

MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th OCTOBER 2024 AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH.

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

Officials: Ms. N. Brennan, Senior Executive Officer
P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer
G. O’Hora, Snr. Executive Engineer
Mr. R. O’Sullivan, Executive Engineer
Ms. C. McDonnell, Cobh Municipal District.

1.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Curley, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the minutes of the Cobh Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 2nd September 2024, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Signage at Coolamber, Cobh

G. O’Hora stated that some of the signage had been erected and the remainder would be completed next week.

Drain Cleaning Programme

G. O’Hora stated that the drainage programme was continuing, and that Cork Drains had been working for the Council during the past few weeks.

Fota Road

G. O’Hora said that the roadsweeper had swept the Fota Road, however as there is a camber in the wall so it was unable to get right in. He said that a general clean-up of the road would take place in November.

Overgrowth to be cut back at Carrigaloe.

G. O’Hora confirmed that some of this work had been carried out and the remaining would be done shortly.

Double yellow lines to be extended at Bellevue.

Listed for works when the road lining crew are next in Cobh.

Signage at Ballard

G. O’Hora said that some of the new signage had been erected with more to follow shortly.

Slow Sign on Fota Road

G. O’Hora stated that he would have concerns on painting “slow” signs on the R624 Fota road, because of the hazard to motorcyclists. He confirmed that extra “slow” signage had been erected on road poles along the R624 and he had applied for funding to erect additional road safety signage on the R624 at Belvelly bridge.

Green Area at Foster's Haven

G. O'Hora confirmed that this green was listed for cutting.

Double yellow lines at corner of Glenanaar Place

G. O'Hora confirmed that this was listed for work.

Small Roadsweeper for Cobh

G. O'Hora asked the Members if they had area locations for inclusion in the road sweeper routes to submit areas and they would be examined.

Potholes at Glenmore

G. O'Hora stated that the velocity patcher would be sent to repair.

Relining at Annesgroves Cross

G. O'Hora stated that junction had been examined by CCC and he had submitted junction upgrade for funding as a low-cost safety scheme in 2025.

Pipes at Springhill

G. O'Hora told the Members that CCC were speaking with CCC's, Traffic And Transport dept regarding this issue.

Cemetery at Wallingstown, Little Island

G. O'Hora said that this cemetery was on private property and that he would check the land registry for ownership.

Trees near 102, Russell Heights

G. O'Hora confirmed that the Council's horticulturalist had examined the tree and deemed it not to be dangerous.

Pedestrian Crossing outside the playground at Whitepoint

G. O'Hora said that he would look at erecting additional road safety and pedestrian safety signage.

Lights out of order in Russell Heights

G. O'Hora stated that the lighting had been repaired.

Road at Westview in need of repair

G. O'Hora confirmed that road repair works had commenced.

Provision No Entry Sign at the bottom of Westview

G. O'Hora stated that a No Entry Sign was already in place at this location.

Relining at the end of Westview

G. O'Hora said that this area was listed for relining.

"Cul De Sac" Sign at St. Stephen's Place, Watergrasshill

G. O'Hora stated that a "Cul De Sac" sign would be erected.

Signage in relation to speed required at Kearney's Cross, Watergrasshill

G. O'Hora said that additional signage would be installed.

Bus Shelter at Knockraha

G. O’Hora stated that bus shelter would be installed by the end of October.

Review of Parking Byelaws

P. Lynch told the Members that he had spoken with various stakeholders regarding bus spaces at Westbourne Place, and to the Cobh Chamber of Commerce regarding loading bays. It was agreed to deal with their submissions at an in-committee meeting. Date to be arranged.

3.0 Comhfhreagas / Correspondence

There was no correspondence received since the previous meeting.

4.0 Tuairiscí ó Oifigigh / Officer’s Reports

a) Section 38 – Proposed M8 J17 Roundabout Footpath Works / Relocate Pedestrian Crossing at L-90800, Watergrasshill,

G. O’Hora briefed the Members on the proposal and confirmed works were ready to commence.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan asked what the timeline was.

G. O’Hora said a contractor for the works was due to be appointed and works are scheduled to commence at the beginning of November.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the proposal was adopted.

b) Proposed Pedestrian Crossing at Newtown, Cobh

G. O’Hora presented a proposal for the pedestrian crossing on the Newtown Road. It was agreed that that he would meet with the Members at the location to discuss the proposal.

c) Proposed Lay out at High Road, Cobh to reduce speed.

G. O’Hora outlined proposed traffic calming measures and layout at the High Road. It was agreed that that he would meet with the Members at the location to provide full details of the scheme.

d) Proposed Bus Stop at Belvelly, Cobh

G. O’Hora told the Members that a Section 38 planning and a road safety audit would have to be carried out at this location prior to any works commencing. Any works would be subject to receiving funding.

e) Proposed New Layout to GAA Junction, Watergrasshill

G. O’Hora briefed Members on the proposed road junction layout.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan asked if there would be a left inside lane as well as the outside lane.

