

MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2ND JANUARY 2024 AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH.

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

Officials: Mr. P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer
Mr. G. O’Hora, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

Apologies were received from Mr. Robert O’Sullivan for his inability to attend.

1.0 Presentation on Draft Local Economic and Community Plan Framework.

Ms. Sharon O’Connell, Programme Manager outlined the background and process involved in the LECP. The main thrust of the framework was to secure funding from government and other sources for local and community projects, the plan doesn’t deal with zoning and planning issues, but works closely with the planning department. A public consultation process had taken place in May 2023. Cllr. A. O’Connor queried if the plan was county wide or whether there were specific local ones also given the size and diversity of the County. Ms. O’Connell stated that the plan was County wide only, but that there were specific actions embedded within it to cater for North, South and West regions of the County. Cllr. A. Barry asked if the measuring outlined would be carried out on an annual basis and if the members could be informed. Cllr. Sheppard stated that communication was key to the success of any plan. Ms. O’Connell assured the members that they would be kept informed of the outcomes and challenges of the plan on a regular basis at full Council.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Connor, the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan Framework was adopted.

2.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of: Monthly Meeting held on 4th December 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Connor, seconded by Cllr. Anthony Barry, the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 4th December were adopted.

3.0 Matters Arising.

Annesgrove & Carrigane Road:

G. O'Hora confirmed that additional road safety signs had been acquired and would be put in the next few weeks.

Belvelly/Ticknock Hill:

G. O'Hora stated the speed survey list was being progressed and the results would be presented to the members at the February meeting.

Ballard Hill:

G. O'Hora stated that Cork County Council had carried out some works prior to Christmas and these would be completed over the next few weeks.

Ballywilliam:

G. O'Hora stated that he had again contacted the ESB before Christmas in relation to this matter and was still awaiting a response.

Ballyvoloon/Ballyleary Road:

G. O'Hora stated that road improvement works are scheduled to commence mid-January.

Tay Road: G. O'Hora stated that the pothole had been repaired..

Glencree: G. O'Hora stated that the road works had commenced and would be completed this week.

Carrigaloe:

G. O'Hora stated that an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing had now been installed on the R624 at Carrigaloe and contact had been made with the bus company in relation to erecting signage.

College Manor:

G. O'Hora stated that the signs had been delivered and would be put up soon.

Cluain Ard, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that he was meeting the road contractor in relation to new lining for the junction and additional signage.

Little Island:

G. O'Hora stated that the road drain had been cleaned out.

Coom:

G. O'Hora replied that some remedial repair works would be carried out on the road.

Ardnageeha:

G. O'Hora stated that some works had been carried out before Christmas and that further work was scheduled under the RI Programme for 2024.

O’Sullivan’s Place, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that an inspection would be carried out over the next week of the green area.

Whitepoint:

G. O’Hora stated that he was awaiting a response from the public lighting section.

High Road:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the survey results would be presented at the February meeting.

Carrignafoy:

G. O’Hora stated that repairs would be carried out on the Carrignafoy road.

Ferry:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the potholes approaching the car ferry were listed for repair.

Carrigane Road

G. O’Hora confirmed that the works were being carried out by the traffic and transport section and he would contact them again.

Rushbrooke:

G. O’Hora stated that the results of the speed survey would be available at the February meeting.

Knockraha:

G. O’Hora stated that the road junction would be monitored and works were due to be carried out there in the next month.

Old Church Cemetery:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the soil had now been removed, however hoarding remained, which he understood was to be placed in the storage area. G. O’Hora confirmed shutter and hoarding would be removed from the cemetery.

Ballyleary Road:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the works would be completed by mid-January.

Ticknock:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if the School Safe works could be completed this week while the schools were still on holidays. G. O’Hora confirmed that the works were being carried out by the CCC’s traffic and transport section and he would contact them to arrange a site meeting to discuss the works programme.

Top of the Hill:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the leak at Top of the Hill needed to be repaired urgently ahead of a cold snap due next week. G. O’Hora replied that while this was an issue for Irish Water, he would contact Irish Water and request an immediate repair.

