

MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2024 AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH.

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

Officials: P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer
G. O'Hora, Snr. Executive Engineer
Ms. C. McDonnell, Cobh Municipal District.

Apologies for their inability to attend were received from N. Brennan, S/SEO and R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer.

1.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. D. Finn, the minutes of the Cobh Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 7th October 2024, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising:-

Roadsweeper for Cobh

G. O'Hora told the Members that the roadsweeper would be in Cobh either Tuesday or Wednesday of this week.

Green Area at Foster's Haven

G. O'Hora confirmed that this green was now cut.

Potholes at Glenmore

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

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.

Road at Westview in need of repair

G. O'Hora confirmed that road repair had been carried out.

Bus Shelter at Knockraha

G. O'Hora stated that the new bus shelter was scheduled to be installed in the next 2 weeks.

Signage at Coolamber, Cobh

Cllr. C. Rasmussen said that no signs had been erected yet.

Engineer stated sign poles had been erected on road and signs would be added to poles shortly.

Overgrowth at Carrigaloe.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen acknowledged all the cutting back of overgrowth at Carrigaloe and asked if the overgrowth could be cut back on the right-hand side of the road as cars are forced into the middle of the road to avoid it.

G O’Hora stated he would arrange for a contractor to further cut back the overgrowth.

Double yellow lines to be extended at Bellevue.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if this was listed for work.

G. O’Hora stated road lining was weather dependent and that it would be done when the road lining crew are next in Cobh.

Proposed Bus Stop at Belvelly, Cobh

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if there was any update on the provision of the bus stop at Belvelly.

G. O’Hora said that he would discuss with the roads design office.

Overgrowth to be cut back at Westview.

G. O’Hora confirmed that a letter had issued to landowner.

Patching of roadway at Rahilly Street and Harbour Hill

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if the velocity patcher could be used to repair the roadways at Rahilly Street and Harbour Hill.

G O’ Hora stated he will schedule CCC staff to repair roads

Damage to plaster on wall at Newtown during works to footpaths

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if the repair work could be completed shortly.

G O’Hora stated footpath works were carried out by a contractor who damaged wall and he would contact contractor to repair.

Deep drains on the recently resurfaced roads by Ballinvinny

G. O’Hora confirmed that the drains were listed for repair.

Mud on the road by the new substation in Knockraha

G. O’Hora confirmed that the matter was referred to Eirgrid and the road has been cleaned.

Junction at Condonstown House – water rushing across the road into 1 gully which is getting blocked.

G. O’Hora confirmed that maintenance work had been carried out.

Potholes at Barryscourt Castle

G. O’Hora confirmed that the potholes have been repaired.

Blocked gully at Ryan Ahern Place, Carritwohill.

G. O’Hora told the Members that the gulleys would be cleared this week.

Flooding from field at the bottom of Ballard Hill.

G. O’Hora told the Members that remedial works would be carried out shortly.

Potholes at Barrymore Avenue

G. O’Hora confirmed that the potholes had been repaired.

Traffic calming at St. Joseph's School, there is water running off the table top and down Bishop Street.

G. O'Hora told the Members that the drains had been cleared out on Bishop Street and this has resolved the problem.

Wheelchair user at Ahern's Place, can the kerb be dropped for access.

G. O'Hora said that this would be carried out in the next month as part of the MD footpath programme.

Complaints received regarding the surface after the ESB works on the Tay Road.

G. O'Hora stated that he has discussed this matter with ESB contractor.

Trees need cutting back by the fenced off area in Cúl Árd, Carrigtwohill

G. O'Hora stated that work was listed.

Can the small sweeper come to Cobh as Cobh did badly in the Inter-Town Litter challenge.

G. O'Hora confirmed that CCC's sweeper was in Cobh last week.

Cobh/Ploermel Twinning Sign

Date will be put on sign shortly.

