

# Comhairle Contae Chorcaí Cork County Council

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Municipal Hall, St. John's Hill,

## MINUTES OF BANDON KINSALE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN BANDON LIBRARY AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS APP ON 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2024

**Members Present:** Cllrs. (Chair), Gillian Coughlan, John Collins, Alan Coleman, Ann Bambury Marie O'Sullivan, John Michael Foley

### **In Attendance:**

Noreen O'Mahony, Senior Executive Officer SEO  
Brian Dunne, Municipal District Officer. MDO  
Richard Cahill, Senior Executive Engineer, Bandon SEE  
Sabrina Tobin, Executive Engineer, Kinsale EE  
Marie Kelleher, Executive Engineer, Bandon EE  
John Duggan, Executive Engineer, EE  
Claire Levis, Meeting Administrator.

Cllr. G. Coughlan presided.

### **1. Minutes**

#### **(a) Confirmation of minutes of Municipal District of Bandon-Kinsale meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024**

*Proposed by Cllr. Bambury  
Seconded by Cllr. Foley*

#### **(b) Matters arising from minutes dated 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024.**

Cllr Coleman asked the Roads office if the One-way system brought up in the previous meeting was being progressed. The EE Sabrina Tobin told the meeting that plans for this would be brought to the members most likely in Spring 2025. She stated that the current one-way system would extend to possibly Feb of 2025 because of delays in the construction.

Cllr Coleman asked if he could raise the issue of pay parking in Bandon and it was decided to speak about this at the end of the meeting.

## 2. Reports and Recommendations

### 1) Engineers Reports

a) Installation of a disabled parking bay at No. 8 Connolly Street, Bandon  
EE Marie Kelleher told the meeting that there had been no objections by public or Gardaí

*Proposed by Cllr Coughlan*

*Secoded by Cllr Foley*

b) Section 38: Report for Parnell St Bandon

EE Marie Kelleher gave the meeting an update on this and stated that no objection was received by the public or Gardaí. These road works are due to start next week.

*Proposed by Cllr Coughlan*

*Secoded by Cllr Bambury*

c) Section 38: Report for Old Cork Road Bandon /Watergate Street junction Bandon.

EE Marie Kelleher gave the meeting an update on this and stated that no objection was received by the public or Gardaí.

The SEE also stated that the path to the estate was due to be completed by the developer by the end of the year.

*Proposed by Cllr Coughlan*

*Secoded by Cllr Foley*

d) Engineers Report Bandon – Richard Cahill, SEE.

Actions taken on items from last month's meeting that I would not have updated you on since the meeting.

An issue was raised about the lack of signage on the Kilbrittain road, where the Bunsoile Na Toirbhirte meets with it. There are junction ahead signs missing. This is on work programme to replace.

A proposal to shift the Clonakilty centreline approach at the mini roundabout outside the GAA pitch about a 1 metre north so as to give trucks turning towards Clonakilty more room to manoeuvre. This has been sent to the TII office for consideration.

Other updates on works we submitted for pavement repair funding on the N71 early in 2024 and we know that TII carried out significant repairs earlier this year and the good news is they were back to carry out further repairs on the Clon approach into Bandon, the works are now substantially completed.

We have also gone to contract and have appointed 2 contractors H&H Construction and DW Utilities to erect the new speed limit signs. Note: Bandon Kinsale has almost double the amount of signage to erect compared to many other areas due to the prevalence of regional and national roads in our areas. We expect many of the poles to be erected by the end of the month and we understand that the new speed limits will come into force some time in early 2025.

We applied and were granted for some Climate Adaptation monies to be allocated to protect the amenity area down in Ring as it was being washed away by the sea. We will also do some work on stabilising the sea wall as in places it is in poor condition, and this should improve the resilience of the structure in the general area.

### **Update on our own road improvement programme**

We are planning to resurface the section from Curraghvreedra junction across to Baldwins bridge which is great as that had been on the plan for 2025.

Since the last month's meeting we have begun resurfacing Bother na sup. Extensive drainage work has been completed and the surfacing should be completed this week.

We did our CIS off Clancoole estate where we paved the cul de sac and thanks for the housing section for helping us to resolve one of 2 other issues that needed sorting in that area.

Since the last meeting we have completed creating a concrete drain of several hundred metres in length along the R590 regional road as you travel down the hill through Dukes wood. The water was flowing fast on the hill and starting to undermine the road. This concrete drain will greatly improve the drainage capacity of the road edge and will make maintenance much easier.

We will also have the drainage truck in weekly for a day or 2 each week, we target all the main streets to make sure gullies are clear. This will continue for a few weeks.