G. O’Hora said that he would meet the Members on site to discuss the proposal.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan asked how soon the proposal would go for Section 38.

G. O’Hora said that the Section 38 could start immediately but that there was no funding in place for this project yet. G O’ Hora stated he had included the scheme for possible finding in 2025.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked what the timescale was for the 3 proposals in Cobh.

G. O’Hora said that the timescale would be set out in the next few weeks.

He confirmed that funding was in place for the proposed pedestrian crossing at Newtown while the other 2 projects are likely to be completed in mid-2025 (Subject to receiving funding).

f) Part 8 Planning for Equipment Storage Shed at Kilcoolishal

G. O’Hora told the Members that C.C.C. sought their approval to commence a Part VIII (Planning) for Maintenance compound, Storage Shed and associated works at Kilcoolishal.

G O’Hora stated CCC had received funding from the National Transport Authority for maintenance work to the Cycle/Pedestrian Pathway, Glounthaune and that this funding can be used to provide a shed for equipment.

5.0 Nomination of 2 Representatives to Celtic Interconnector Community Forum

As there was only 2 nominations put forward, it was agreed that Cllr. S. O’Callaghan and Cllr. A. Barry would be the 2 Cobh M.D. representatives to the Celtic Interconnector Community Forum.

6.0 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 advised the Members that the Cobh M.D. Budget meeting would take place in the County Hall on 29th October ahead of the full Council meeting.

P. Lynch circulated correspondence from Cobh Tidy Towns in relation to the inter-town litter challenge and it was agreed to discuss this at an in-committee meeting following which a meeting with Cobh Tidy Towns would be arranged.

It was agreed to discuss the Review of Cobh Pay Parking Bye Laws/Parking Regulations and the review of the Cobh M.D. Litter Plan on the same day.

P. Lynch to revert with dates.

Reply to Correspondence issued after September meeting.

P. Lynch circulated reply from the Deputy Harbour Master regarding complaints received about the speed of some buses accessing the Deep Water Quay through the Five Foot Way. The reply stated that the Port of Cork would contact the relevant

companies and advise them of the importance of maintaining a safe speed at this location.

P. Lynch circulated comprehensive response from the Director of Services, Planning Directorate regarding consideration being 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.

7.0 Fógraí Rún / Notices of Motion:

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

As we approach the first anniversary of storm Babet what measures are being taken to protect the residents of Bog Road from a repeat of that flooding event. Also, the flooding at this site could have put the new school campus at risk as well.

Response. CCC have recently carried out drainage remedial and improvement works on the L-3603 Station Road and the L-7641 Bog road, Carrigtwohill. As part of these works, CCC engaged Cork Drains to survey and jet vac the road drains and culverts on Station Road and Bog Road. CCC roads staff have further removed large tree branches and stone boulders etc from drains/road culverts.

CCC's CCTV survey identified issues with the existing road culvert on the L-3606 Station Road. CCC are presently examining upgrading this culvert.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that he was happy that it was confirmed that there were issues with the existing culvert and asked if there was now more capacity following the clearing out.

R. O'Sullivan said that there was more capacity now and he stated that an upgrade of this culvert had been sought.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, the motion was adopted.

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

Before the official connection of the new roads in Water Rock with the existing Carrigane Road, what measures are required to make the Carrigane Road and the junction with Main Street Carrigtwohill safer as undoubtedly this will be used as a release valve for motorists.

CCC is examining erecting additional road safety signage on the L-3617 Carrigane road to slow traffic speeds and highlight pedestrian safety. Regarding junction with main street, Carrigtwohill motion should be referred to Housing Infrastructure Implementation Team for comment.

The Housing Infrastructure Implementation Team advised that Carrigtwohill URDF Initiative, public realm infrastructure, for which Part 8 planning approval was granted in June 2022, included proposals to undertake an upgrade of the roads/paths at the existing junction of Carrigane Road and Carrigtwohill Main Street. These proposals/works were recommended by Atkins Consulting Engineers (Council's Road Designers on the Carrigtwohill URDF Initiative project) and would improve safety at this junction. The delivery of this upgrade work is subject to the publication of the next

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) funding call and dependent on approval of the Council's future application for such funding under the URDF scheme. The Water Rock Road Upgrade project includes proposals for the upgrade of the junction of the Carrigane Road/Water Rock Road for which Part 8 planning was granted in March 2019. These measures are recommended by Atkins Consulting Engineers (Council's Road Designers on the Water Rock LIHAF Initiative project) and would improve safety at the junction. Subject to land acquisition/funding, it is currently planned to undertake these works in 2025/2026. The tender process for the Water Rock Road Upgrade works is currently underway.

