

Minutes of Macroom Municipal District Blended Meeting, which was held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Macroom on Friday 27th September 2024

Present/I láthair: Cllrs. Michael Creed (Cathaoirleach), Ted Lucey, Eileen Lynch, Michael Looney, Gobnait Moynihan & Martin Coughlan

Attendance/Tinreamh: Ms. Marie O'Leary, Municipal District Officer
Mr. Maurice Murphy, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. James Dwyer, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Pat O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer
Ms. Catherine O'Shea, Assistant Staff Officer

1. DEIMHNIÚ MIONTUAIRISCÍ CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. Maritn Coughlan and seconded by Cllr. Eileen Lynch, the Minutes of the proceedings of the Macroom Municipal District Meeting held on Friday 26th July 2024 having been circulated, were confirmed, and signed by the Cathaoirleach and the Municipal District Officer.

2. NITHE AG ÉIRÍ AS NA MIONTUAIRISCÍ MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Gobnait Moynihan

- (a) Bridge at Carriganimna – Damage
P. O'Sullivan, EE confirmed that a contractor has been appointed and it is hoped to commence works in mid-October.
- (b) Pedestrian Crossing, Minor Row, Millstreet
- (c) Inchigeelagh Village – Repair of Bridge Wall
J. Dwyer, SEE said a contractor has been appointed to carry out the repairs and is due to start work shortly.

Cllr. Creed queried if the debris in the water would be cleared out at the same time as the works are being carried out. J. Dwyer, SEE outlined that this project is being dealt with through the RDO. Cllr. Moynihan pointed out that the river also needs to be cleaned and the wall needs to be replaced as soon as possible. She proposed writing to the County Engineer and the Office of Public Works to seek clarification on works proposed. Cllr. Looney seconded the motion. Cllr. Creed agreed that the river needs to be cleaned out and said it is urgent. J. Dwyer, SEE said he will follow it up.
- (d) Béal Átha nGhaorthaidh Works
Cllr. Moynihan expressed her thanks for all the assistance received as regard the Road Closure Licence.
- (e) Currabeg, Ovens – River Cleaning – Damage to the Road
J. Dwyer, SEE said a Design Consultant has been appointed and a Design will be put in place in the next few months with works commencing in 2025.

Councillor Eileen Lynch

- (a) Terelton School Signage and Pedestrian Crossing
No update

- (b) Clondrohid Village – Speed Through Village
P. O’Sullivan, EE said the Speed Survey is complete and hopes to have the results for the next meeting.
- (c) High Street, Macroom – Very narrow
J. Dwyer, SEE said he hopes to have a Section 38 prepared for the next meeting to begin the process. He said it will be important to introduce this one-way system on a trial basis to ascertain how it will work out. Cllr. Lucey agreed that it should be on introduced on a trial basis.
- (d) Aghabullogue Graveyard – Gates in Poor Condition
P. O’Sullivan, EE said he is waiting for the Contractor to revert with a price.
- (e) Street Lights at Priests Cross, Millstreet
No Update
- (f) Model Village, Dripsey
P. O’Sullivan, EE said regarding the road surface, he aims to include it on the 3-year programme of works and as regards the speed he will arrange to carry out a speed survey.

Councillor Ted Lucey

- (a) Macroom - Water Pooling on the Main Street
J. Dwyer, SEE said he is waiting on approval from TII to start the works from Hartnetts Cross to the Town Centre.
- (b) Pedestrian Crossing, Masseytown
J. Dwyer, SEE said he has received a design from the R&LRDO but needs to examine it.
- (c) Rusheen Road – near the Sandpit – Road in Bad Condition
No update
- (d) Back Square, Macroom – Lining needs to be updated
J. Dwyer, SEE said he is waiting for the Lining Contractor to carry out the works.
- (e) Level of Sewage spilling into the River from the Treatment Plant at St. Colman’s Park, Macroom
M. Murphy, SEO said he had no update. Cllr. Lucey said that there is a meeting planned between Cork County Council and Uisce Éireann for 16th October regarding this issue.
- (f) Oakwood Estate, Macroom – Ramp Required as you come down from the new development.
J. Dwyer, SEE said that this is private land and he will look into it.
- (g) Sleaveen Hill, Macroom (Coming Down) – Open Gulley – Narrow Road
J. Dwyer, SEE said he will investigate.

Councillor Michael Looney

- (a) Berrings School – Lining Works
P. O'Sullivan, EE said there is tarring to be carried out at the entrance to the car park. He met with the Contractor and Principal to agree works.
- (b) Berrings to Yellow House – road in quite poor condition and requires resurfacing.
P. O'Sullivan, EE said he will investigate.
- (c) Cloghroe Signs
P. O'Sullivan, EE advised that sign will be erected shortly.

