

**MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2024 AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH.**

**Present:** Cllrs. A. Barry, G. Curley, D. Finn, S. O’Callaghan, C. Rasmussen & S. Sheppard.

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

An apology for his absence was received from Mr. S. O’Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer.

**1.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of:**

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the minutes of the Cobh Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024, were adopted.

**2.0 Matters Arising:**

**Lackenroe Bridge/Lahern Bridge:**

G. O’Hora stated repair works were scheduled to commence mid-July.

**Hillcourt, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated the estate drains was scheduled for cleaning.

**West View/Barrymore Avenue:**

G. O’Hora stated that a contractor had been appointed and works would be carried out at the end of July.

**Whitepoint Turning Area:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that the works had been completed.

**Glanmire to Knockraha:**

G. O’Hora stated that the relining of the road from Glanmire to Knockraha would take place during July and August.

**Tay Road:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that the new signs would be erected during the summer.

**Newtown Road, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated that the repairs had been completed.

**Harbour Row:**

G. O’Hora stated that signage had been put up warning traffic of oncoming buses.

**Corbally to Lackenroe Road:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that the road lining would be carried out during July/August.

**Junction at Castlelake, Carrigtwohill:**

G. O’Hora stated that the sequencing of the lights at the junction was being examined by CCC contractor.

**Station Road, Carrigtwohill:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that the Stop Line was scheduled to be moved.

**Knockraha:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that works were due to be carried out during July & August.

**The Spires, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated that a traffic survey would be carried out during the summer months.

**Castlewhite Estate, Whitechurch:**

G. O’Hora stated that the area will be included in traffic surveys to be carried out over the summer months and will be considered for extra signage.

**Lower Road, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that the missing bollard had been replaced.

**Donelan Terrace, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated parking is permitted on the public road.

**Leonards Lodge:**

G. O’Hora stated that some overgrowth had been cut and he would contact the landowner to request that further works be carried out.

**Lahern Bridge:**

G. O’Hora stated bridge would be inspected.

**Erins Own GAA Club:**

G. O’Hora stated that a traffic calming scheme is being examined.

**Island Cross:**

G. O’Hora stated he was examining erecting bollards to prevent HGV’s parking on the footpath.

**Traffic Warden:**

P. Lynch stated that the new traffic warden has taken up duties and is currently being trained in. It has been agreed that a traffic warden would be deployed on occasion to Carrigtwohill.

**Cedar Estate, Carrigtwohill:**

P. Lynch stated that the Planning Administrative Officer has confirmed that the developer has replied to the warning letter issued and this response is currently being examined.

**Congratulations:**

Cllr. Rasmussen congratulated Cllr. S. O’Callaghan on her election as Cathaoirleach.

**Toilet Block, Whitepoint, Cobh:**

P. Lynch stated that the snag list for the toilet block was being worked on and it would be operational as soon as all works had been completed.

**Pay Parking App.:**

P. Lynch stated that the pay parking app was currently being tested and should go live in the next week or two and he would circulate the details to the members following the meeting. Cllr. Sheppard expressed her delight that the app was finally nearing completion.

**Waterleak:**

Cllr. Rasmussen expressed his thanks for the water leak at Top of the Hill which had finally been fixed.

**Harbour Row Drains:**

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that some but not all drains on Harbour Row had been cleared out, there were at least 4 more that needed attention. G O'Hora stated drains were scheduled for cleaning.

**Carrigaloe/Belvelly Bus Stop:**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen sought an update on the Cobh Connect bus stops. G. O'Hora confirmed that he had been in contact with the Cobh Connect Bus Company and the Roads Design Office, and the signs are being progressed, however the volume of work currently was delaying the process.

**College Manor:**

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the road at the entrance to College Manor on the Carrignafoy side, was in very bad condition. G. O'Hora stated that this was part of the safe route to school scheme and the road junction was scheduled to be resurfaced.

**Electric Vehicle Charging Points:**

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that it was his understanding that his motion was to go to Full Council, but it would appear that this had not been done. P. Lynch to follow up and place before Full Council for July.

**Ballyleary:**

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that a report on the situation at Ballyleary was to have been ready for this meeting, it would appear that the developer and the residents had different interpretations on what had been agreed. Cllr. Sheppard supported Cllr. Rasmussen's remarks. R. O'Sullivan to ask the planners prepare a report for the next meeting.

