

MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 4TH JUNE AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH

Present: Cllrs. A. O'Connor, S. O'Callaghan, C. Rasmussen, S. Sheppard, and A. Barry

Officials: Mr. S. O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer
Mr. G. O'Hora, Executive Engineer
Mr. R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer
Ms. C. McDonnell, Cobh Municipal District

An apology for his absence was received from Cllr. S. O'Connor

1.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of:

Monthly Meeting held on 7th May, 2024 - On the proposal of Cllr. C Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the minutes were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising.

Valley Road:

R. O'Sullivan stated that the signs had been ordered and will be put up in the next few weeks.

Templemichael Terrace:

G. O'Hora confirmed that this footpath work was included in the 2024 programme.

Lackenroe/Lahern Bridge:

G. Hora stated that signage has been erected by Lahern Bridge and the repairs to the bridge will be carried out shortly by a stone mason.

Fota Rock to Ballyadam:

R. O'Sullivan stated that no reply has been received from TII. He will contact them again.

Midleton Street/O'Rahilly Street:

G. O'Hora stated that he has contacted Irish Water again regarding the leak.

Hillcourt, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that the estate had been added to the programme for drain cleaning.

Assumption Place:

G. O'Hora stated that this road is listed for repairs during the summer.

Top of the Hill:

G. O'Hora stated Irish Water confirmed water leak will be repaired this week.

Carrignafoy:

G. O'Hora stated that the pothole has been repaired.

West View:

G. O'Hora stated that the junction will be repaired as part of hot patch contract.

Barrymore Avenue:

G. O'Hora stated that the junction will be repaired as part of the Cobh MD hot patch contract.

Harbour Row, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that repair works to the footpath at Hardware House have been scheduled.

Top of East Hill/Frenches Walk:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the new sign has been erected.

College Manor:

G. O'Hora stated road was inspected and no pothole was found.

Whitepoint Turning area:

G. O'Hora stated that works had commenced.

Speed Sign on the main entry road to Carrig na bhFear Village

G. O'Hora stated that a survey would be carried out on the road over the next month and road would then be accessed for additional road safety signage.

Road and Footpath repairs at Assumption Place

G. O'Hora stated that repairs to the road and footpath would be carried out during the summer months.

Fota Road

G. O'Hora stated that the Fota road would be included on the road sweeper rota.

Investigation of effects of water runoff form the solar farm north of Carrigtwohill

G. O'Hora stated that this issue had been examined and discussed with the site developer and sent to the Environment Department.

Relining of road from Glanmire to Knockraha

G. O'Hora stated that sections of the roadway will be relined in the next few weeks.

Tay Road

G O'Hora stated that new signage would be erected on the road from the new estates down to the Tay Road.

Newtown Road

R. O'Sullivan stated that repairs to the road would be carried out.

Ballymore

G O' Hora stated that road works were currently underway at Ballymore and once completed, signage would be erected.

Broken Boundary fence at Marinegate

G O'Hora stated that this issue had been referred to the Housing Department.

Potholes between Lake Road and Leonard's Lodge

G O'Hora confirmed that the potholes had been filled.

Large buses driving along Harbour Row

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that new signage would be erected.

Corbally to Lakenroe Road

G O'Hora confirmed that this road was listed for relining.

Glounthaune Football Club

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that this road was listed for relining at the junction.

Speeding at Whitechurch

G O'Hora stated that a speed survey would be carried out.

Damaged footpath at Harbour View

G O'Hora confirmed that the footpath and pothole had been repaired.

Sequencing of the lights at Aldi/Castlelake Junction, Carrigtwohill

R. O'Sullivan stated that Infratec had examined the lights and concluded that there was no issue. Members asked if Infratec could be contacted to increase the time before the lights would change. This was agreed.

Stop Line at Station Road, Carrigtwohill

G O'Hora stated that the stop line would be moved further back from the traffic lights.

Water control units at Barryscourt covered with recent resurfacing.

G O'Hora stated that the water control units would be uncovered.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen raised the issue of blocked drains in Cobh. He stated that during the recent heavy rain, water had run from Newtown down to the town centre.

G. O'Hora stated that there was a drain cleaning programme in place, and he would discuss additional drain cleaning with the crew.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked for an update on the bus stops at Carrigaloe and Belvelly.