Drains:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen clarified the location of the damaged drain at Walterstown for G. O’Hora, stating that the drain had been cleared out, but not repaired. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the drains above Hardware House and at Clifton Corner were blocked again. G. O’Hora stated drains were listed were cleaning.

Russell Heights:

Cllr. S. Sheppard expressed her thanks for the road lining carried out at Russell Heights.

Assumption Place:

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the corner of Assumption Place was still flooding, the post box cannot be accessed. Engineer to examine.

Irish Water:

Cllr. Sheppard and Cllr. Barry expressed their dissatisfaction at the condition of roads and footpaths following repairs carried out by Irish Water. Cllr. Sheppard stated that the roads were being left in a deplorable state, while Cllr. Barry expressed his frustration at the number of leaks and repairs being carried out on the Carrigtwohill Main Street following its total resurfacing only 12 months ago. The members sought clarification on how long following resurfacing that a road should be totally resurfaced instead of patched. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the Council should be insisting that newly resurfaced roads should be fully resurfaced by contractors before they leave site. Cllr. Sheppard stated that repair works to the footpath in Whitepoint have been indefinitely delayed because Irish Water are due to lay a new watermain, but no timeframe has been provided for this work.

G. O’Hora replied that all statutory bodies, including Irish Water, were supposed to follow the purple book guidelines (Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads) for road reinstatement. In cases where a contractor has failed to re-instate the road properly, CCC would follow up with the contractor.

On the proposal of Cllr. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. Rasmussen, it was agreed to send a letter to Irish Water.

P. Lynch asked that members send him details of specific problem locations that they wished to have included in the letter and advised that he would circulate a draft copy of the letter to the members once he has received those details.

4.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence.

A letter from Glounthaune Tidy Towns was circulated with the agenda.

5.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigigh / Officer's Reports.

5.1 Restoration Improvement Roads Programme 2024:

G. O'Hora outlined the proposed programme for the members. Cllr. Rasmussen queried the absence of Rahilly Street from the list and the limited length of the Ballyleary road to be resurfaced. G. O'Hora replied that he hoped to source additional funding during the year, which may lead to the inclusion of these roads at a future date.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the programme as outlined was adopted.

5.2 Glounthaune Men's Shed Proposal:

P. Lynch stated that a suitable site had been identified at Rockgrove, where it was proposed to construct a new Mens Shed for Glounthaune. He proposed, subject to agreement from the members, that a lease be drawn up between Glounthaune Mens Shed and Cork County Council for a nominal rent for as long a period as possible, subject to planning permission. Cllr. Barry asked if the project required planning permission? Cllr. Rasmussen stated that it should be possible to come up with a form of words which would cater for the requirement or not of planning permission.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to lease the lands to the Glounthaune Mens Shed, subject to the conditions outlined above. It was also agreed that if planning was required that a letter of permission to submit a planning permission would issue from the Municipal District.

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

P. Lynch circulated this months Municipal District Officers report which included the updated figures for the various grants and parking income. Cllr. A. Barry raised concerns regarding the unclaimed grants going back as far as 2020. He had attempted to obtain an increased budget allocation for 2024 for community grants but was prevented from doing so by the amount of unclaimed grants from previous years. He stated that it should be made clear at the outset of this years programme, that there is a time limit for claiming allocated grants, unclaimed grants should be re-distributed. Cllr. S. Sheppard asked what the cut off limit was for claiming grants, but acknowledged that covid had played a part in the delay for some groups in claiming their allocation. P. Lynch replied that staff regularly followed up with applicants to determine the progress of projects. A report of all outstanding grants would be circulated to the members at the next meeting.

Cllr. Sheppard stated that revenue from the campervan facility could be increased by regular monitoring. P. Lynch replied that there has been an increase in the income from the facility since the byelaws were amended and these changes had made it easier for the wardens to enforce the regulations.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to allocate €949.00 from the Town Development Fund to Carrigtwohill Community Centre towards the purchase of extra Christmas lights/equipment.

7.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.