**West End, Carrigtwohill:**

Cllr. A. Barry expressed his thanks for the works done.

**Fota Road:**

Cllr. A. Barry sought clarification that the roadway from Fota to Belvelly would now be included in the road sweeping programme and any other roads which have recently been take in charge. G. O'Hora confirmed this, however he stated that some sections of the Fota road were difficult for the road sweeper to access due to the curvature of the wall.

**Traffic Warden:**

Cllr. Barry stated he was happy that the traffic wardens would now be including Carrigtwohill in their rota.

**Congratulations:**

Cllr. S. Sheppard congratulated Cllr. S. O'Callaghan on her election as Cathaoirleach.

**Cllr. G. Curley:**

Cllr. Curley sought clarification on the process of highlighting issues with footpaths and asked if it were too late to add Aherns Place and Leeview to the 2024 programme. G. O'Hora confirmed that there was still some leeway in the footpath programme. Footpath location mentioned would be examined.

**3.0 Comhfhreagas / Correspondence:**

P. Lynch stated that an invitation from the Ploermel Twinning Group had been received by Cobh Municipal District, inviting the Cathaoirleach or a designated representative to join them on the next trip, which was due on 11<sup>th</sup> July. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to decline the invitation for this year due to the unavailability of the Cathaoirleach for the dates in question.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the preferred location for a new sign for the twinning with Ploermel as near the Ferry, the engineers took note of the proposed location. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the Ploermel Town Twinning Committee had supplied a copy of the sign on display in Ploermel.

**4.0 Tuairiscí ó Oifigigh / Officer's Reports:**

G. O'Hora brought two drawings to the members regarding:

**a) R639 Watergrasshill Traffic Calming Scheme:**

G. O'Hora circulated an updated drawing on the Traffic Calming Scheme which he hoped would be going out to public consultation under a Section 38 in August. The scheme was required in response to issues with HGV's travelling through the centre of the village, excessive speed, also sightlines were impeded on the road leading from Glenville.

**b) R639 GAA Junction, Watergrasshill:**

G. O'Hora stated that improvements to the junction were required to facilitate the new cycle/pedestrian pathway. There were significant issues with HGV's turning here, which should be improved by the addition of a right-hand turning lane. Planning and public consultation for the two schemes would be carried out under the Section 38 process.

Cllr. G. Curley expressed his concern for the proposal to remove parking spaces from the main street of the village as this will affect business owners and their views should be taken into consideration. Cllr. A. Barry stated that a lot of HGV's used the Glenville road and they will have to cross the road to make the turn, however

he agreed that some order needed to be brought to the situation, and the greater good had to be taken into consideration. He also emphasised that any landscaping should be kept simple and not become a burden on local groups in the future. Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked how many parking spaces were being lost and expressed the opinion that it would be difficult to get the public to agree to the proposals. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that while the proposals were necessary, this would not take away from the difficulties caused by the removal of parking spaces, she emphasised that communication would be key.

Cllr. O’Callaghan expressed her concern that agricultural machinery will have to be in the middle of the road if the road width is reduced.

G. O’Hora explained that these schemes were drawn up following complaints from members of the public and Councillors regarding parking on footpaths in Watergrasshill, also to discourage HGV’s and heavy agricultural machinery from driving through the centre of the village. He stated there was a minimum loss of parking spaces that he would have the number of lost parking spaces, if any, for the next meeting and was hoping to be able to provide any lost parking spaces elsewhere in the village.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan asked if the junction at Condonstown included a right turning lane. G. O’Hora stated it did and that he wanted to reduce the speed limit and improve vehicular safety at the junction. Cllr. O’Callaghan welcomed the addition of the right-hand turning lane.

## **5.0 Section 183 – Disposal of land at Woodbrae, Glanmire, County Cork.**

To consider the Disposal of the Freehold of land at Woodbrae, Glanmire, (as per map attached) to Alan Hurson & Philomena Murnane for the consideration of €750.00 plus €500.00 legal fees.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the Disposal was approved.

## **6.0 Tuairisc ó Oifigeach Ceantair Bardasacha / Municipal District Officer’s Report:**

P. Lynch presented the members with the updated figures for the various grants and gave comparative figures for 2023 and 2024 for the campervan facility and pay parking.

Cllr. S. Sheppard said she had been contacted by various residents’ associations who have expressed concern that bank accounts have to be closed under money laundering legislation and how would grants from Cork County Council be handled going forward. P. Lynch suggested that the issue be brought to Full Council, as it was obviously an issue affecting the whole County.

