



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF WEST CORK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
held in Clonakilty Council Chamber and on MS Teams
at 11.00am on Monday 1st July 2024**

Members Present:	Cllrs. Joe Carroll, Caroline Cronin, Danny Collins, Deirdre Kelly, Finbarr Harrington, Noel O'Donovan, Isobel Towse, Daniel Sexton
On MS Teams:	Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy
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.

Cllr. Danny Collins presided.

Statutory Meeting

The outgoing Chair Cllr. J. Carroll welcomed all present to the first meeting of the Municipal District of West Cork in its new term of office and congratulated the newly elected and re-elected members.

ELECTION OF CATHAOIRLEACH

Cllr. J., Carroll invited nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. P.G. Murphy was proposed by Cllr. D. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. D. Collins.

As there were no other nominations, Cllr. P.G. Murphy was elected Cathaoirleach of the West Cork Municipal District.

ELECTION OF LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH

The Cathaoirleach called for nominations for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach for the coming year.

Cllr. D. Collins was proposed by Cllr. D. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. C. Cronin.

As there were no other nominations, Cllr. D. Collins was elected Leas-Cathaoirleach of the West Cork Municipal District.

As Cllr. P.G. Murphy was on MS Teams, he nominated the Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. D. Collins to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

NOMINATION OF MEMBER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP IF NECESSARY

The S.E.O Noreen O'Mahony advised that there was no requirement to nominate a member from the West Cork MD to CPG when Cllr. J. Carroll was Mayor and was a representative on CPG.

STANDING ORDERS

The M.D.O. Jackie Mansfield briefed the members on the West Cork Municipal District Standing Orders regulating the proceedings of the Municipal District Members.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The M.D.O. Jackie Mansfield briefed the members on the schedule of meetings for the coming year.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (a) ***Minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 4th June 2024***
Proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Kelly, Seconded by Cllr. Caroline Cronin

Resolved:

"That the minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 4th June 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

- (b) ***Minutes of Municipal District 'In Committee' meeting (as circulated) of 4th June 2024***
Proposed by Cllr. Caroline Cronin, Seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Kelly

Resolved:

"That the minutes of Municipal District 'In Committee' meeting (as circulated) of 4th June 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

MATTERS ARISING

In reply to Cllr. D. Kelly's request for an update on Ballineen public toilets, the MDO Jackie Mansfield noted that Cork County Council has received the Consultant's Archaeological Assessment. The Assessment requires Cork County Council to make a few adjustments to the design, on foot of recommendations outlined within the report. They are minor adjustments re. the design, once done and signed off on, can progress to the next stage.

2. STATUTORY BUSINESS /GNO REACHTUIL

Section 183 –Notices

In accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notices circulated to members.

(a) Barrakilla, Ardgroom, Bantry, Co. Cork

Situation:	Right of way over half road at Barrakilla, Ardgroom, Bantry, Co. Cork.
Area:	Right of way measuring 61m x c. 2.6m wide.
Acquired From:	Record not available. Land acquired by Cork County Council in 1997.
Proposed to Grant To:	Brian Healy
Consideration:	€1.00

On the proposal of Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Finbarr Harrington, members approved the above right of way and recommended it to full plenary Council for consideration.

3. REPORTS & CORRESPONDANCE

(a) **Municipal District Officer's Report – 1st July 2024**

1. West Cork Music Scheme

Cork County Council is excited to announce the return of a community-led initiative to promote tourism and celebrate the vibrant music culture of West Cork.

Now in its seventh year, the Special Music Event Scheme provides grant funding to voluntary music groups, enabling them to organise and perform up to four music events in their local towns within the West Cork and Bandon/Kinsale Municipal District areas.

The Special Music Event Scheme has been instrumental in showcasing the incredible talent of local musicians over the years. This year's programme promises to be no different, featuring performances by talented groups from across West Cork. Audiences can expect a blend of brass and reed music, local silver and brass band music, along with traditional music, song, and dance by local Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann music groups. See timetable below on the Special Music Event Scheme in Clonakilty, Dunmanway & Skibbereen:-

CLONAKILTY			
1st June	Clonakilty Comhaltas	Emmet Square, Clonakilty	2.00pm-3.30pm
8th June	Clonakilty Comhaltas	Emmet Square, Clonakilty	2.00pm-3.30pm
13th June	Clonakilty Brass Band	Asna Square, Clonakilty	7.00pm - 8.30pm

11th July	Clonakilty Brass Band	Asna Square, Clonakilty	7.00pm - 8.30pm
DUNMANWAY			
27th June	Dunmanway Comhaltas	Sam Maguire Plaza, Dunmanway	11am-12.30pm
4th July	Dunmanway Comhaltas	Sam Maguire Plaza, Dunmanway	11am-12.30pm
11th July	Dunmanway Comhaltas	Sam Maguire Plaza, Dunmanway	11am-12.30pm
1st August	Dunmanway Comhaltas	Sam Maguire Plaza, Dunmanway	11am-12.30pm
SKIBBEREEN			
7th July	St. Fachtna's Silver Band	The Bridge, Skibbereen	2pm - 3.30pm
20th July	St. Fachtna's Silver Band	The Bridge, Skibbereen	1.30pm - 3pm
27th July	St. Fachtna's Silver Band	The Bridge, Skibbereen	11.30am - 1.00pm
3rd August	Skibbereen Comhaltas	The Bridge, Skibbereen	12.00pm - 1.30pm



2. West Cork Greenway Second Public Consultation – Skibbereen Sections

Cork County Council is progressing the feasibility and route options stage of the proposed West Cork Greenway – Skibbereen Sections. Funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII) Greenway programme, the proposed project will be developed in three individual sections Skibbereen to Schull; Skibbereen to Drimoleague, and Skibbereen to Baltimore.