Annual Municipal District Budget Meeting

P. Lynch told the Members that the annual Cobh Municipal District Budget Meeting would take place on Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 3pm in Carrig House.

Barrier at Cuskinny

P. Lynch told the Members that R. O'Sullivan was getting a price for the provision of the barrier. He also said that one barrier would not be enough due to the width of the entrance.

3.0 Comhfhreagas / Correspondence

Bus Service at Carrig na bhFear

P. Lynch informed the Members that he had received a response from Bus Eireann in which they asked him to redirect the query to the NTA as they are the decision makers for the enhancement of bus services in the area.

P. Lynch confirmed that he had issued a letter to the NTA, but no reply has been received to date.

Letter received from An Garda Síochána

P. Lynch circulated letter received from Supt. Gamble .

Correspondence received from TII regarding the Provision of fence on the eastbound slip road at Barryscourt junction

TII are happy to erect the fence. They will arrange to meet with the local engineer on site shortly to agree the location.

Correspondence received from Uisce Éireann regarding Waste Water Treatment Plant for Carrignavar

P. Lynch told the Members that Uisce Éireann have said that this Waste Water Treatment Plan is one of 145 plants on the waste water capacity register for Cork County. Uisce Éireann have confirmed, that Carrignavar is not included in the prioritised sites for upgrade under the plan (2020-2024). Uisce Éireann are currently working on nos. 1-7 on the candidate list and Carrignavar is ranked as no. 12 and is therefore, not included in the 2025 to 2029 investment plan.

Members expressed their total dissatisfaction and disappointment with the response from Uisce Éireann as no new developments can take place until a new waste water treatment plant is provided. Cllr. A. Barry stated that of the locations of nos. 1-7 due to be completed by 2024, only 2 are underway and they are not quite finished. He also said that Uisce Éireann are approximately 4 years behind in their schedule.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan stated that she has asked the Chief Executive and the County Engineer to meet with the Members to discuss the situation.

4.0 Tuairiscí ó Oifigigh / Officer’s Reports

a) Proposed Pedestrian Crossing at Newtown, Cobh

Having met on site with Councillors and finalised the drawings, G. O’Hora presented a proposal for the pedestrian crossing on the Newtown Road.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that the proposal would go to public consultation.

b) Proposed Traffic calming measures at Carrignafoy, Cobh

Having met on site with Councillors, and finalised the drawings, G. O’Hora presented a proposal for the traffic calming at Carrignafoy, Cobh.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed that the proposal would go to public consultation.

c) Proposed Traffic calming measures at Caherlag, Ballynennick Watergrasshill

Having finalised the drawings, G. O’Hora presented a proposal for the traffic calming at Carrignafoy, Cobh.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed that the proposal would go to public consultation.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked when the proposal would be put out for public consultation.

G. O’Hora stated he hoped that they would be advertised before Christmas and that there would be a 4 week period for submissions. He confirmed that drawings will be available for inspection in the Cobh MD office, Cobh and CCC’s road office, Ballinglanna and online.

5.0 That, being satisfied that a public right of way exists over it, and the road is of general public utility, Cork County Council hereby declares pursuant to Section 11(1) of the Roads Act, 1993 the following road to be a public road: - The Woods (roads abutting nos. 1-8, 71-80 and 89-90), Glounthaune.

P. Lynch outlined report received from the Estates Section, CCC and told the members that 2 submissions had been received.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, the road was declared a public road.

6.0 Tuairisc ó Oifigeach Ceantair Bardasacha / Municipal District Officer’s Report

P. Lynch presented the members with the updated figures in relation to the following:-

- a) The various grant claims under the Community Fund Scheme and Town Development Fund.
- b) Revenue received from the Camper Van Overnight Parking Facility in Cobh
- c) Revenue received from Parking Machines in Cobh
- d) Total amount of licences issued to date by Cobh MD

Members raised the issue that some groups are unable to draw down their grant due to the fact that the credit union are no longer allowing residents’ groups to open accounts.