Councillor Martin Coughlan

- (a) Hedgecutting in the Macroom Town and Coolyhane Road
J. Dwyer, SEE said he has spoken to Hedgecutting Contractor about carrying out the works.
- (b) Coolyhane Road – Resurfacing
Cllr. Coughlan expressed his concern that the hedges and verges are not being cut. J. Dwyer, SEE said he will contact the Contractor again.
- (c) Lights on the Bridge in Macroom – Handrails not working
J. Dwyer, SEE said he will follow it up.

Councillor Michael Creed

- (a) Hollymount Bridge, Millstreet - in a poor state – has it gone for tender
P. O'Sullivan, EE said a contractor had been appointed and would be on site shortly.
- (b) Morrisons Bridge- in a poor state – has it gone for tender
P. O'Sullivan EE said it is not an easy fix.
- (c) Inchigeelagh to Reinaree Road – Road Sagging/Overhanging Trees
J. Dwyer, SEE confirmed that this road is not included on this year's RI Programme but will endeavour to include on next RI Programme.
- (d) Ballymakeera Village – Active Travel Proposals Through Village
J. Dwyer, SEE said a Consultant has been appointed and it is at design stage.
- (e) Rylane Village – Speed Survey
P. O'Sullivan, EE confirmed that the survey has been completed and said he hopes to have the results for the next meeting.
- (f) Footpath by the Old Triangle, Macroom – in urgent need of works
J. Dwyer, SEE said it is on the Programme of Works
- (g) Toames – Open Gulley
J. Dwyer, SEE said this is on the Programme of Works
- (h) ESB Bridge at the 4 Mile Bridge, Macroom – requires necessary works
No update

**3. BREITHNIÚCHÁIN AR THUAIRISCÍ AGUS MOLTAÍ
CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

(a) Municipal District Officer's Report

Members noted the Report as detailed.

(b) Discretionary Fund Applications

Group/Organisation	Brief Description of Request
Katie Cotter Ryan Cotter	Trip to Australia representing Ireland World Surf Lifesaving Championship - Travel, Rent equipment
Kilmurry Christmas Lights	Decorations, Electrical Materials, School painting competition
Kilmurry Village Renewal	Village Upkeep, Hi-Vis jackets, Safety Cones,
Codrum Residents	Upkeep of Codrum
Clondrohid Development Group	Upkeep of the village
Total	€1,500

Proposed/ Ar Moladh: Cllr. M. Creed
Seconded/ Cuidithe: Cllr. M. Looney

(c) Correspondence re Response from the NTA re Bus No 220

Members noted the response received from the NTA which was circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr. G. Moynihan feels that this is still an ongoing issue and concerned at the stop moving from Grange Manor into Dell complex. She feels a stop needs to be retained at Grange Manor. Cllr T. Lucey supported Cllr Moynihan. Cllr. E. Lynch outlined that her understanding is that the New Route 2B service will continue to stop in Grange Manor but the service will be reduced from a 15 min service to a 30 min service. The service Cllr Moynihan is referring to is the 2A (New Route 1) service to her understanding. Cllr Lucey outlined that he understands that the service will no longer run at night.

4. FÓGRA ALT 183

Section 183 Notice

Lease of 2 no Lock Up Units at Duggans Lane, Macroom to Briery Gap Cultural Centre Ltd for a consideration of €5 per annum.

Proposed/ Ar Moladh: Cllr. M. Coughlan
Seconded/ Cuidithe: Cllr. E. Lynch

5. ALT 38

Section 38

- Pedestrian crossing in The Square, Millstreet

Proposed/ Ar Moladh: Cllr. G. Moynihan
Seconded/ Cuidithe: Cllr. E. Lynch

**6. CHUN NA RUIN SEO LEANAS ÓN GCOMHAIRLEOIR A MHEAS:
To consider the following Notice of Motions in the name of:**

Cllr Ted Lucey – 2 Motions

Motion No 1

To ask what are the plans for the upgrade of our public toilets.

Macroom is a vibrant and prosperous town and especially with the bypass open it is much busier, with a lot more people coming back into the town to do business.

We have a Public toilet in the town square with one cubicle for Ladies & one cubicle for Men, while they are kept in good working order and clean, they are well under capacity for the demand from the public.

If a tourist bus stops in the square and sometimes 2 buses could be there at the same time you can see queues out on the street and I believe that some buses don't come to Macroom because of the toilet facilities.

We also have a big problem down the other side of town with no public toilet facilities, we have one bus stop in Macroom known as the bus depot where all passengers get on and off, and all school buses use the depot as well, there is approximately (1,000 people a day) going through this depot without any toilet facilities.