Following a successful initial public consultation in January, route corridor options for the greenway routes have now been developed and will be available to view during the second public consultation, opening on Friday the 28th of June and running until Friday the 26th of July 2024.

Feedback on the route corridor options can be submitted online during this time by visiting the project website at www.wcgsuibbereen.ie

Members of the public are also invited to attend in person events in Schull or Skibbereen.

- Schull Harbour Hotel on the 2nd of July 2024 (12:00-20:00)
- The West Cork Hotel on the 3rd and 4th of July 2024 (12:00-20:00)

Progression of this project over the medium term will be dependent on securing, in due course, the necessary planning and other consents, as well as continued funding provision by TII going forward. Further information about the route corridor options is available on the West Cork Greenway project website at www.wcgskibbereen.ie

3. **Air India Memorial**

The 39th Air India Memorial was attended in large numbers on Sunday 23rd June at the memorial garden in Ahakista to commemorate the tragedy that befell the Air India Flight from Canada to India, killing all 329 passengers and crew on board.



4. **Play and Recreation Grant Scheme 2024**

€450,000 allocated across the country to Local Authorities for the refurbishment and development of playgrounds and play areas. 30 projects awarded funding under the Play and Recreation Grant Scheme for 2024

The Play and Recreation Capital Funding Scheme was introduced in eleven years ago to support new and existing play and recreation facilities for children and young people. The 2024 scheme aims to support:

- the refurbishment of existing play and recreation facilities and/or incorporating natural play elements or,
- new play and recreation facilities.

The application process was open to all Local Authorities, who could each nominate one project for funding. Funding was capped at €18,000 per project. The awarding of this funding is contingent on the Local Authority matched funding of at least 25% of the amount provided by DCEDIY, towards the project.

Eligible applications were evaluated by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth via a weighted scoring system; each of the 5 qualifying criteria was assessed and scored individually and the total project score was an aggregate of the criteria scores.

These criteria included the project's added value to young people, its accessibility and inclusivity, the nature of consultation with local children and young people, the evidence provided of the ability to complete the project, and the corroboration of need provided in support of the application. Cork County Council was successful in receiving an allocation of €14,152.12 for the Refurbishment of Leap Playground.

5. Irish Language Events and Initiatives Grant Scheme 2024

Cork County Council has launched its Irish Language Events and Initiatives Grant Scheme for 2024. This is the second year of this scheme, which was initially launched in 2023, when 11 recipients from all parts of the county were successful in receiving funding.

Events such as research projects, an Irish language-based conference, community family fun days with entertainment and events through Irish, as well as musical, singing and cultural events were among the successful recipients last year.

The aim of the scheme is to provide financial aid for Irish language events, projects, and initiatives within the County of Cork. The scheme supports projects that utilise and promote the Irish language, including festivals, concerts, family event days, films, plays, or any art form that celebrates and encourages the use of Irish.

The maximum amount granted for any event is €1,500 under this scheme, and the ability by the organisation in question to match funding is required. Organisations may apply for more than one event within the application period, and these will be considered subject to availability of funding and the initiative meeting the grant criteria.

This scheme is open to applications until close of business on Monday the 1st of July 2024. To apply, print and fill in the form [here](#) and return to the Irish Officer at gaeilge@corkcoco.ie

6. Corporate Plan 2025 - 2029

Cork County Council's Chief Executive, Valerie O'Sullivan, has launched a review document showcasing the key achievements over the past 5 years.

This review highlights the progress made under the 9 Strategic Themes of the 2019-2024 Corporate Plan, setting the stage for the new Corporate Plan 2025-2029.

Over the past five years, Cork County Council has navigated numerous challenges, from the reorganisation of its administrative boundaries to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these hurdles, €3.2 billion was invested in projects and services across the county which saw the council make substantial progress in achieving its goals.

As Cork County Council celebrates its 125th anniversary it looks forward to continued success and progress over the next five years with the new corporate plan.

7. Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (Croí Cónaithe)

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant is a payment you can get if you are turning a vacant house or building into your permanent home or a rental property. A grant of up to €50,000 is available. If the refurbishment costs exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000, a top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 is available. To qualify for the grant, you must;

- have proof of ownership or evidence of active negotiations to buy the property (that is, confirmation of engagement from the estate agent or owner of the property) where you are seeking approval in principle for a grant;
- live in the property as your principal private residence or make it available for rent;
- have proof that the property has been vacant for at least 2 years and that it was built up to and including 2007.

