

**MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2024 AT CARRIG HOUSE,  
COBH.**

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

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

An apology for his absence was received from Mr. G. O’Hora, Senior Executive Engineer.

A Vote of Condolence was extended to Cllr. D. Finn by the Elected Members and staff on the recent passing of his father. R.I.P.

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

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the minutes of the Cobh Municipal District Annual Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024, were adopted.

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**2.0 Matters Arising**

**Road Lining Issues:**

R. O’Sullivan stated that road lining would be carried out by the end of September.

**Station Road, Carrigwohill:**

R. O’Sullivan confirmed that the Stop Line had still to be moved.

**The Spires, Cobh:**

R. O’Sullivan stated that a traffic survey had not been carried out yet.

**Castlewhite Estate, Whitechurch:**

R. O’Sullivan stated that the traffic survey had been carried out and extra signage erected.

**Hedge Cutting**

R. O’Sullivan stated that letters would issue to landowners in September asking for any overhanging to be cut back.

A contractor will be cutting back on the High Road.

Members were advised that they could submit list of areas in need of trimming back.

### **Ballyleary Planning Issue.**

R. O'Sullivan told the Members that the junction on the R624 will be done by the Traffic and Transport Section of C.C.C. the footpath on the Ballyleary Road is to be done by the developer in Phase 2 of the development. They are currently working on Phase 1.

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the junction at R624 will cost more than the contributions paid by the developer and asked if a timeline for the work could be made available for the October meeting. She also expressed her disappointment that the footpath won't go in until Phase 2 and asked if this could be brought forward.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if it is planned to widen the corners at Ballyleary as Members have received numerous complaints about this area.

R. O'Sullivan to enquire.

### **Coolamber**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the new development at Coolamber is due to finish shortly and asked if new signage could be erected at the entrance.

R. O'Sullivan to organise.

### **Pedestrian Crossing at Newtown**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen enquired about the location and if a drawing had been prepared for the crossing.

R. O'Sullivan to speak with G. O'Hora.

### **Drain Cleaning Programme**

R. O'Sullivan stated that the drain cleaning programme in Cobh, Carrigtwohill and Little Island would commence in September.

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that drains in several areas have grass growing out of them and asked if the Members can get a drain cleaning programme from the contractors so they will know when each area is being cleaned.

R. O'Sullivan to arrange.

### **Bus Stops**

R. O'Sullivan stated that the bus stop is operational at Carrigaloe. C.C.C. are looking at location at Belvelly which will be sent to the roads design office.

R. O'Sullivan stated that the bus service is in talks with Fota regarding location.

Members expressed their disappointment at the delay in Belvelly and asked if it could be prioritised.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen if we can put a push on it and get the drawings done so that Members can get back to the residents with something concrete at this stage as they are unhappy with the delay.

### **Fota Road**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that it had previously been agreed that the roadsweeper would be asked to include the roadway from Fota to Belvelly, but this has not happened yet.

R. O'Sullivan contacted the operator and will commence next week.

### **Safe School Zones**

Members stated that another one of the pencil poles were gone outside the schools in Bishop Street. Replacement to be arranged.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if ramps would be installed in the vicinity of the crossing at St. Mary's school. R. O'Sullivan to check with the engineers in charge of the project.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if the hedge cut be cut back by the exit from College Manor to allow full visibility and stated that double yellow lines and a yellow box would make a big difference at this junction. Engineer to examine.

## **3.0 Comhfhreagas / Correspondence**

There was no correspondence received since the previous meeting.

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

a) R. O'Sullivan told the Members that it was proposed to seek Part 8 for the erection of a compound for the maintenance of the cycle corridor. The proposal will be presented at the next meeting.

b) P. Lynch presented the Members with an update on the Derelict Sites in the Cobh M.D. He stated that some of the existing properties on the derelict sites register will be removed in the next few months as works are almost completed.

Cllr. A. C. Rasmussen stated that the process is too long and that planners can be difficult with owners of these properties who are trying to solve the issue.