Funding has not been made available to the Housing Infrastructure Implementation Team for other measures along the Carrigane Road (between Water-Rock and Carrigtwohill). The matter should be referred to the Area Roads Engineer.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that he still had concerns about the volume of traffic that will be passing through the junction.

R. O'Sullivan stated that the speed limit on the Carrigane Road will reduce from 80km to 60km as part of the National Speed Reduction Scheme. He also said that he would organise traffic surveys now while the bye-pass is open and again when it is closed.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. D. Finn, the motion was adopted.

3. **To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:** That Cobh MD would write to Bus Eireann and NTA regarding the very bad bus service or lack of in Carrig na bhFear.

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

P. Lynch to issue letter to Bus Eireann and the NTA.

4. **To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:** That Cobh MD would seek information from Irish Water on the timeframe for the waste water treatment plan for Carrig na bhFear which is currently at No. 12 on the list of works.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the motion was adopted. It was agreed that P. Lynch would write initially to the County Engineer's office in relation to this motion.

5. **To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:** That Cobh MD write to Uisce Eireann on the water issues that are ongoing for the residents of Cluain Ard Estate.

As Cllr. S. Sheppard had to leave the meeting, it was agreed to defer consideration of the motion until next month's meeting.

6. **To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:** That this Municipal would revisit the draft traffic calming measures for the Carrignafoyo Road owing to the high volume of traffic and pedestrians on the road as well as motorists driving too fast.

CCC examined and prepared traffic calming scheme drawings for the L-2992 Carrignafoy road. Proposed scheme layout was set out on the L-2992 road and meeting held with councillors to review and discuss scheme layout. Concerns were raised by Councillors on loss of on street parking and proposed new footpath widths. CCC are presently examining concerns raised by councillor and will present a revised scheme layout at a future MD meeting.

G. O’Hora told the Members that he could meet them at Carrignafoy to further discuss proposed traffic measures.

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

- 7. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**
That this council would inspect the trees on Ticknock Hill and in College Manor as some of them are obstructing the street lights and making the area very dark.

CCC will inspect public lights at Ticknock Hill and in College Manor and ask CCC Public Lighting Dept to schedule any tree branches obscuring/obstructing lighting for cutting.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that there was an ongoing issue with the landscaping proposals that the Planning Department recommend at planning permission stage as they result in high trees obstructing public lighting.

It was agreed to write to the Planning Department outlining the Members’ concerns.

G. O’Hora asked Members to submit any other public lighting locations where trees are obstructing streetlights, and he would include them for pruning.

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

- 8. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**
That this council would cut back the ditches on Ballyleary Hill, Cuskinny Hill, Ballywilliam, the Tay Road and other areas that need cutting back in the absence of Land Owners doing this important work.

CCC will write out to landowners advising them of their duties to maintain and cut private roadside hedges. In the absence of landowners being identified, CCC will examine locations at Ballyleary Hill, Cuskinny Hill, Ballywilliam, and subject to available funding schedule the road hedges for cutting.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that CCC needs to crack down on landowners who ignore requests from CCC to cut back their ditches.

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

9. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Ger Curley

In view of no lock been placed on gate at playground in Whitepoint, can we put in place traffic calming measures and speeding signs to protect our young children who are using the playground.

CCC will examine erecting road safety signage at the playground site and access road highlighting pedestrian and child safety.

G. O’Hora and R. O’Sullivan to examine the area.

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

10. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Ger Curley:

That we request the Garda superintendent to attend our next MD to discuss the lack of Garda presence in the Cobh LEA and urgent need for extra resources in our area.

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

P. Lynch to issue invitation.

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

With the opening of the largest school campus in the country in Carrigwohill can an explanation be given by the Department of Education as to why the playing field is omitted.

The County Development Plan clearly states the site was to deliver three schools and a playing field.

Due to a Dáil announcement last week, agreeing to make a pitch available for the schools, Cllr. A. Barry stated that he was happy to withdraw his motion but that the motion be kept on record.

12. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Ger Curley:

That we ask a member of port of cork to a meeting to discuss a resolution to the protest at the deepwater quay and try to resolve any issues over the right of way that is going on for over 6 years.

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

P. Lynch to issue invitation.

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

That this MD would include Annmount aka The Terrace road in Glounthaune for upgrading works dealing with drainage and subsidence along the route from the Dry Bridge eastwards towards Johnstown.

G O’Hora stated CCC will examine the L-2970 Annamount road, Glounthaune towards the Dry Bridge and will include road for resurfacing in the Cobh MD 3-year Restoration Improvement Programme.

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

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

That Cobh MD would consider including Crowley’s Cross on the newly surfaced Ballyvorisheen Road, Carraig na bhFear in the low-cost safety measures scheme given the number of collisions and incidents at this junction.