The grant applies to qualifying vacant properties in cities, towns, villages and rural parts of the country. Other evidence and documentation an applicant will need to provide:

- A quotation(s) in respect of the works proposed.
- An independent report confirming the property is structurally unsound and dangerous (if seeking top up grant for works to a derelict property) or confirmation that it is on the Derelict Sites Register, where applicable.
- Any other supporting documentation that your local authority may request to support your application.

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

A grant of up to €50,000 is available. This is subject to upper limits for different types of work, having regard to a reasonable cost assessment by the local authority. The grant is inclusive of the VAT cost of the works.

Derelict Property Top-up Grant

If the refurbishment costs exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000, a top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 is available. To get this top-up grant, you must confirm that the property is derelict. This means that the property is structurally unsound and dangerous. The total grant available for a derelict property is therefore €70,000. One must submit an independent report prepared by a qualified professional, along with the application confirming that the property is derelict.

For further information please contact:

Croí Cónaithe,
Housing Services
Cork County Council,
Floor 4, Ext, County Hall,
Cork. T12R2NC.

Tel: (021) 4285328 or (021) 4285313. **Email:** croi.conaithe@corkcoco.ie

8. Cape Clear Library

Final preparations are ongoing at present to make ready the new Cape Clear Library, including installation of IT and Communications systems by July 15th. Cape Clear branch library will open to the public on Wednesday July 24th.

End of MDO Report

Cllr. J. Carroll acknowledged the progress made on the Greenways project but stressed the importance of prioritising road maintenance. He raised concerns about the significant amount of funds allocated to consultants and greenway development, suggesting that these resources could be utilised for extensive road repairs instead. Cllr. P.G. Murphy agreed that many greenways incorporated public roads and he emphasised the necessity of investing in public road infrastructure. Cllr. N. O'Donovan cautioned against pitting roads against greenways in discussions, stating that it is feasible to support the development of both simultaneously.

Cllr. Joe Carroll left the meeting at 11.50am

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. D. Collins requested a letter be sent to Uisce Éireann to request a meeting with the members. He highlighted a lot of water outages in the Bantry area recently had caused significant disruption to local businesses. He reported that he contacted the dedicated Uisce Éireann phone number to report the issue a water outage over the weekend in Durrus and the service agent was unable to locate Durrus village on his map which caused issues logging the water outage. Cllr. Collins highlighted that he contacted the local water curator who managed to co-ordinate the repair of the water outage. Cllr. D. Kelly and N. O'Donovan both agreed that a letter for a face-to-face meeting was necessary, stressing the economic development challenges faced in Dunmanway due to issues with the waste water treatment plant. Cllr. P.G. Murphy added that Castletownbere was also suffering from underdevelopment due to water problems. Cllr. F. Harrington expressed concern about the potential loss of contact with reliable water service personnel after the Council's services are fully transferred. Cllr. Harrington called for a more effective system to handle water breaks and scheduled outages. The S.E.O. Noreen O' Mahony advised the members that since the 6th September 2023, Uisce Éireann had taken over full control of the water services. She noted that the Council still have engagement regarding matters of strategic importance and she advised the members of the Local Representative Service Desk the details of which she would circulate to the members after the meeting.

Cllr. P.G. Murphy requested an update on how the budgeting for playgrounds was going to be allocated. The M.D.O. Jackie Mansfield noted the matter for follow up with the Finance Dept.

Cllr. C. Cronin requested that the baby swing which was removed from Ballydehob playground for repair last year be reinstated.

Cllr. N. O'Donovan queried whether a formalised meeting with local community and tidy towns groups could be facilitated. The S.E.O. Noreen O'Mahony noted that while her team were happy to engage with groups, she cautioned that there were over 250 different groups in the West Cork Municipal District which would need some balance regarding the amount of interaction that could be facilitated. Ruth O'Brien S.E.E. advised the meeting that the Bantry Project Group was set up several years ago and it represented 1 or 2 members from many community groups and they meet every 2 months. It is supported by the Bantry Business Association which meant that community groups were coming together to get help applying for funding. Cllr. D. Collins and P.G. Murphy agreed that this initiative in Bantry meant it was very town specific and it enabled a lot of sharing of ideas and it removed the risk of double jobbing by community groups and it was working very well.

Mr. John Ahern S.E.E. advised the members that there was a further development on the Castlelands Bridge in Enniskeane. He noted that since the last MD meeting there had been further engagement between Cork County Council and the NTA it was agreed to go out to tender for a Full Options Report on Castlelands Bridge and once the tenders were received, funding for the report could be sought from the NTA. He advised the members that the trial traffic light system agreed at the June MD meeting would not now go ahead.

In response to Cllr O'Donovan regarding projects on the N71, Mr. John Ahern S.E.E. advised the members that all projects on the N71 were funded by and under the management of TII and that the National Roads Design office in Glashaboy managed those Projects on behalf of Cork County Council. Regular updates on same would be provided at the Roads report given at Western Committee.

Cllr. D. Collins requested an update on the relining of the pedestrian crossing in Newtown, Bantry. Ruth O'Brien S.E.E. noted that no update was available.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH _____ **DATE** _____