Cllr. Rasmussen asked when the Parking Byelaws and Litter Plan were going to be updated. P. Lynch replied that the Litter Plan would be on the Agenda for September, and he would circulate the documents listed issues raised previously in relation to the Parking Bye Laws.

Cllr. A. Barry raised the issue of the GMA which had not been increased for a number of years, despite the rise in inflation. He asked that all outstanding grants from previous years, particularly 2022 & 2023, be pursued and closed down in order to strengthen the members position when seeking an increase. P. Lynch stated that most of the outstanding grants from previous years had either come back to the members for re-allocation or an extension of time. Cllr. Sheppard stated that the figures presented to the members on outstanding grants showed that Cobh M.D. one of the lowest unclaimed grants and this was a credit to the staff involved. Cllr. Rasmussen asked if a list of outstanding claimants could be presented to the members, in committee at the same time that the parking bye laws were discussed. It was agreed that an In-Committee meeting be held on 16<sup>th</sup> July at 10.00 a.m. and that P. Lynch would circulate the Parking Bye-Laws and outstanding issues before then.

## **7.0 Fógraí Rún / Notices of Motion:**

### **1. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:**

That an updated report be given as to what measures are being taken to minimise the risk of repeat flooding events in Carrigtwohill primarily at

- 1 Station Road at the Bog Road and Cul Ard area.
2. To prevent a repeat of the flooding of Cascade apartments.
3. The flooding of businesses and residents between Main Street and the Woodstock stream culvert under the N25 at the GAA grounds.

Response:

1. Cork County Council (CCC) have surveyed the existing surface water drainage network along Station Road, bog road and Cul Ard. Clearing of the stream on the downside of the Doctors has commenced. Work to cut back and remove overgrowth along the back of the Priest house to commence shortly.
2. The Cascade apartments are privately owned. Bam development have commenced site clearing to the East of the Cascade apartment and removed all overgrowth along the stream within their property, which should prevent any further flooding of the area.
3. An inspection of the culvert under the N25 was carried out and there are no blockages. CCC had arranged a meeting with inland Fisheries Ireland to discuss/permission to remove overgrowth along the river from L-3678 road, Carrigtwohill to N25 Culvert. CCC operations crew are scheduled to commence works during July/ August.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that he noted the response give above, but didn't see that the culvert on Station Road was being addressed and that an increase in the size of the culverts in tandem with other measures was essential.

In the proposal of Cllr. C. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the motion was carried.

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

That this Municipal would arrange for hedge cutting in a number of locations on safety grounds in any areas that warrant cutting back but to include the area above Leonard Lodge onto the Lake Road and also in Carrigaloe and by the railway fence under the bridge.

Response: Section 40 of the Wildlife Acts advises no cutting of hedgerows during the bird nesting season, which runs from the 1st of March to the 31st of August. CCC will inspection locations highlighted and send letters to site owners advising them of their responsibility to maintain their hedgerows. CCC may cut back some locations on safety grounds.

CCC Road operations crews have commenced cutting back main road hedge overgrowth at junctions and around road safety signage to improve junction sightlines for motorists.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated he appreciated the response and asked if the landowner could be identified as the verges were now encroaching over the yellow lines at the bridge.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. D. Finn, the motion was carried.

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

That this Municipal would give an update on my recent motions in relation to speed control and signage on Ticknock Hill and also at the entrance to Coolamber to cater for the planned new pedestrian access to the new estate.

Response: A traffic survey/traffic count was carried out on the L2989 road, in Ticknock, Cobh.

50km/hr Speed zone

Average daily Traffic = 9,342.

- V85 = 68km/hr

CCC are examining erecting a driver feedback sign (VMS) on the road to reduce vehicle speeds.

A traffic survey/traffic count was carried out on the L7056 road, Coolamber, Cobh.

50km/hr Speed zone.

- V85 = 52km/hr

New road safety signage to be erected on the estate road to reduce traffic speeds on the road.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the speed on Ticknock Hill was excessive and a Speed Repeater sign was needed, when the new opening was completed at Coolamber, the speed of cars dictated the need for a ramp, pedestrians needed to be safeguarded.

Cllr. G. Curley stated he fully supported the motion, several estates were looking for ramps. G. O’Hora stated that a traffic survey would be required, and installation of a driver feedback sign was being examined, road safety signs were planned for Coolamber, Cork County Council had guidelines in relation to traffic calming measures and the provision of ramps.