P. Lynch stated that the Council are limited in what they can do, especially if the property is not registered.

Cllr. A. Barry asked if it could be confirmed for the next meeting whether or not property owners are obliged to register their property.

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that she has issues with the old school in Carrignavar and that it should not be left get into a derelict condition.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked how to deal with a property that has a commercial ground floor in use but 3 derelict looking floors overhead.

P. Lynch advised the Members of an online system to log any vacant houses/apartments and these dwellings would be investigated.

G. Curley asked at what stage does a vacant property become derelict.

P. Lynch advised that Members that they could contact the office with any properties they have concerns with.

## 5.0 Review of Cobh Municipal District Litter Plan

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to undertake a review of the current Cobh M.D. Litter Plan.

The Members asked if they could meet in committee prior to the commencement of the public consultation process.

P. Lynch stated that he would meet with G. O’Hora and R. O’Sullivan regarding available resources prior to the meeting in committee.

Cllr. A. Barry asked if the placing of cones on the public roadway outside people’s property could be treated as litter.

P. Lynch told the Members that any suggestions can be forwarded to himself and R. O’Sullivan for consideration to be included in the new plan.

## 6.0 Review of Cobh Pay Parking Bye Laws/Parking Regulations

P. Lynch circulated report outlining the following proposed amendments that Members had asked to be included in the review.

### **COBH (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) BYE LAW 2012 – Suggested Amendments**

- Doctor’s Permits to be issued to any Medical Doctor operating on Great Island, either from a practise in the town or in the Primary Care Centre in Ticknock
- Allow issue of Temporary Permits for Locum Doctors operating for a fixed period on Great Island
- Remove reference to Spy Hill in list of Pay Parking Streets
- Remove clause dealing with Road Train Parking
- Amend clauses relating to display of parking disk to take account of new cashless parking app.
- Proposed amendments to rules governing Resident Parking Permits to include:
  - One permit per Residential Address only
  - Display of Permit will only allow for Free parking for the time limit in force on that section of street; i.e. 30 minutes only in 30 minute zones, 2 or 3 hours in other areas as set out on signs erected on those streets.
  - Where applicant for permit is Property owner, application must include evidence of payment of Property Tax
  - Where applicant for permit is a Tenant, application must include evidence that property registered with Private Registered Tenancies Board

### **Cobh Parking Regulations – Proposed Amendments**

- Move bus space outside public toilet further along Westbourne Place, away from pedestrian crossing.
- Provide additional 30 minute zones – in consultation with Cobh & Harbour Chamber and other business interests.
- Remove Loading Bays where they are no longer needed.
- Look at reviewing Operating hours of Loading Bays to see if they can be reduced.
- Review time limits on bus spaces outside Titanic Experience – consult with relevant local businesses.

It was agreed that prior to the commencement of the public consultation process, that:

- a) P. Lynch would talk to the various stakeholders in relation to the bus spaces at Westbourne Place.
- b) P. Lynch to speak with Cobh Chamber of Commerce regarding the operating hours of the loading bays.
- c) P. Lynch to refer the proposal to the Director of Services.
- d) P. Lynch to revert to the Members.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Curley, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the proposal was adopted.

## **7.0 To nominate member to County Traveller Accommodation Committee**

P. Lynch told the Members that a representative from each Municipal District was required on the County Traveller Accommodation Committee.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. D. Finn, Cllr. C. Rasmussen was nominated to the County Traveller Accommodation Committee.

## **8.0 Tuairisc ó Oifigeach Ceantair Bardasacha / Municipal District Officer's Report**

P. Lynch presented the members with the updated figures for the various grant claims.

P. Lynch told the members that Cove Sailing Club have requested an extension of time in respect of the Amenity Grant allocated to them in 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. G. Curley, the extension of time was granted.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that Cobh MD need to clamp down on the amount of time groups are taking to claim their grants as it should be done in a more timely manner.

Cllr. S. Sheppard asked if a statement would be put out by Cork County Council in relation to the new pay parking app.

P. Lynch stated that all back office reports would need to be working correctly before this is done.

Reply to previous Notice of Motion

At the June meeting, the following Notice of Motion, standing in the name of Cllr. Barry was adopted.