While opening bank accounts is an alternative, groups are being asked to provide a lot of paperwork and 3 signatures before they can open an account. They are also liable for bank charges for their transactions.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to send the following Motion to full Council:-

“This Council asks that the Finance Department explore how it can facilitate the payments of grants to Residents Associations who are unable to open Bank Accounts.”

Reply to previous Notice of Motion by Cllr. G. Curley

At the October meeting, the following Notice of Motion, standing in the name of Cllr. Curley was adopted.

“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.”

The following response has been received from the Chief Commercial Officer of the Port of Cork Company:

I wish to confirm that myself and my colleague David Browne will take you up on your offer to meet yourself and the members, to brief you and discuss the issue of the Cobh Cruise protesters. We are both heavily committed throughout November, so were hoping to have a meeting in early December if possible. Dave is on leave at the moment, but we will revert before the end of the week with some possible dates for your consideration.

Results of Tidy Towns Competition 2024

Having circulated the results of the Tidy Towns Competition, P. Lynch commended the groups for all their efforts. Cobh retained its gold medal, achieving just 2 points less

than Ballincollig, the overall winners. Glounthaune achieved a silver medal and Carrigtwohill increased their points this year.

All the Members congratulated the volunteer groups and the Council's outdoor staff for all their work in obtaining exceptional results throughout the M.D.

G. O'Hora expressed his congratulations on such positive results.

It was agreed that a letter of congratulations would issue to all the Tidy Towns Groups.

7.0 Fógraí Rún / Notices of Motion:

- 1. 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.
(This motion was deferred from the October meeting)

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that work was it was Council staff that actually solved the issue which had been ongoing for months.

Members raised concerns about the impact of the new apartments on water pressure once they are connected up.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to write to Uisce Éireann requesting them to meet with the Members.

- 2. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Ger Curley:**
As a result of recent road works on the Tay Road. Can we install traffic lights at the cross roads on the Tay road or install a mini roundabout. With traffic calming measures at the top of the hill by the entrance to the old graveyard.

It was agreed to defer this motion until the December meeting as Cllr. G. Curley was having technical problems with the link.

- 3. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Dominic Finn:**
That the Cobh MD will look at and address the junction at Plunkett Terrace / Coolamber with reference to the footpaths.

CCC will examine footpaths at the junction of Plunkett Terrace / Coolamber as part of the 2025 Cobh MD footpath programme.

Any footpath works in 2025 will be subject to receiving funding for footpaths in 2025.

G. O'Hora said that the area would be examined to see if there is any immediate repair works that could be carried out.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Finn, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the motion was adopted.

- 4. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Dominic Finn:**
That the Cobh MD put a plan in place to clean the town area and have it ready for the start of the summer season 2025. This to include footpaths, signage, general maintenance, and also to work with the Port of Cork to clean up piers and surrounding areas.

Cllr. D. Finn stated that there is a lot of old peeling off signage around the town and a pole by the Well House with nothing on it. He also referred to plastic signage which detracts from the buildings along the town.

G. O’Hora stated that CCC carry out litter collection and cleaning works etc in Cobh Town and throughout the MD in accordance with the Cobh MD Litter Management Plan.

He also told the Members that resources are limited as there is only 24 outdoor staff to carry out road resurfacing and repair works as well as other work programmes throughout the entire M.D. and he suggested encouraging more community involvement to assist and help out.

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

5. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Dominic Finn:

That the Cobh MD would look at putting a pedestrian footpath from the junction of Ballynoe Hill / Ballynoe Road down as far as the junction of Ballynoe Road / R624 to facilitate the pedestrian traffic accessing the ferry.

CCC will examine placing a footpath on the L-2993 Ballynoe road to junction with the R624 road junction as part of the 2025 Cobh MD footpath programme.

Any footpath works in 2025 will be subject to receiving funding for footpaths in 2025.

