



MINUTES OF MEETING OF WEST CORK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
held in Dunmanway Municipal Pool Meeting Room and on MS Teams
at 11.00am on Monday 4th November 2024

Members Present: Cllrs. Patrick Gerard Murphy, Joe Carroll, Danny Collins, Deirdre Kelly, Finbarr Harrington, Noel O'Donovan, Isobel Towse, Daniel Sexton

Members on MS Teams: Cllr. Caroline Cronin

In attendance: Noreen O' Mahony, S.E.O. W.C.M.D.
Eimear O' Neill S/MDO W.C.M.D.
John Ahern S.E.E. Skibbereen
Kevin Lynch E.E. Bantry
Martina O'Driscoll, Meeting Administrator W.C.M.D.

Cllr. PG Murphy presided.

Statutory Meeting

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(a) *Minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 7th October 2024*

Proposed by Cllr. J. Carroll, Seconded by Cllr. D. Kelly

Resolved:

"That the minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 7th October 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

(b) *Minutes (as circulated) of 'In Committee' West Cork Municipal District meeting dated 7th October 2024.*

Proposed by Cllr. D. Kelly, Seconded by Cllr. F. Harrington

Resolved:

"That the minutes of 'In Committee' Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 7th October 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. D. Collins queried if a timeline was available for the cutting of the graveyards in Maulinward & Drimoleague, in response Noreen O' Mahony noted the matter for follow up.

Cllr. F. Harrington requested an update on the Public Toilets at Allihies. Noreen O'Mahony advised that an inspection had been carried out and a scope of works was being prepared.



there were ownership issues that needed to be resolved before any works could be considered.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Cllr. D. Collins requested a suspension of standing orders and the members agreed, to allow for a discussion on the recent decision to relocate the upcoming Cork South West election count to Mallow. The members highlighted several points in relation to the relocation of the election count to Mallow including the loss of the political culture and heritage surrounding election counts in West Cork and the undermining of local democracy by moving the count away from local people and centralising it. The loss to the local economy and the inconvenience to members of the public were also discussed. The members also queried the cost effectiveness and efficiencies that would be made by centralising the count in Mallow. The West Cork Municipal District members unanimously called for the Cork South West election count to remain in Clonakilty and are calling for the decision to relocate to Mallow to be revoked. Members requested that a motion should issue to Full Council regarding the matter as it was a countywide issue. Members also requested letters to issue to the Minister for Local Government and the County Sherrif to revoke the centralising decision.

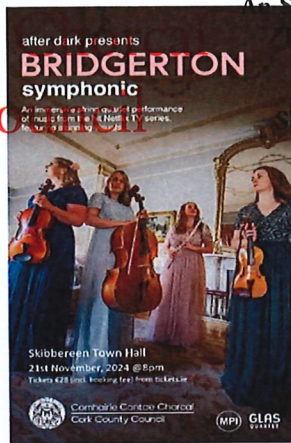
2. REPORTS & CORRESPONDANCE

Municipal District Officer's Report – 4th November 2024

1. Skibbereen Town Hall

As part of our commitment to exploring opportunities for increased use of **Skibbereen Town Hall**, we have been liaising with an agency representing a number of Irish and international artists. We have discussed which acts and artists would be a good fit for Skibbereen Town Hall and have agreed on a couple that would be suitable for trial events to gauge interest locally. The first event has been agreed as follows:

- **Bridgerton Symphonic: Performed by Glas Quartet.** Glas Quartet comprises of four exceptional musicians - flute, violin, viola, and cello. The show is a captivating blend of live music from the hit Netflix TV series Bridgerton, enhanced by atmospheric lighting and stunning, inviting audiences to step into the regal world of the Bridgerton family and their enthralling escapades through the lens of a unique sensory experience. These unique instrumental performances include music featured in the show by Vivaldi, Ariana Grande, Taylor Swift, Nirvana, Kris Bowers, Harry Styles, Billie Eilish, Miley Cyrus, Madonna, Calvin Harris and more. This event has been agreed for **Thursday, 21st November, 2024.**



Tickets are on sale via Tickets.ie Full details are on Cork County Council's social media. Your assistance with promotion of this event would be appreciated.