The scheme at Larragh school is significantly completed (waited for the eircom to move a pole).

We also want to remind members and the public of our scheme to provide salt for estates in the towns. A bin can be purchased which includes salt for €50. This can be refilled free of charge. Please note that only a dusting of salt is needed and any more than that can damage the surface of the roads and footpaths.

*An update TPREP was given to the members update by John Duggan.*

Cllr Coughlan commended the works done by John Duggan and his team.

Cllr Bambury questioned re the parking issue at the bottom of Convent hill. The SEE stated that it was on his to do list.

She queried the Gaggin Junction and if a bus stop could be put there.

Cllr Coleman stated that the junction itself needs some work.

The SEE said he would write to TII requesting funding for this project.

e) Engineers Report Kinsale – Sabrina Tobin, EE.

You may recall I reported in Sept that we were nearing the completion stage of our resurfacing programme for the year, with our final schemes being our CIS & LIS. Following the completion of our LIS scheme in Ballinadee, we headed to Kilnacloona, where we completed our LIS scheme for the year.

Fortunately, we have been able to squeeze in another road for resurfacing, which in part is down to the fact that our own staff are skilfully undertaking the majority of the resurfacing works themselves, which works out far more cost-effective than going out to contract. As such we have decided to resurface the Old Head road, which for those who are familiar with the area, may be aware that it was in need of attention. We currently have a crew there undertaking dyke clearing & drainage improvement works in preparation for blacktopping which we expect to commence with next Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Oct, to tie in with the school holidays.

Works are also progressing well on the R606 Gully Bridge to Whitecastle project with the contractor on course to achieve practical completion this week.

You may have seen an email from me notifying you of upcoming remedial works which are due to commence on Compass Hill in Kinsale on 18<sup>th</sup> November for a period of three weeks & requiring the need for a road closure. The works relate to the stabilisation of a retaining wall adjoining a property & the subsequent subsidence on the public road. We pass on our regards to our colleague Brian Lawlor for progressing this.

Moving onto our climate adaptation works for this year, works are progressing well on the R600 along the Burren Road in Kilbrittain, with the contractor on course to complete the works early November. Staying with climate adaptation, this past month has also seen substantial remedial works being undertaken in Oysterhaven, specifically along the seawall. We expect works to be fully completed here within the next fortnight.

In other news, we expect to commence footpath construction works in Garretstown next week, following successful close out of the Section 38 period. We expect the works to be complete end of November.

### **Queries from Members**

Cllr Coughlan commended the works done in Pewter Hole Cross and the Clonakilty Road.

Cllr Foley asked re the drainage truck and if it could be extended to villages. The SEE stated that it was designated to villages every month.

Cllr Coughlan asked re the change in speed limits and why we had so many new poles needed. The SEE explained that we have more regional roads than any other area and when moving from a rural road to these regional roads all signs will have to be placed warning both sides of the changing speed.

Cllr Coughlan commended the potential extra parking in Garretstown.

Cllr Foley said it was great to see progress especially with the granting of the planning permission for the hotel there.

## b) Municipal District Officer's Report.

### Municipal District Officers Report – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024



#### Municipal District Meeting indicative times and dates

22 <sup>nd</sup> October	26 <sup>th</sup> November	17 <sup>th</sup> December	28 <sup>th</sup> January	25 <sup>th</sup> February
Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid
Teams & Bandon Library	Teams & Bandon Library	Teams & Bandon Library	Teams & Bandon Library	Teams & Bandon Library

#### 1. Actions from previous Municipal District meeting

- a. Letters have been issues as follows.
  - i. Correspondence to the Road Design Office of Cork County Council requesting a commitment to funding for a roundabout at Pewerhole Cross and also a Bypass for Bandon and Kinsale
  - ii. Correspondence to the NRA requesting the installation of a bus stop at Dunderrow and for it to spot specifically at Eli Lily
  - iii. Correspondence to Carrigaline area engineers' office requesting them to review the ditches between Fivemilebridge and Cork Airport and cut same as the members felt they were a danger to drivers.
  
2. **Old Bandon Playground.** We aim to undertake some refurbishment works here towards the end of the year/early new year. The timing of works will be weather dependant, but we hope to replace some of the older wooden equipment.
  
3. **Public Convenience Kinsale** – The next stage in the process is to engage a conservation professional regarding the wall and a site inspection from a contractor to agree finer details. We will also review the harbour toilets and invest monies there to improve the facilities.
  
4. **Public Convenience Courtmacsherry-** A tender process was initiated to upgrade this facility. The successful tenderer has been advised and a commitment made to upgrade these by the end of the year.