Would it be possible that the council could make contact with C I E and look at a joint venture for that side of town.

As I mentioned the opening of the new bypass has given the town an opportunity to develop to its full potential, the opening of the new Briery Gap, new street realm, renovation of the Old Church of Ireland, work on the the Milldam in Masseytown, riverside walk to the Fairy Garden and the Active Travel - a lot of good work about to happen in Macroom.

But Our Public Toilets have to be looked at Very seriously.

Response

The Public Toilets located in Macroom Town Square as part of the Town Hall unfortunately attract regular anti-social behaviour and are very difficult to maintain to a standard appropriate for visitors to Macroom Town. All options regarding the provision of public toilet facilities are being looked at for the town.

Macroom Municipal District is also seeking a meeting with Bus Éireann to discuss the public toilet provision at their Bus Depot location and to look at opportunities in relation to public toilet provision towards that side of Macroom Town.

This matter will also form part of discussion when the newly formed Town Team for Macroom is set up and running over the coming months.

The outcome of these discussions will be relayed to Members once we have an update.

Marie O'Leary, Municipal District Officer, Macroom Municipal District

Cllr. M. Creed expressed his frustration at the fact that there were no toilet facilities in Macroom Bus Depot and requested that Bus Éireann are written to for an update on what their plans are. M. Murphy, SEO said there is an initial meeting planned between Council Officials and Bus Éireann to decide on what options are available. However, he said he would be happy to arrange a

separate meeting between the Members and Bus Éireann. Cllr. G. Moynihan said the entrance into the bus stations needs to be changed to make it safer for pedestrians and agreed that there needs to be toilet facilities. Cllr. M. Coughlan said management as a matter of urgency need to put a plan before Members. M. Murphy, SEO said he would take the Members comments on board.

Motion No 2

What are the future plans for upgrading buses & coaches parking in Macroom Since the opening of the Macroom bypass the town has got much busier.

For a number of years we have one designated bus parking bay in which 2 buses can park in. This is completely inadequate especially in the Summer months.

It has been indicated to a number of Councillors that a lot more buses would stop if there were more parking bays provided in town. The town is losing out hugely on tourism because of this. There have been 94 cruise ships docked in Cork in the last year bringing 180,000 passengers to the region (as per a recent article in the Cork Examiner newspaper) with a lot of these visitors avail of the opportunity to go a coach tour of the region but unfortunately due to the lack of bus parking facilities they avoid coming to Macroom.

With the street realm and active travel I think now is a good time to plan ahead to provide more bus parking.

Response

TII are currently undertaking an assessment of Macroom Town post N22 Bypass completion. As part of this assessment, bus parking and potential suitable locations will form part of this report. We are required to wait for the outcome of this report before decisions are taken regarding the provision of additional bus parking locations.

This matter will also form part of discussion when the newly formed Town Team for Macroom is set up and running over the coming months.

Updates on this matter as we receive them will be relayed to Members.

Marie O'Leary, Municipal District Officer, Macroom Municipal District

Cllr Eileen Lynch – 3 Motions

Motion No 1

"That a comprehensive update would be provided on flooding, footpath and general safety works in Coachford, particularly in relation to flooding and the Safe Routes to school programme."

Response

Safe Route to Schools

The Coachford National School SRTS project is currently at preliminary design stage. This stage is led by An Taisce's Infrastructure Officer who will prepare an Outline Delivery Report following consultation with the school community, Cork County Council and the NTA. Once this report is finalised and issued to the Sustainable Travel Team in Cork County Council the Council will be able to commence the outline design process for the scheme.

The provision of a disabled parking space in front of the National School is something for the school to organise themselves as it is located on private ground.

In tangent to this, details are being agreed in the form of planning compliance with the new Community School

However, the provision of the footpath to the school and the Crèche has been complicated by the appeal of an adjacent planning application to An Bord Pleanala. Once this has been adjudicated on by the Bord, the route forward will become clearer.

Pat O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer

Cllr. Lynch said while she was pleased to see some progress, she expressed her frustration at the slow pace of An Taisce as regards the Safe Route to Schools Project. Cllr. Moynihan agreed with Cllr. Lynch.

Flooding

All topographical and surveying info has been received and sent on to the consultants. They are currently working through it to prepare the necessary report. It is hoped that the report will be completed early in the new year.

In relation to the ongoing flooding issue at the GAA complex, we hope to start work there shortly on constructing a new soakaway to help alleviate the issue there, while also working on finding a long term solution to the problem.

Pat O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer

Cllr. Lynch said that Coachford GAA have received funding to install ramps and queried when that work can be carried out. P. O'Sullivan, EE confirmed that work on the Soakway is commencing Monday and he will speak to the GAA when the works are complete.