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

That an update is sought on the plan for the removal of the temporary bollards at the top of Ticknock Hill and also that a review be undertaken by the design team on the severity of the 3 new ramps at the end of Aherne Place.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that it was his understanding that the contractors would be finished within the next month and that even when the temporary bollards are removed, the extra turning lane will not be re-instated, this is leading to severe congestion in the area. Also the design/height of the new ramps needed to be reviewed, the design is very severe and causing damage to vehicles.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that a meeting would be arranged between the members and the design team.

2 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:

That this MD would request a meeting with estate management and ask for an outline of the amount of estates within the district that are not taken in charge and a list of the amount of bonds attached to these estates.

Cllr. Sheppard stated that it was unacceptable that 15-20 years after some estates had been completed they were still not taken in charge by Cork County Council. This delay resulted in anti social behaviour and problems with public lighting and footpaths not being repaired, she cited Cluain Ard and Ballynoe as examples.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed a meeting with Estates Management would be requested.

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

That this municipal would give consideration to a dedicated drain cleaning team as other municipals now have.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that he was aware of 3 other districts within the County that had dedicated drain cleaning staff. Cllr. S. O’Callaghan queried if these staff were in addition to the regular outdoor staff for the area or part of the existing allocation of staff for the municipal district. G. O’Hora replied that he was unaware of the existence of such teams in other MD’s and assured members that staff regularly checked and cleared drains, in particular before any storm, known hotspots were inspected.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that G. O’Hora would examine further and report back to the members.

4 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:

That Cobh MD would look at areas within the town of Cobh that might be suitable for an outdoor basketball court.

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that Cobh Basketball Club had close to 340 members and that there was no place for young people to play without paying a fee. She urged officials and members to identify suitable locations for the installation of an open air, free to all facility. Two estates which were supposed to have such facilities installed had objected on the grounds of anti-social behaviour. Cllr. Barry stated that the MUGA in Carrigwohill had proved a phenomenal success, but that it was supervised and locked at night. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated the only land available was at Ballynoe, where a skatepark was also to be installed. All the members agreed that any facility should be monitored, controlled and supervised.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that the members would meet with officials to discuss any proposals.

5 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:

That Cobh MD would install bike ramps on the steps up to the cathedral The Rock.

Cllr. Sheppard stated that Cork City Council had recently installed bike ramps to great effect to facilitate the pushing of bikes up steep inclines, similar to the Rock. They consisted of a narrow track at the side of the steps.

On the proposal of Cllr. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that the engineers would investigate and report back to the members.

8.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business.

Cobh Palestine Solidarity Campaign:

Cllr. Sheppard congratulated the group on highlighting the situation in Gaza and the impact on the Palestinian people. Unfortunately the email had been received too late to include the motion on the agenda for today's Municipal District meeting, however she proposed forwarding it to full Council. Cllr. A. O'Connell thanked the representatives present in the Chamber for the concrete suggestions in their email and gave his full support to the Town Twinning suggestion. Cllr. C. Rasmussen and Cllr. S. Connor added their thanks and support. Cllr. A. Barry felt a twinning suggestion at this time was inappropriate.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to forward the motion to full Council without mention of the twinning proposal.

Cllr. A. Barry:

Barryscourt Junction/Carrigtwohill:

The junction coming from Barryscourt to Carrigtwohill main street, needs attention urgently, it is very dangerous. The Family Resource centre is on the corner with an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing, the temporary bollards have been removed and the road lining has faded. A pothole has re-opened on the main street. G. O'Hora queried if Cllr. Barry was seeking a signalised crossing for the Barryscourt junction. Cllr. Barry replied that that would be the preference as he could not think of any other location that had an interchange from a motorway terminating in the centre of a village, but in the meantime additional signage and renewed lining is required. Engineer to request a consultation with the Roads Design office and look at renewing the road lining at the junction.

Carrigane Road:

Flooding remains an issue particularly adjacent to T45 AC29 on the Carrigane Road, manhole needs to be replaced. Engineer to examine.

Waterrock LIHAF:

The large developments planned for Waterrock, while being constructed in the East Cork Municipal District, will have a severe effect on Carrigtwohill. P. Lynch to arrange a meeting with the team for the February meeting.