G. O'Hora said that he would contact Cobh Connect again. He also stated that the Road Design office are currently looking at the proposed bus stop at Belvelly as it is such a busy regional road.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that part of the road by the ramp at Newtown had collapsed and also during the installation of the ramp, a wall was damaged.

G. O'Hora stated that the road would be repaired when the hot patch contractor was in Cobh later this month. He also stated that the wall would be repaired.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen raised the issue of the condition of the roadway at College Road from the Ticknock side.

G. O'Hora stated that this section of road was listed for resurfacing.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the lack of road lining by Londis, Newtown and entrance to Cluain Ard Estate was very dangerous.

G O'Hora stated this section of road was scheduled for road lining.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that Tidy Towns cleared out the drains in Carrigtwohill as they were blocked up.

R. O'Sullivan stated that crews were sent to clean drains.

Cllr. A. Barry asked if the traffic warden could be sent to Carrigtwohill occasionally as cars and trucks are constantly parking on the recently installed double yellow line.

P. Lynch stated that this could be done once the addresses in Carrigtwohill were set up on the wardens' hand-held terminal.

Cllr. A. Barry asked for an update on the installation of double yellow lines by Aldi in Carrigtwohill.

R. O'Sullivan stated that the road had not being take in charge by CCC and Council could not install the lining until such time as the area had been taken in charge.

Cllr. A. Barry asked for an update on the condition in which the builders left the Cedar Estate in Carrigtwohill and if any response had been received from the Member's letter to the planning department. He stated that it was a disgrace how builders can walk away from a site leaving it in such a condition.

P. Lynch confirmed that no response had been received from the planning department to date.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the roadway at Ballyleary, Cobh is constantly in a disgraceful state by the builders and that they were not following guidelines of cleaning the road referred to in the grant of planning permission.

G O' Hora stated the contractor had been contacted and would contact the contractor again to relay councillors and public concerns on condition of road.

P. Lynch informed the Members that the new Traffic /Litter Warden would commence in Cobh on 19th June. He said that the warden would firstly be trained up in traffic warden duties both in Cobh and Youghal.

Cllr. S. Sheppard said that she was disappointed that it was to be traffic training first and litter later. She said that the summer season was a vital time for litter monitoring and that the previous litter warden had put so much work into this area.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if Cobh would have traffic warden coverage on Saturdays going forward.

P. Lynch confirmed that wardens would work Saturdays for the summer months.

P. Lynch told the Members that the Principal of St. Marys National School had contacted him about using the school yard as a public car park during the summer months. Unfortunately, the schools run summer camps in July and they have works scheduled in the carpark for August so the carpark will not be available for public parking.

3.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence.

P. Lynch stated that the only correspondence received was a letter from Cobh Tidy Towns thanking all the Members for their service to the community and cooperation with their volunteers and community groups. They also offered their best wishes to the Members contesting the election together with those not seeking re-election.

The Members expressed their gratitude for the letter.

4.0 Carrigtwohill Rainwater Management Plan

A presentation was made to Members regarding the Carrigtwohill Rainwater Management Plan.

In attendance:- Padraig Moore, Senior Planner, Elaine Walsh, Snr. Exec Planner, Maura Harrington, Exec. Planner and Anthony McCloy, McCloy Consulting.

P. Moore introduced the team to the Members and gave an overview of the issues of surface water and flooding in Carrigtwohill.

E. Walsh told the Members that there is progress nationally regarding rainwater management/ nature-based solutions.

Anthony McCloy presented the Rainwater Management Plan to Members under the headings:- a) an overview of the project, b) flood risk assessment, c) purpose and outcomes d) National Strategy & Guidance for Local Authorities. He then invited members' comments/questions.

Cllr. A. Barry

Cllr. Barry thanked A. McCloy for the presentation. He expressed his dissatisfaction that the plan was not circulated prior to the meeting as this would have given the member's time to examine the contents.

Stated that the size of the culverts need to be increased as this is a fundamental issue and the culverts are not fit for purpose.

Queried why the solar farm was not included in the study despite its impact on Water Rock and Woodstock streams.

Queried whether a review of Main Street had taken place.

Raised concerns that areas set aside for green areas/recreation areas are now being identified as attenuation areas.

A. McCloy stated that it was a directive from the Department to focus on Nature Based solutions. He said that increasing flows of water will put pressure on areas downstream.

