South whether it could be linked to the Faxbridge project. The MDO advised that would only allow for clearing out and basic landscaping of that area. The adjacent land nearer to Faxbridge is a separate matter involving a Part 8. John Ahern advised that there had been some work in that area with leveling out for the flood scheme.

A member queried the Faxbridge footpath works timeline and John Ahern noted the R&LRDO along with the OPW were advancing the works and was advised that it would require a Part 8 to be completed first in early 2024.

A member highlighted that some groups have difficulty with the online application process for grants and queried whether a paper application could be submitted in these circumstances. The MDO noted that it would be difficult to run 2 application systems and any applicant can contact Cork County Council if they are having difficulty with the online application.

An update on St. Peter's Church in Castletownbere and the deadlines for applications for funding was requested and in response the MDO noted that this was not Cork County Council property. She also confirmed that the Historic funding application deadline was the 18th January 2024 and she will contact the local group again regarding the matter.

A member queried whether an upcoming meeting in Ballineen included both groups. The MDO noted that the meeting was regarding a different matter, but if Cork County Council is in a position to provide an update on the public toilets on the same day, a representative from both groups in Ballineen will be asked to attend.

Thanks was expressed for the new playground in Bantry and it was remarked that it was an amazing facility.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Draft Local Economic and Community Plan Framework Plan

Sharon O'Connell briefed the members on the Draft Local Economic and Community Framework Plan.

The members thanked her and her team for the plan and they were commended for their public consultation and interaction with different groups. The members also expressed that they were keen to see action on the ground now.

In response to a query on the deprivation indexes used in the plan, Sharon O' Connell noted that they were using the Pobal Deprivation Index and she would send these out to the members so that the dates could be referenced. She also noted that the consultant's role was to ensure that new info was available so that the social economic profile could be updated.

The Draft Local Economic and Community Plan Framework Plan was proposed by Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Declan Hurley

A member queried whether the winch at Canty's Cove could be taken over and maintained by Cork County Council. Ruth O'Brien noted that matter for follow-up.

A member thanked Ruth O'Brien for the work at Hollyhill removing the bump from the road.

The road from Schull to Goleen was reported as being in very bad disrepair. Ruth O'Brien noted that this road was on the road programme for 2024.

A member queried if there were new guidelines for burning.

In reply to a query on the membership rates in Dunmanway Pool the SEO noted that a new staff member has been appointed to oversee the visitor attractions and part of her role would be to review this.

A member queried if the road into Dunmanway from West Green to Bandon and the Long Bridge area was on any programme of works for 2024. John Ahern noted that the works will depend on the level of funding given and the grants will not be announced until February 2024. He advised that the Long Bridge area was tested last year and it's known what is needed to go into it but the works will depend again on funding.

In response to a query if the public toilets maintenance will be outsourced for 2024 the SEO noted that this service will be provided from internal resources where possible.

A member highlighted an issue on the old Timoleague road where a drainage pipe is entering a private property and queried if this would be remedied within the Faxbridge works. John Ahern noted that a high level design was completed to address the drainage issue and the OPW was working on it and a solution had been identified. The project needs to go to tender and get funding and he will follow up with the Roads Designs Office for an update.

A member highlighted the poor road surface on Patrick's Hill in Clonakilty. John Ahern noted that there were works due to be carried out there this year.

A member reported that the wheelchair swing in the playground in Clonakilty needed a new accessible lock. The MDO noted that it had been fitted with the WA lock and any wheelchair users could use a WA key to access the swing and she would get the signage in the area updated to reflect this.

An update on the foreshore licence for the playground in Rosscarbery was requested and in response the SEO noted that the matter was with the legal department and she would seek an update for the next meeting.

An update was requested regarding the sculpture which was removed from the main pier in Bantry, Ruth O'Brien noted that it was removed to facilitate vehicular access on the pier, and a more suitable location for the sculpture was been reviewed.

An update was requested on the crossing at Newtown, Bantry, Ruth O'Brien noted the matter for follow-up and will update at the next meeting.

An update was requested on the Coomhola Bridge repair, Ruth O'Brien noted the matter for follow-up and will update at the next meeting.

A member reported the Kilbarry road at Cotter & Keane Mills was not resurfaced and a section of the road had sunken down where water meters were installed, also a section of the road has no footpath which causes difficulty for pedestrians using the road, and queried if Uisce Eireann had any plans to address this. John Ahern noted that matter for follow-up.

The members acknowledged that this was Cllr. Ross O'Connell's final council meeting and they expressed that it was a pleasure to work with him, that he fitted in well with everyone, and represented his Peninsula very well. The SEO wished Cllr. O'Connell well in his future endeavors and thanked him for always being so courteous with council staff members. Cllr. O'Connell thanked the members for their kind words and said he had enjoyed working in his role over the past 4 years.

The members agreed to hold the February WCMD meeting at the Skibbereen Council Chamber on Friday 2nd February at an earlier time of 10.30am.

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

Members extended a Vote of Sympathy to Cllr. Joe Carroll on the death of his sister-in-law Evelyn Carroll RIP.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH _____ **DATE** _____