5. **Street Scape Scheme-** €10,000 was allocated earlier this year to the scheme. Unfortunately, there has been very little uptake on the scheme whereby allocations will be withdrawn should successful candidates fail to submit appropriate documentation before Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 2024.
  - a. 17 valid applications
  - b. 1,400 paid to 3 applicants.
  
6. **St Eltins Burial ground-** We hope to undertake some tree cutting there in the coming weeks. This exercise will also include the removal of tree stumps to facilitate easy access to unsold plots thus extending the lifetime of the cemetery.
  
7. **Consultation on Greenway**

As part of the West Cork Green way we will be exploring routes in or around the Bandon area. The RDO office hope to progress the optioneering process with public consultation in Q1/Q2 2025 (Exact date yet to be agreed). We would urge everyone to engage in this process.

**Queries from Members:**

Cllr Coleman questioned the Cork Greenway and stated that some of the landowners were not consulted prior to the publication of it and hoped that the Kinsale Greenway would be better.

Cllr O'Sullivan concurred with this stating that people's livelihoods were affected by this.

Cllr Coleman asked re St Eltins burial ground and if there were plans to extend it. The MDO stated that this was being considered but that there was ample space for the moment.

Cllr Foley asked if there was a consideration of cremation plots or a columbarium wall. The MDO replied that currently there is no wall available for a columbarium but that it would be considered.

**3. *Statutory Business***

None.

**4. *Notice of Motions***

**Cllr Gillian Coughlan**

- a) That the Bandon Kinsale members would be furnished with a report regarding the taking in charge of estates in the Municipal district.

*This was Seconded by Cllr Bambury*

The MDO gave the members a report of the estates which are currently in the process of being taken in charge. In this report he outlined the issues which Cork County Council are having and the reason why there are delays. He told the members they could contact the estates section to get the finer details.

Cllr Coleman mentioned Haven Hill which is very close to been taken in charge. He stated that it wasn't fair to enforce today's standards on an old estate. He mentioned also that the footpaths are in a very poor state and there are several elderly people living in the estate and it was dangerous.

Cllr O'Sullivan agreed with this and that visually the road is very poor.

*This was seconded by Cllr Coleman*

- b) That the Municipal District requests a report from OPW, outlining the planned maintenance of the River Bandon, as committed to under the flood relief scheme.

Cllr Coughlan stated much work was done in Bandon by the OPW including dredging, works done on the weir and the bridge was strengthened. A commitment was made to provide planned maintenance on this and wanted to make sure this was done to prevent any future floods.

Cllr Foley stated that it should be made clear to landowners if they are allowed to remove gravel from their streams and rivers as this would help the depositing of material downstream. Currently landowners are nervous to do anything.

Cllr Coleman asked that there will be a process that landowners can go through, so they get approval for such tasks.

The MDO provided the members with an update. Currently a study is being undertaken on behalf of OPW to assess the annual deposition rate in the channel (for the dredged section). This exercise will inform the frequency of maintenance of the deposition in the channel. Cork County Council awaits the outcome of the study and direction from the OPW & their specialist consultants. Please note that any works in the Bandon River channel will be subject to agreements/approvals from statutory bodies including Inland Fisheries Ireland. If an area queried is outside of the OPW's Bandon FRS, then channel maintenance is a matter for the riparian landowner & not the responsibility of CCC or the OPW.

Cllr Coughlan thanked the MDO for the report.

- c) That an assessment of footpaths in the older estates in Kinsale would be undertaken and a programme of footpath upgrade and replacement would be implemented.

*This was seconded by Cllr O Sullivan*

Cllr O' Sullivan stated that there should be handrails at estates with steps. She stated that some footpaths needed maintenance rather than replacement.

The EE stated that she would initiate an audit of the footpaths to determine which ones can be repaired and which ones need to be replaced. This will be a 5-year plan.

Cllr Ann Bambury

- a) Bandon Kinsale municipal district members request that the Cork County Council engage with TII to conduct a Road Safety Audit (RSA) for Riverstick with a TII approved audit team and inform Bandon Kinsale MD members of the recommendations upon completion of the proposed audit.

Cllr Bambury updated the meeting at the dangers re the speed in Riverstick and the dangers in crossing the road.

Cllr O'Sullivan asked that double yellow lines be put near the babbling Brook as people are parking there at GAA matches and the visibility is poor.

The EE stated that a speed survey was done there last year and that since then she has been working with the design office re a plan for Riverstick. This will include traffic calming. A Section 38 will be put in front of the members in the next month. The SEE reminded the meeting that funding would be needed for this as there was a lot of work to be done.