“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.”

The following response has been received from the Senior Engineer in the Traffic & Transportation Section of the Roads Directorate:

*It is intended to install 'keep left pass right' signage at appropriate locations between Dunkettle and Carrigtwohill in Q3 2024.*

*Regarding the query pertaining to additional signage please note that the scheme has undergone a Road Safety Assessment. No concern was raised by the independent Road Safety Auditor in relation to signage at the junctions referenced.*

*Where vehicles are exiting the minor public roads and need to cross the pedestrian and cycle route there is a 'double stop' requirement. On approaching the pedestrian and cycle route the vehicle is initially required to stop as indicated by a stop sign and road markings. Once the driver has observed that the way is clear and it is safe to do so, they can cross the pedestrian and cycle route to the road edge. When there is no on-coming traffic, and it is safe to proceed, they can join the main line (L3004) and continue on their journey. There are times when the vehicle may need to dwell at the road edge as they wait for oncoming traffic to pass. This will necessitate them sitting on/straddling the pedestrian and cycle route momentarily, before progressing. This is permitted.*

*Finally, the section of the pedestrian and cycle route that includes the IDA Industrial Estate entrance is still under construction and, as such, is a works area. Signage and road marking will be addressed under the contract in due course.*

Cllr. A. Barry stated that he was not happy that sightlines were being affected by lack of maintenance of landscaping.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan stated that there are issues with crossing by Glounthaune Church. Engineer to examine.

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

### **1. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:**

That Cobh MD would put some sort of latch or lock on the playground gates at the five foot way.

**Response:** Best Practice for Playground gates and locks on gates states that it is good practice that play areas have more than one gate to allow children to exit easily if they feel threatened by a dog or adult behaving inappropriately or indeed, they may feel threatened by another child.

Locks on gates are not recommended for the reasons highlighted above. Children may feel enclosed, and some locks may be difficult to open easily especially if children often use the play area unsupervised and parents allow their children to attend the play area own their own or with friends due to for example, it's close proximity to their house. Cork County Council installed a self-closing spring on the gate at the playground at the Five-Foot Way. The spring mechanism was damaged recently and repaired in July.

Cllr. S. Sheppard asked if there was any way round the decision. P. Lynch stated that following best practice as set out by the Cork County Council's safety section and the advice of the equipment manufacturer a locking mechanism will not be installed.

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

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

That Cobh MD would look at speed ramps for Glassons Avenue at the request of the neighbours due to excess speed.

**Response:** Glassons Avenue Estate, L-9625 road will be assessed for speed ramps in accordance with CCC Traffic calming policy (residential Estates).

Glassons Avenue Estate, L-9625 road will initially be examined to see whether it complies with basic criteria before it receives further consideration.

These criteria are:

- The site must be inside a 50 kph speed limit zone. Where short circuiting (rat running) is an issue a higher speed limit may be considered.
- There must be a significant majority (two thirds) of residents in favour of the introduction of traffic calming.
- In the case of a through road the minimum length of road shall be 300m.
- In the case of a cul-de-sac the minimum length of road shall be 150 m.

If the request complies with these initial criteria, a further assessment will be carried out under the following headings and assigning a score for each heading.

- Accident History/Data
- 85th Percentile Speed
- Vulnerable Road Users
- Traffic Volumes
- Local Conditions

In consultation with the members (area committee) a list of schemes will be established and agreed based on the rankings from the priority assessment form.

Implementation of any scheme will be subject to funding.

R. O'Sullivan told the Members that the previous survey of this road showed an average speed of 38km per hour. He agreed to undertake another survey and revert to the Members.

Cllr. A. Barry asked if all these types of roads would be lowered to 30km per hour under the new speed limit regulations. R. O'Sullivan confirmed that they would.

Cllr. A. Barry asked if Cobh M.D. could write to the planning department asking that consideration be given to having the issue of Speed Controls included in the conditions attached to planning permissions for housing developments rather than the costs being incurred by the Council at a later stage.