Cllr. A. Barry said that considering the large increase in the population across the M.D., we are not receiving adequate funding to provide necessary services.

P. Lynch told the Members that the budget allocated to the MD for roads is overspent every year.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen said that a larger budget and the provision of extra staff can be discussed at the C.P.G meeting taking place that week.

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

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

That a survey be commissioned by this municipal to look at any possible traffic improvements that can be made to help the flow of traffic from west beach to harbour row and down top of the hill.

CCC will examine and survey traffic flows on the R-624 road from West Beach to L-2990 road Harbour Row and L-2989 down Top of the Hill. Pending survey results CCC will examine erecting additional road safety signs on these roads.

G. O’Hora told the Members that there was a lot of road resurfacing works, traffic calming measures etc. being carried out in Cobh at present but he would discuss engaging a consultant to examine proposal with the Roads Design Office.

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 Ballynoe Hill would be included in the roads resurfacing programme for 2025.

CCC will examine the L-2993, Ballynoe Hill road for inclusion in the 2025 Cobh MD Roads Programme.

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

8.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business:

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:-

1. Thanked G. O'Hora and staff for the works on the footpaths in Watergrasshill and Coole East.
2. Looking for a progress report on Laheen Bridge. G O' Hora stated some repair works had been completed on the bridge and more are scheduled to commence shortly
3. Timeline for Table Ramp by the school in Watergrasshill.
G. O'Hora stated that T.I.I. are waiting on the contractor. Footpath works are due to commence early 2025.

Cllr. A. Barry:-

1. The resurfacing carried out by Sorensens on the Ballyrichard/Carrigan Road is falling apart.
G. O'Hora stated that he had already been in contact with Contractor, Sorensens and requested immediate repair.
2. Looking for an update on the footpath from the station to the schools in Carrigtwohill. MD to forward a Letter to the County Engineer requesting an update.
3. Broken glass in disused tarmacked area in Cúl Ard Estate.
G. O'Hora told the Members that CCC had fenced off this area and are hoping to look at options for future uses of this area.
4. Trees at Fota Rock are 15 to 20 feet over the houses. Whose responsibility is it if one of them fell on a house?
Letter to issue to the planning department regarding the type of planting they specify at grant of planning permission stage.
5. Asked what the procedure is for the naming of the 2 new roads in Carrigtwohill as it would be preferable to have names with a historical value.
P. Lynch to check the policy with the roads department and revert at the next meeting.

6. Killalough/Gogginstown Road
Engineer to schedule road for remedial repair.

Cllr. D. Finn:-

1. The public green area in The Mews, Rushbrooke Links is still fenced off.
Engineer to examine.
2. Concrete spills on Ballard Hill. Can we write to the concrete providers to ask them not to fill the trucks completely as the concrete comes out of the back when driving up the hills.
G. O'Hora stated that he has engaged with a number of the local readymix companies.
3. Update on request for ramp by the pirates.
G. O'Hora stated that this area was on the list for a traffic survey to be carried out. Once this is done a decision will be made on the request.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:-

1. The 2 bollards at Newtown need to be replaced.
Engineer to arrange.
2. List for road lining would be sent to G. O'Hora for when the road lining crew are next in Cobh.
3. When will the ESB trench at the top of Ticknock Hill be completed ?
Engineer to check with the ESB.
4. Can we get updated drawings for the pedestrian access to Coláiste Muire.
CCC Sustainable Transport Dept to provide update.
5. Bollards broken by St. Mary's School.
Engineer to arrange repair.
6. Trees on the Fota Road.
Can a letter issue to the owners asking for trees to be cut back.
CCC to issue letter to landowner to cut back trees.
7. Roadway at Barrymore Avenue is in poor condition.
Engineer to schedule road for repair.
8. Election Posters
P. Lynch stated that it the legislation allowed for the erection of election posters and that any posters erected in the town centres would not be removed by Council staff .

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.