A. McCloy stated that the Solar Farm was outside the scope of the study and that it should have had its own flood risk assessment when it was being built.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan

Asked that the presentation be forwarded to the Members.

Stated that the culverts were no longer fit for purpose.

Stated that a lot of development has taken place in Carrigtwohill, leading to sediment building up in culverts and attenuation ponds.

Cllr. A. O'Connor

Welcomes the nature based approach.

Query regarding timeline – when will the document be ready and when will it be implemented?

Will there be any opportunity for a public consultation?

A. McCloy stated that they are looking at ways of making areas more resilient, site specific, based on the surrounding landscape and use of the site making the areas safe for the people using them.

E. Walsh outlined the timescale as follows:-

1. Currently Cork County Council are on a fact finding preliminary stage.
2. The next stage will involve a public consultation on 20th June in the Community Centre.
3. The document will then be finalised.
4. Screening and Appropriate Assessment is ongoing.
5. The final document will be circulated prior to adoption.

E. Walsh stated that the plan would be circulated to the Members. She said that the plan would be rolled out over time and future developments will need to have regard to the plan.

5.0 Tuairisí ó Ofigh / Officer's Reports

a. List of Public lighting Requests 2024

G. O'Hora presented the list of 2024 public lighting requests to the Members.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, the list was adopted.

b. Footpath Programme 2024

G.O'Hora presented the proposed footpath programme to the Members.

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

G. O'Hora told the Members that the bollards installed as part of the safe school programme at the top of Ticknock ,would be removed.

G. O'Hora informed the Members that funding had now been secured for 2 CIS Schemes, one at St. Lappans and one in Ballinaglough West.

He also told the Members that funding had been secured for 2 LIS schemes, one in Killeena, Knockraha and one at Knockanroe, Whitechurch.

The Members thanked G. O'Hora for the updates.

6.0 Schedule of Municipal District Works

P. Lynch outlined the schedule of Municipal Districts works for 2024, all of which was noted by the Members.

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

Community Fund Scheme

P. Lynch presented the up-to-date figures for the various Amenity, Capital and Community allocations.

P. Lynch told the Members that a request had been received from Carraig na bhFear GAA Club to change the remit of amenity Grant awarded to them in 2024 – the original grant related to the purchase of a new scoreboard for the pitch. However, they now wish to complete a further upgrade to lighting around the walkway surrounding the pitch to allow people to use the walkway throughout the winter.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, this was agreed.

Camper Van Overnight Parking Facility

P. Lynch told the Members that a total of €1,000 was collected from the camper van facility over the 3 nights of the June bank holiday weekend.

Toilet Block at Five Foot Way

P. Lynch confirmed that the electrical supply will be connected to the toilet block early next week.

Reply to previous Notice of Motion

At the May meeting, Cllr. Rasmussen sought an update on electric vehicle charging points.

P. Lynch circulated the following response which had been received from the Roads Director of Services:

Cork County Council is currently preparing a brief, in consultation with Zero Emissions Vehicles Ireland (ZEVI), for the appointment of a consultant to develop a strategy for electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the south west region. Cork County Council is partnered with Kerry County Council in the development of the strategy (Cork County Council is the lead authority). This strategy, when developed, will set out the requirements for EV chargers across Cork County & Kerry.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that it was a disgrace that there was not even a strategy in place for the county, to provide such a vital service. He asked why Cobh M.D. cannot just get finance and move forward with installations rather than waiting for a county-wide strategy to be put in place.

Cllr. S. Sheppard said that there was a huge requirement for fast charging facilities in the town, not only for locals but also for the vast number of tourists visiting.

Cllr. A. Barry stated there has been a large drop off in the purchase of electric vehicles throughout the country, due to the fact that there are simply not enough charging stations.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to send a motion to full Council asking why there is such a delay in the development of the strategy, what is the proposed timeline and who is responsible for it.

8.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.

- 1. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinéad Sheppard:**
That Cobh Municipal Council would look at including the main village of Knockraha for footpath works and also look at including another speed ramp at the end of the village.
- 2. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan:**
That Cobh MD would include Knockraha village under the footpath program to further improve the width and surface of existing footpaths.

As the above 2 motions were substantially the same, it was agreed that both would be dealt with together.

G. O'Hora stated that substantial traffic calming works had been done in Knockraha in 2023 and more works were planned for 2024.