Cllr. D. Finn stated that parking on footpaths was an issue, particularly for the visually impaired. G. O’Hora responded that cars parking on footpaths was an enforcement issue for the Gardai.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that ramps and other safety issues should be dealt with at the planning stage and he intends to bring a motion to Full Council to incorporate speed reduction and pedestrian safety as part of the planning process.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the motion was carried.

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

That this Municipal would seek a full report on the plans for the renovation of the whole town hall from the port of cork and the county council following on from my original motion some time ago as the exterior of the building continues to deteriorate and is a cause for concern.

Response: This issue is currently being dealt with by Seán O’Callaghan, SEO who is on annual leave. A report will be prepared on his return to work.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that he was aware the process was very slow, but the building is deteriorating in front of our eyes and requested a full plan and timeline for September.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard the motion was carried.

**5. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sheila O’Callaghan:**

That Cobh MD would ensure that the 400 year old disused bridge in Carraig na bhFear village be listed under the Protected Structures in the review of the CDP '22 to '28.

Response received from Planning Department:

The County Archaeologist was contacted last year by the Carrignavar Historical and Archaeological Society to inspect this bridge.



This group also contacted the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage regarding having the bridge added to the Recorded Monuments and Places (RMP). The group provided a detailed monument report form to the NMS (extracts below).

‘The ‘Old Bridge’ is of major historical significance in the area as it was the link with the old castle and mansion house of the McCarthys of Carrignavar which was part of the vast estates of the McCarthys, Lords of Muskerry and Earls of Clancarty.’

‘The ‘Old Bridge’ is built of rough unworked stone, has pointed cutwaters, a narrow hump-backed carriageway with three semi-circular arches. It is similar in construction to the Cromwell bridges of the early modern era which refers to the period between 1550 and 1691.’

The NMS visited the bridge, recorded it and agreed that the bridge would be added to the RMP but it does not have its archaeological designation yet (No SMR or RMP number as yet). This will happen in due course and apparently can take some time.

It is the view of both the County Archaeologist and the Conservation officer that it would be particularly relevant and favourable to also add the structure to the CDP Record of Protected Structures.

Therefore, it is recommended that the inclusion of the bridge as a proposed Protected Structure should be considered during the review of the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan stated that part of the old road should also be listed. Cllr. G. Curley asked if it were possible to meet local representatives and discuss with them the possibility of Cork County Council carrying out some repairs. P. Lynch replied that this would not be possible as the bridge was in private ownership.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the motion was carried.

## **6. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sheila O’Callaghan:**

That this Municipal District would ensure that signage, road markings and ridged rumble strips would be installed when the resurfacing at Kearneys Cross, Skehanagh takes place.

Response: A section of the L1540 road from Kearney Cross towards Watergrasshill is included in this year’s roads resurfacing programme. As part of these works the resurfaced road will be centre lined. Existing road safety signage on the road will be examined and any damaged signs will be replaced. Ridged rumble strips will not be included as these cause noise pollution and cannot be installed within 200 meters of residential properties.

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. G. Curley, the motion was carried.

## **8.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business:**

P. Lynch stated that it had been suggested that in order to ensure conformity and consistency across the Municipal District that matters arising under Any Other Business would only include issues that occurred since Motions had been submitted.

The members objected strenuously to any limit being placed on matters which may be raised under AOB and firmly rejected the measures.

G. O’Hora asked if the members would prefer to meet on site at Watergrasshill Village to be walked through the proposals for Watergrasshill Traffic Calming. The members agreed.

8.1 **Newtown Pedestrian Crossing:** Cllr. Rasmussen asked if a location had been agreed for the pedestrian crossing a Newtown. G. O’Hora confirmed that one had being chosen by the road design office and that he would seek and have drawings for the September meeting.

8.2 **Whitepoint Avenue:** Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the pothole left after Irish Water repairs had opened up again. R. O’Sullivan replied that Cork County Council were now responsible for repairing same and would put it on the list of repairs.

8.3 **Bins in Cobh Town Centre:** Cllr. Rasmussen asked if the business owners could be contacted about overfilling their bins, as birds were scattering the contents early in the mornings.

8.4 **Safe School Zone:** Some of the poles outside of St. Marys School have been damaged and more were to be put in near Colaiste Muire. Also the plants in the boxes outside St. Josephs are withering from lack of water. Engineer to discuss with the project engineer for the scheme and request repairs.