Motion No 2

"That Cork County Council would review the implementation of road safety measures, including but not limited to Low Cost Safety Schemes in relation to Derry Cross, Derry, Berrings due to poor visibility and recent accidents on this crossing. (Where the R579 and the L2751 (Kerry Road) intersect)."

Response

The landowner has given us permission to remove the existing post and chainlink fence and construct a new post and rail fence, setback from the edge of the road to improve sight lines.

I have arranged with our road lining contractor to provide additional road markings on the approach to the junction from both sides.

We will also look at install additional road signs on the approach to the junction.

We are hoping to commence the improvement works there in mid-October, once the roads programme for 2024 is completed.

Pat O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer

Motion No 3

"That Cork County Council would provide an up-to-date report in relation to legal measures being progressed regarding vacant and derelict building, Lee Valley Inn, Dripsey."

Response

The Lee Valley Inn Dripsey is on Cork County Council's Derelict Sites Register and a Section 11 under the Derelict Sites legislation was issued to the owners on 8th December 2023 requesting works to be carried out on the building within a 6-month period. On the expiration of this period, an engineer's report confirmed that the requested works were not completed. Accordingly, we are now in the process of progressing this to the next stage of the Section 11 process with the Council's Legal Department.

Marie O'Leary, Municipal District Officer, Macroom Municipal District

Following Cllr. Lynch's request to expedite the Section 11 process, M. Murphy, SEO responded that the Legal Department will be working on this process, and he hopes to return to Members with update on this matter shortly. Cllr. Creed said that all the Members support this motion.

7. VÓTA COMGHGAIRDEAS VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

N/A

8. VÓTA COMBHRÓIN VOTES OF CONDOLENCES

N/A

9. AON GHNÓ EILE ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Eileen Lynch

- (a) Bealnamorrive – Flashing School Light not Working
- (b) Bealnamorrive (Coachford side) and Aghabullogue - Speed Signs
P. O'Sullivan, EE said he will check on these.
- (c) Grotto Road, Model Village, Dripsey – Is it on a Roads Programme
P. O'Sullivan, EE said he will have a look at it.

Councillor Michael Looney

- (a) Shronagh Line – Gort Bridge – Rubbish Dumped
- (b) Derry Cross
P. O'Sullivan, EE said the work is starting next Fortnight
- (c) Firmount – Stuake Feedback Lights Not Working
- (d) Waterloo – Knocknasnuff– Patcher required

Councillor Ted Lucey

- (a) Pedestrian Crossing at Boys School, Macroom
J. Dwyer, SEE said this is being examined as part of the ongoing Active Travel Study.
- (b) Killumney – Speed
J. Dwyer, SEE said the Speed Limit is changing from 80 km/h to 60 km/h by November and he said he will be carrying out a pre-limit change survey before and another survey after for comparison purposes.
- (c) Lios na Fé, Macroom – Wall needs to be Recapped
Cllr. Lucey said as you drive into the estate on your left, the wall needs to be recapped. J. Dwyer, SEE said he is hoping to carry out necessary repairs to a fence there and will also have a look at that.
- (d) Public Lighting Programme
J. Dwyer, SEE said he will seek an update.
- (e) Toames – Gravel on the Road
J. Dwyer, SEE said he will investigate.

Councillor Gobnait Moynihan

- (a) Briery Gap – New Ramp beside the Delivery Bay
Cllr. Moynihan said that cars are driving around to the left of the ramp into the loading bay rather than driving over the ramp. J. Dwyer, SEE said there is no easy solution to this, but he will investigate.
- (b) Cloghduv Flashing School Sign
Cllr. Moynihan suggested moving the Flashing School Sign 10ft East beyond the Shop to make it more obvious. J. Dwyer, SEE said he will investigate.
- (c) Ballydaly Sign – Welcome to Cork
P. O’Sullivan, EE said the sign is ordered.
- (d) Crookstown – Surface of the Road in poor Condition at Cliffords Bar
J. Dwyer, SEE agreed that the surface is poor but said they are waiting for pipes to be laid as part of the Flood Scheme in the village. He said as an interim measure, 80-90m will be resurfaced in front of the Post Office. In response to Cllr. Moynihan’s query re surfacing the area in front of Clifford’s Bar, J. Dwyer, SEE said this work is not included in the current programme.

Councillor Martin Coughlan

- (a) Dereliction on New Street, Macroom
M. Murphy, SEO said there is a big focus on Derelict Sites and the Town Regeneration Office will be issuing regular localised updates.

Councillor Michael Creed

- (a) Overgrown Branches – Across from the Gearagh
J. Dwyer, SEE said he is aware of it and will arrange to carry out the work