Cllr. A. Barry asked if there were any plans to reduce speed limits in all built up areas. G. O'Hora stated that a speed limit review was being carried out nationally with proposals to reduce the speed on local roads from 80km to 60km and from 50km to 30km on urban roads. This will be done on a phased basis over the next year.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, the 1st motion was adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the 2nd motion was adopted.

- 3. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**
That a full review would be undertaken, and plan devised to deal with the volume of traffic and dangers posed with the narrow roads on the Ballyleary Road area in preparation for the extra traffic due to the new housing developments in the area and with the many issues facing locals daily.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if a report could be provided for the next meeting, outlining what the Council can do and also what the developer can do.

R. O'Sullivan said that he would speak with Estates in relation to the developers' obligations and to the road design office in relation to the design of the junction. This may involve CPO.

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

- 4. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**
That consideration would be given to traffic calming measures in the Spires housing estate in Cobh.

R. O'Sullivan said that he would arrange for a speed survey to be carried out.

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

- 5. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**
This July Cobh will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the twinning with Ploermel in France. Can the old twinning sign be erected or else a new sign be introduced in time for the anniversary in July. Also to celebrate the anniversary can a gift be given to the group as they travel to Ploermel to in July to acknowledge this anniversary from the people of Cobh.

R. O’Sullivan stated that he would arrange for a sign to be erected.

It was agreed that the twinning committee would contact P. Lynch in relation to organising a gift.

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

- 6. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinéad Sheppard:**
That Cobh MD would look at the main roads around Castlewhite Estate in Whitechurch for traffic calming measures due to the ongoing issue with speed in the area.

G. O’Hora stated that the estate has not been taken in charge by the Council but that he would arrange for a speed survey to be carried out on the main road outside the estate.

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

- 7. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:**
That this council check on the sequencing of the new traffic lights on the new road junction in the school campus in Carrigtwohill.

R. O’Sullivan stated that he would arrange for Infratec to examine the sequencing.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. A. O’Connor, the motion was adopted.

- 8. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:**
Some of the junction points along the new active travel route between Glounthaune and Carrigtwohill need more detailed signage particularly at the busiest junctions as to who has right of way.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that in a number of locations, namely Glounthaune Church and the IDA Industrial Estate in Carrigtwohill, additional signage was required.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan asked if signage similar to that used on the Midleton/Youghal Greenway which recommended people to keep left and pass on the right, could be considered here.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, it was agreed that P. Lynch would refer the matter to the traffic and transportation section for their comments.

9.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

9.1 Lower Road, Cobh

Bollard missing turning onto the Lower Road, Cobh.

Engineer to examine.

9.2 Parking at Donelan Terrace, Cobh.

Residents have problems parking due to excess cars from the Family Resource Centre.

Engineer to examine.

9.3 Overgrowth at Leonard's Lodge, Cobh

Overgrowth on the roadway between Leonard's Lodge and the Lake Road, making it very narrow for drivers.

Engineer to examine.

9.4 Dock Cottages, Cobh

Residents of Dock Cottages having difficulty driving out on the main road due to the speed of cars passing.

Engineer to examine.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

9.5 Signage at Lahern Bridge

Could signage be erected on the narrow road towards the Lahern Bridge, stating, "Children at Play" or "Walkers" in an effort to slow traffic down.

Engineer to examine.

9.6 Erin's Own GAA Club

Issue with speed close to the entrance of the GAA Club.

G. O'Hora stated that he is looking at a traffic calming scheme for this area.

Cllr. A. Barry:

9.10 Roadsweeper for Cúl Árd, Carrigtwohill

Can the roadsweeper include the Cúl Árd through road on each visit.

G O'Hora confirmed Cúl Árd through road would be added to sweeper schedule.

Cllr. A. O'Connor:

9.11 Parking at Island Cross

Problem with people parking on the footpath at Island Cross.

Engineer to examine.

The Members thanked the engineers and office staff for their co-operation over the past 5 years, and congratulated Cllr. A. O'Connor on a very successful 1st term as an elected Member.

P. Lynch thanked the Members for their respect shown to both himself and the Cobh M.D. staff over the past 5 years and wished them the best of luck.

On behalf of the engineering staff, G. O’Hora wished the Members well.

Seán O’Callaghan thanked the Members for their kind words and wished the 4 Members seeking re-election every good luck.

He also wished Cllr. A. O’Connor and Cllr. S. O’Connor best wishes for their future.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.