- b) That the Cork County Council / Bandon Kinsale Municipal District officials provide members with details about the timeline for the transformation of the PTSB building on South Main Street (vacant for nearly ten years) and the old town library, which was referred to as a strategic site in the town centre, is this happening and what form of consultative process is being taken with the community concerning these two public spaces?

Cllr Bambury explained that CCC should not be holding buildings with no purpose. Conservations should be decided by those that live near there. She requested a space for Bandon in which the public can use for other use besides clubs which has a membership.

**The MDO explained to the members that with a new senior management team in place Cork County Council is currently reviewing its property portfolio in Bandon and an update will be provided to the members in due course.**

Cllr Bambury stated that she had hoped for a better response and asked for a timeline.



Cllr Coleman asked the windows of the Old Bandon Library be used for visual arts. The MDO stated that if anyone was interested to contact him.

## **5. Correspondence**

Email response from the Regional Roads office regarding the upgrading of Pewter Hole Cross and a future bypass for Bandon and Kinsale. In this it was explained to members that an application had been sent for Pewter Hole Cross for 2023 and will again be sent it for funding Improvements Grants category in November 2024 with the hope that funding would be approved for the next step in the process.

The query re the Kinsale and Bandon bypass would need to be queried with the NRO.

Cllr O'Sullivan commented that there have been numerous accidents there especially in rental cars.

## **5. Any Other Business**

Cllr Bambury asked if there were official contractors hired to clean signage. The SEE responded that the work was done in house and if there were any particular signs needing cleaning to inform the office.

Cllr Coleman reminded the EE of some dead trees in the Meadows estate in Belgooly that need to be removed.

Regarding Pewter Hole cross Cllr Coleman asked that perhaps the priority of the traffic should be changed in the new design.

Cllr Coleman stated that the issue of pedestrians walking on the Rock was a serious issue and needs to be tackled soon.

The EE stated that she had meet Mark O'Sullivan from the Roads Directorate and he had committed to do some modelling on the area to see if a one way system would work. She stated that there wasn't an easy solution as the road is very narrow.

Cllr O'Sullivan stated that CCC should do an advertising campaign encouraging children to wear Hi-Viz.

The EE said that a request for lighting in the area had been sent into public lighting.

Cllr O'Sullivan commended the new bins in Kinsale and that she noticed there was no rubbish in Kinsale on Sunday morning. She said the birds cannot access these bins which was a good thing.

The EE said that the locations for the bins were not decided at this point but that the feedback had been positive.

Cllr Foley thanked the council for the works done to help the fixing of the lights in Kilbrittain.

He asked if lights could be added to the Grotto near Ardan estate. Marie Kelleher said she would follow this up.

Cllr Coleman asked for an update on the footpath in Dundurrow?

Cllr Coughlan congratulated The Dick Barrett commemoration committee and also the Charter School.

Cllr Bambury congratulated the Comhaltas Baile Nuis on their 21<sup>st</sup> year anniversary.

Cllr Coleman brought up the issue of parking in Bandon and asked for the abolishment of Pay Parking in Bandon. He stated that while it worked well in Kinsale that he didn't believe that it did in Bandon. He stated that he wants to keep the 2hr limit to ensure that people do not park in the same place all day. He said that pay parking was not contributing financially to Bandon. Cllr Coleman asked the members to consider abolishing pay parking at budget time.

This was seconded by Cllr Collins.

Cllr Collins stated that it has been proven financially that it is not paying its way.

Cllr Bambury concurred as with the TPREP parking has been lost and abolishing pay parking would improve the vitality of the town.

Cllr Foley stated that there was not enough parking in the town so didn't think people should be paying for a service they were not receiving.

Cllr O'Sullivan concurred also and asked that if the Bye-Laws were to be changed that Kinsale parking would get 30 mins free.

Cllr Coughlan stated that Pay parking had been tried in Bandon and it has not worked. People are now leaving Bandon to shop elsewhere.

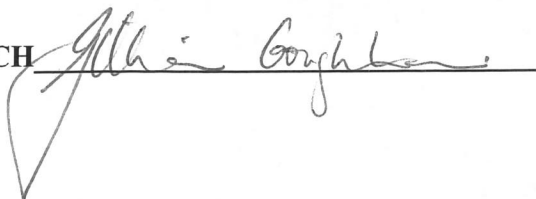
*The SEO responded to this request and stated that pay parking is essential to ensure the adequate turnover of spaces. If pay parking was abolished in Bandon then the council would not be able to fund a full time traffic warden.*

*The MDO informed the meeting that Dual meters would be introduced In Kinsale to allow card payments.*

Next meeting Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00 a.m.

*This concluded the official business of the meeting.*

CATHAOIRLEACH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Coughlan', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

DATE 26/11/2024