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

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

That this Municipal would look at installing another ramp on the Newtown road close to the top of the Ballynoe Hill to help reduce the speed on the road.

**Response:** Newtown Road, L-2995 road will be assessed for speed ramps in accordance with CCC Traffic calming policy (residential Estates).

Newtown Road, L-2995 road will initially be examined to see whether it complies with basic criteria before it receives further consideration.

These criteria are:

- The site must be inside a 50 kph speed limit zone. Where short circuiting (rat running) is an issue a higher speed limit may be considered.
- There must be a significant majority (two thirds) of residents in favour of the introduction of traffic calming.
- In the case of a through road the minimum length of road shall be 300m.
- In the case of a cul-de-sac the minimum length of road shall be 150 m.

If the request complies with these initial criteria, a further assessment will be carried out under the following headings and assigning a score for each heading.

- Accident History/Data
- 85th Percentile Speed
- Vulnerable Road Users
- Traffic Volumes
- Local Conditions

In consultation with the members (area committee) a list of schemes will be established and agreed based on the rankings from the priority assessment form.

Implementation of any scheme will be subject to funding.

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 this Municipal would carry out any necessary repair works on the steps from Harbour Row to Harbour View locally known as the Preacher house steps and that new lights would be installed on the steps.

**Response:** Steps from Harbour Row to Harbour View, locally known as the Preacher house steps will be inspected by CCC and listed for repair subject to available funding. Regarding provision of public lighting all schemes for the 2024 Public lighting programme have been agreed and approved. Location will be included in the 2025 public lighting programme.

Selection of the scheme in 2025 will be dependent on receiving funding and approval by members (area committee).

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:**

That this Municipal would discuss the closeness of the timing in September of the laying of new ESB cables on the Tay Road, the R624 and the planned resurfacing of the Ballard Hill . The scheduling of these 3 majors road works all in the same area will cause widespread delays and inconvenience to many people for a considerable period of time.

**Response:** The proposed works by the ESB on the Tay Road and the R624 are subject to the granting of a Road Opening Licence by the Council. No application has been received to date in relation to this. A contractor has been appointed for the works on Ballard Hill and the works are due to start shortly. Any delay in carrying out these works



will mean that the contractor will be unable to carry out the works in the current year, and the approved funding for the works will be lost.

R. O’Sullivan told the Members that the works on the R624 would be carried out at night.

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. Sinead Sheppard:**

That we could please have an update from Council and Cobh Connect in regards the stop that we have discussed for Belvelly area.

**Response:** CCC road design office is examining the R624 road at Belvelly for a suitable location for a Bus stop outside the Fota Wildlife Park. The R624 road is a busy regional road with over 14,000 daily vehicle traffic movements on the road. Location for a bus stop on the R624 will require a traffic assessment and a road safety audit. CCC road design office is progressing scheme design, however progress has been curtailed due to current workload and prioritisation of other road safety schemes in cork county.

Cllr. S. Sheppard asked if an update could be provided from the Road’s Design Office for the next meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. G. Curley, the motion was adopted.

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

With the development and expansion of the road network in Carrigtwohill can a commitment be given that the green border between the road and the active travel routes be maintained to an acceptable standard.

**Response:** The Council’s Sustainable Transport Unit has confirmed that the Area Engineers will be responsible for the maintenance of the cycleway infrastructure and that their understanding is that a budget etc. is being put in place for same. A capital budget has been provided to purchase necessary equipment for greenway maintenance and a site compound identified at Kilcoolishal to house the maintenance equipment. CCC will shortly be applying for Part 8 Planning permission for the maintenance compound. Gerard O’Hora has applied for a budget for greenway maintenance and is awaiting confirmation on same.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the road around the new school needs to be swept on a regular basis. He also said that the grass verge in-between the roadway and path needs to be cut and maintained. Cllr. A. Barry also stated that he is not happy that considering the increase in funding coming to Cork County Council through planning contributions, that funding is not coming back pro-rata to the Municipal District in their budget.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the motion was adopted.