CCC will examine Crowley’s Cross Road Junction, Carraig na bhFear and will apply for funding to upgrade the junction under the Dept of Transport’s 2025 Low-Cost Safety Scheme.

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

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

That this MD would include the villages of Whitechurch, Carraig na bhFear, Watergrasshill, Knockraha, Glounthaune and Little Island in a regular rota system along with Carrigtwohill and Cobh for the self-propelled sweeper.

G O’ Hora stated the villages of Whitechurch, Carraig na bhFear, Watergrasshill, Knockraha, Glounthaune and Little Island are already included in CCC sweeper rota. Roads in these villages are sweep once a month.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the M.D. roads budget has increased very little since 2014 despite the fact that all the areas have grown substantially. He said that there is a large increase in local property tax and rates being collected from these areas and not enough funding coming back to deliver basic services.

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

8.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business:

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan:-

8.01 The depth of the drains on the recently resurfaced roads by Ballinviny South along Butlerstown are very deep.

G. O’Hora confirmed that the verges are to be filled in.

8.02 Mud being left on the road by the new substation in Knockraha.

G. O’Hora said that this matter would be referred to Eirgrid.

- 8.03 Junction at Condonstown House – water rushing across the road into 1 gully which is getting blocked.
G. O’Hora stated that this junction was listed for a low-cost safety scheme in 2025.

Cllr. A. Barry:-

- 8.04 Potholes at Barryscourt Castle.
Engineer confirmed potholes were scheduled for repair.
- 8.05 Blocked Gully at Ryan Ahern Place, Carrigtwohill
Engineer confirmed drains were scheduled for cleaning.
- 8.06 Enquired on Policy on the naming of new Roads as it would be preferable to reflect the history of the area in the name.
Engineer to follow up.
- 8.07 Update on Kilquane Cemetery extension.
P. Lynch said that the initial area was unsuitable due to hydrological issues. The second area surveyed contained archaeological artifacts and therefore was not suitable for development.
P. Lynch to discuss with the CCC archaeologist.

Cllr. D. Finn:-

- 8.08 Cars parking on dished area of footpath provided for wheelchair uses by Hardware House. Could a bollard be instated.
R. O’ Sullivan stated that there is a yellow box on the roadway identifying, this area as “no parking” and parking fines have issued to drivers for parking there.
- 8.09 Road lining on road, Cuskinny to Ballymore.
R. O’Sullivan stated that this road was listed for lining.
- 8.10 Overgrowth to be cut back at Westview.
Letter to issue to land owner.
- 8.11 Repairs and painting of public toilets by the Promenade
R. O’Sullivan stated that repairs are complete, and the painting is listed to be carried out.
- 8.12 Flooding from field at the bottom of Ballard Hill.
Engineer to examine.

Cllr. G. Curley

- 8.13 Barrier at Cuskinny.
Cllr. Curley stated that the property owner had advised that he was happy for the Council to erect a barrier at this location. P. Lynch stated that this would not normally be a matter for the Council as it was private property, but that if the Members wanted the barrier installed, then it would be arranged. On the proposal of Cllr. Curley, seconded by Cllr. Finn, it was agreed that P. Lynch would contact the owner to advise that the Council was willing to erect the barrier. P. Lynch to get a price for this prior to agreeing installation.

- 8.14 Potholes at Barrymore Avenue
Engineer confirmed potholes were scheduled for repair.
- 8.15 Lighting at Ballynoe is poor.
Matter to be referred to public lighting department.
- 8.16 Extent of the road works at Tay Road.
R. O’Sullivan stated that the works would go as far as the ESB station and confirmed that all sections that they dig will be reinstated.
- 8.17 Traffic calming at St. Joseph’s School, there is water running off and down, Bishop Street.
R. O’Sullivan to review.
- 8.18 Wheelchair user at Ahern’s Place, can the kerb be dropped for access.
Engineer to examine.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen

- 8.19 Thanked the staff for the resurfacing work carried out at Ballard.
- 8.20 Thanked the staff for the work done during the recent weather issues.
- 8.21 Potholes at Harbour Hill and O’Rahilly Street
Engineer confirmed potholes were scheduled for repair.
- 8.22 Date to be put on the Cobh / Ploermel Twinning Sign
Engineer to arrange.
- 8.23 Complaints received regarding the surface after the ESB works on the Tay Road.
Engineer to discuss with ESB contractor.
- 8.24 Can the small sweeper come to Cobh as Cobh did badly in the Inter-Town Litter challenge.

Cllr. A. Barry

- 8.25 Trees need cutting back by the fenced off area in Cúl Árd, Carrigtwohill.
Engineer to arrange for trees to be inspected.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan thanked the CCC staff for their work during the recent inclement weather.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.