Cllr. S. O'Connor:

Connolly Street:

The bank is continuing to slip below the level of the road at Connolly Street onto the foreshore where several working sheds are located. P. Lynch stated that the engineering staff had previously met with the Coastal Management team, some minor works had been carried out, however the engineer would contact the section again.

Assumption Place:

There was a lot of traffic congestion at the entrance, could the green margin be recessed to provide additional parking. G. O’Hora replied that the drainage in the area was a priority, but he would examine the area for parking and report back.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

Coolbeg Estate:

Capping on walls need to be finished. Engineer to discuss with estate developer.

Pottery Road:

Some sections of this road are in a very bad condition following the recent bad weather. Engineer to examine.

Irish Rail Cabin, Cobh:

The Irish Rail Cabin backing onto the Five Foot Way is in very poor condition. P. Lynch to contact Irish Rail.

Coolamber:

New road signage. Engineer stated signs would be erected shortly.

High Road:

The right hand side of the road near the Low Cost Scheme is very rutted. Engineer to examine.

Glenanaar Place:

Some sections of the road are in very bad condition. Engineer stated road was listed for repair.

Laundry Hill:

Pothole at the end of Laundry Hill. Engineer stated road was listed for repair.

Leeview Estate:

Potholes in the estate have opened up again, could the hot patcher be brought in next time. G. O’Hora outlined the problems with using the hot patcher in residential areas, Cllr. Rasmussen to liaise with the residents.

Aherns Place:

Bollards have yet to be installed at the traffic lights near Aherns Place. Engineer to follow up with CCC’s Traffic and Management section.

Mount Crozier:

One of the pencil bollards installed recently is broken. Engineer to examine.

Fota Road:

Could the Fota Road be cleaned in advance of St. Patricks Day. Engineer to examine.

Promenade:

The promenade was closed on New Years Day, could it be opened in future. Engineer to revert.

Rubbish:

A lot of rubbish was dumped over the Christmas period, particularly at the top of West View and on East Beach, near the chemist. Could staff be deployed in the afternoons also over the Christmas period, going forward. G. O'Hora to examine.

Cllr. A. O'Connor:**Donegal Hill:**

Cllr. O'Connor was contacted by the new residents of the house on the corner between Donegal Hill and L2989, where the wall was damaged again over the Christmas period. Could barriers or other signage be installed there. Engineer stated the road would be relined and additional safety signage examined.

Pottery Road/Belvelly:

Rubble left on ditch after works in the area. Cllr. O'Connor to forward the email he received to G. O'Hora to identify the location.

Ballytrasna, Little Island:

Lorries are parking on the footpath, once the traffic scheme is in place, there will be a bus lane at this location, but in the meantime could bollards be installed. G. O'Hora responded saying that bollards had been erected on the footpath but had been knocked by trucks parking on the footpath. Parking on the footpath is an enforcement issue and the Gardai should be contacted.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:**Extension to Cemeteries:**

What is the up to date position regarding the extension to cemeteries at Kilquane and Whitechurch. P. Lynch replied that an Architectural Impact Assessment for both sites was required, which would be prepared as soon as possible. Cllr. A. Barry stated that as far as he was aware this had already been completed for Kilquane, P. Lynch to follow up.

Tattans Pub to Glen Road:

Engineer stated the road was listed for repair.

Hegartys Cross Road:

The road surface is in very bad condition. G. O'Hora replied that this was in the East Cork area.

Dawsons Junction to Buck Learys Cross:

Very bad potholes. Engineer stated the road potholes were listed for repair.

Cllr. S. Sheppard:

Bunker Hill to Rushbrooke:

The footpath is very muddy. Engineer to examine.

Russell Heights:

Engineer stated children at play signs would be erected shortly.

Cluain Ard:

The public lighting in sections of the estate is not working, several cars have been damaged. G. O’Hora to forward contact details for the public lighting engineer.

Norwood/Newtown Road:

The wall has been damaged following works and needs to be repaired. Engineer to examine.

Thanks:

Cllr. Sheppard expressed her thanks to the staff for all the work over Christmas, the staff respond promptly to queries from members and this is much appreciated.

Condolences:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen expressed his condolences to Mr. Robert O’Sullivan on the death of his mother shortly before Christmas, the other members and staff asked to be associated with same.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.