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

Could this Council write to TII regarding our concern at the level of pedestrian activity on the Eastbound slip road at Barryscourt junction. Given the volume of traffic accessing Carrigtwohill at this location it is only a Matter of time before a serious incident occurs at this location.

P. Lynch to write to Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

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

**10.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business:**

**Cllr. C. Rasmussen**

10.1 Overgrowth to be cut back at Carrigaloe. Engineer to examine

10.2 Double yellow lines to be extended at Bellevue due to parking issues.  
Engineer to examine.

10.3 Extra signage relating to speed required at Ballard Hill to be installed once resurfacing is completed.  
Engineer to arrange.

10.4 Can the word “Slow” be painted on the Fota Road.  
Engineer to examine.

10.5 Can the Town Twinning with Ploermel sign be amended to include “since 1984”.  
Engineer to arrange.

10.6 Could the grass at Foster’s Haven be cut again.  
Engineer to arrange.

10.7 Could double yellow lines be painted at Glenanaar Place as cars park on the corner during matches.  
Engineer to examine.

10.8 Will there be a second draft proposal prepared in relation to traffic calming measures on the Carrignafoy road as residents were unhappy with the 1<sup>st</sup> draft.  
Engineer to follow up.

10.9 Can the small road sweeper be sent to Cobh to clean areas where the large one won’t fit.  
Engineer to follow up.

10.10 Can the velocity patcher be sent to fix the potholes on Glenmore Hill.  
Engineer to arrange.

**Cllr. A. Barry**

10.11 Relining required at Annesgroves Cross as there was another accident coming down from Tibbotstown, plus the camber of the road slants at this location.

Engineer to examine.

10.12 The new pipes installed at Springhill are larger than the ones down by the active travel. Can the small one be replaced with larger one to take all the water.

Engineer to examine.

10.13 Is the Cemetery at Wallingstown, Little Island the responsibility of the Cobh M.D.

Engineer to confirm.

**Cllr. G. Curley**

10.14 Dangerous tree by 102 Russell Heights.

Engineer to examine.

10.15 Is Ballynoe taken in charge?

Cllr. S. Sheppard confirmed that it hasn't been taken in charge as there are outstanding works to be completed.

10.16 Could a pedestrian crossing be installed outside the playground at Whitepoint as vehicles enter at speed.?

Engineer to examine.

10.17 Any plans for Housing at Hartlands' Point?

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that exploratory works are ongoing at present and it is intended to put more social housing in this site.

10.18 Complaints received regarding break-ins in Whitechurch. Can we meet with Gardaí?

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that Members have met with Gardaí in the past in relation to different matters, so a meeting can be arranged. He said that the Joint Policing Committee is being replaced by a different forum.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan advised that Members log any calls to Gardaí as this would increase man hours allocated to the area. She also told Members that a community Garda would be appointed soon.

**Cllr. S. Sheppard**

10.19 Street lights not working in Russell Heights.

R. O'Sullivan to report.

10.20 Potholes at Top of Hill

Engineer to examine.

10.21 Buses speeding through the 5 Foot Way. Can a letter issue to The Port of Cork asking them to advise the drivers to slow down.

P. Lynch to write to Port of Cork.

10.22 The condition of the roadway at West View is poor.  
Engineer to examine.

10.23 Can a “No Entry” sign be erected at the bottom of West View as some cars drive upwards?  
Engineer to examine.

10.24 Can the road lining at the end of West View be redone as it’s very faint?  
Engineer to examine.

10.25 Is it possible for parking spaces to be outlined outside all the houses in West View?  
R. O’Sullivan stated that this would not be done.

**Cllr. S. O’Callaghan**

10.26 A “Cul De Sac Sign” is required at St. Stephen’s Place, Watergrasshill as the road is very narrow at the end for turning.  
Engineer to examine.

10.27 Signage in relation to speed required at Kearney’s Cross, Watergrasshill  
Engineer to examine.

10.28 Any update on the installation of bus shelter in Knockraha.  
Engineer to follow up.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Cathaoirleach

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Municipal District Officer.