8.5 **Cuskinny:** Campervans are dumping waste over the wall at Cuskinny car park, causing problems for the regular swimmers there. P. Lynch stated that no request had been received from the landowners in relation to the provision of a barrier. Cllr. Rasmussen stated Cork County Council maintain the car park and if a request came in from the landowners would Cork County Council consider putting in a barrier.

8.6 **Ballyleary:** Cllr. D. Finn asked if hedge cutting could be carried out at Ballyleary at the junction as sightlines are being obscured. Also the footpaths are very dirty from site works being carried out. R. O’Sullivan to speak to the developer.

8.7 **Walterstown:** Could the road lining be renewed around the school on the main road. Engineer to examine.

8.8 **Top of Hill:** Cllr. Sheppard stated that the pothole had opened up again outside the Spar shop. Engineer stated the pothole was scheduled for repair.

8.9 **Traffic Warden:** Great that new traffic warden has taken up his duties, any progress on the appointment of a litter warden, as the Tidy Towns judging has started.

8.10 **Coole Cross/Dunbullogue:** The ditches on the bad bend need to be cut back to improve sightlines. Section 40 of the Wildlife Acts advises no cutting of hedgerows during the bird nesting season, which runs from the 1st of March to the 31st of August.

CCC will inspection locations highlighted and send letters to site owners advising them of their responsibility to maintain their hedgerows. CCC may cut back some locations on safety grounds.

8.11 **St. Marys Close:** This is a Council estate, and the grass badly needs to be cut. Engineer to examine.

8.12 **Assumption Place:** Any update on traffic calming measures, also there is a drainage issue, is a double gully required. Engineer stated drains are listed for cleaning.

8.13 **Carrigane Road: Cllr. A. Barry** stated that a gully in the middle of the road needs to be properly re-instated before the Interconnector works are finished. Engineer to examine.

8.14 **Coral Leisure: Cllr. G. Curley** stated that the steam room was out of action for the last 6 months, could it be repaired. P. Lynch replied that the board of Carrignafoy Leisure was due to meet with Cork County Council to discuss a list of requirements from Coral Leisure.

8.15 **Old Church Graveyard:** The excess of earth and spoil at the graveyard was an ongoing issue. G. O’Hora replied that the excess had been taken away last week and will be monitored going forward, however the grave diggers also had a responsibility for the removal of spoil.

8.16 **O’Sullivan Place:** Trees were cut back in the area, branches have yet to be collected. R. O’Sullivan to pursue.

8.17 **Russell Heights:** Street lights are not working outside of no. 6/7. Engineer stated faulty light reported to Electric Skyline (CCC contractor for street light repairs).

8.18 **Carrigaloe:** Yellow lines needed near the bridge, where the road is very narrow. Engineer to examine.

8.19 **Tay Road:** Could a one way system be introduced on the Tay Road while the various sites are being developed as the speed is excessive. Cllr. Rasmussen replied that this had been dealt with at a previous meeting, many of the residents do not want a one way system introduced. Cllr. Sheppard stated that the junction was due to be redeveloped and a contribution of €67,000.00 had been received to carry this out, however the proposals were still with the planning department and the entire area was being examined for improvement works.

8.20 **Cleanliness:** The last time the streets were power washed was in 2020, could this be carried out again, also some drains were not being cleaned out. P. Lynch replied that the works done in 2020 were in response to the Covid pandemic and there were less people on the streets, it would not be possible to do now without shutting down parts of the town. G. O’Hora stated that there were no plans to carry out similar works, he had neither the staffing nor financial resources to do so.

8.21 **Knockraha:** Cllr. S. O'Callaghan stated that trees planted in and around the Knockraha interchange and the lay by were very overgrown and obstructing sightlines. Engineer to examine.

8.22 **Whitechurch Cemetery:** Any timeline or update on the extension. P. Lynch stated that an architectural impact assessment was due to be carried out and the Council would proceed with the Part VIII once this was completed.

8.23 **Minane:** A sign was required for near the Ballnaclethe Bridge, stating that it was not suitable for HGV's. Engineer to examine.

8.23 **Relief Road:** Water is pooling on the road. Engineer to examine.

8.24 **Courtstown Road:** Trees on the Courtstown Road in Little Island were very overgrown. Engineer to examine.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Cathaoirleach

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Municipal District Officer.