<https://secure.tickets.ie/Listing/EventInformation/46014/bridgerton-symphonic-performed-by-glas-quartet-skiibereen-town-hall-21-November-2024>

2. Michael Collins Handkerchief

Cork County Council has acquired a linen handkerchief, which was in Michael Collins' pocket at the time of his death, for permanent display at Michael Collins House Museum, Clonakilty.

The handkerchief was gifted by Michael Collins' brother Seán to General Seán MacMahon, then Quarter Master General of the Irish Free State Army and a close associate of Collins. The artefact is accompanied by a short note dated the 31st of August 1922 that reads; '*A Cara, accept enclosed as souvenir of Miceál - in his pocket at time of death*'. Seán Ó Coileáin'.

The linen handkerchief along with the letter from Seán Collins will go on display and be available to view free of charge in the Michael Collins House reception area for the remainder of the year. It will then make its way into the museum's permanent display.

The handkerchief adds to a growing collection of artefacts in the museum. Michael Collins House Museum opens all year-round Tuesday to Saturday from 10.00am to 5.00pm.



3. Emergency Humanitarian Flooding Scheme for Small Businesses

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has opened the Emergency Humanitarian Support Scheme for small businesses, sports clubs, community, and voluntary organisations who are unable to secure flood insurance and have been affected by recent flooding in County Cork.

The scheme will go some way in assisting businesses, who through no fault of their own, were unable to secure flood insurance, to put right the damage caused by the recent flood and help to ensure they get back up and running as quickly as possible.

As with similar flooding events in the past, the Irish Red Cross will administer and make payments under the Scheme on behalf of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

The scheme is a humanitarian support payment towards the costs of returning small businesses, sporting, voluntary and community premises to their pre-flood condition including the replacement of flooring, fixtures and fittings and damaged stock where relevant. The scheme will not provide a contribution to loss of earnings or loss of business goodwill.

This financial support is targeted at small businesses (up to 20 employees), sports clubs and community and voluntary organisations and will have two stages:

1. The first stage will commence immediately and will provide a contribution of up to €5,000, depending on the scale of damage incurred. It is anticipated that this will meet the needs of the majority of those affected. The intention is to process payments as fast as possible.
2. In the event that the premises has incurred significant damages above €5,000, businesses can apply for additional financial support, following an assessment by the Irish Red Cross. The total level of support available for both stages combined is capped at €20,000.

Applications forms for support are available at www.redcross.ie/flood or can be picked up from the Irish Red Cross Bantry branch. For further information please contact emergencyflooding@redcross.ie.

The closing date for this humanitarian assistance is 7th November 2024, and the Irish Red Cross have stated they would highly value support by the Elected Members in helping get the word out to those affected so that they do not miss the deadline.

3. 2024 CLÁR Programme

Minister Humphreys recently announced over €11.4million for 264 projects under 2024 CLÁR Programme.

The investment will support the development of sports and outdoor facilities such as playgrounds, astro-turf pitches, running tracks and spectator stands.

Community Centres and Local Halls will also be upgraded and given a new lease life as part of the initiative.

There is a big focus too on supporting **Schools** by investing in play areas for our children.

There is also significant funding to develop our green spaces, sensory gardens, and biodiversity areas, with funding also going to a number of our Tidy Towns groups.

The investment of over **€11.4 million** being announced by Minister Humphreys today represents one of the largest allocations under the **CLÁR Programme** to date.

Among the projects being included:

Applicant	Project	Funding
Cork County Council	Refurbishment of Union Hall Playground and MUGA	€50,000
Cork County Council	Refurbishment of Skibbereen Playground	€50,000
Kilcrohane Development Association	Resurfacing and Refurbishment of Kilcrohane MUGA Development	€45,000
Boeing Community Group Millstreet	Upgrade facilities at the Boeing Amenity on the banks of the Blackwater River	€40,499
Castlehaven GAA	Resurfacing Castlehaven GAA 800m running/walking/exercise track	€45,000
Kilcorney Angling & Leisure Group	Renovate scenic river and woodland walk paths	€28,449
St. Catherine's Athletics Club	4 Lane Sprint Running Track, High Jump & Long Jump	€37,978
Barryroe National School	Carpark and Amenity Area	€50,000
Bantry Community Sports Hub	Bantry Sports Hub Mobile Flood Lights	€44,920
Mullach na Réidh Teo, Ionad Áise, Réidh na nDoirí	Improvements to to Ionad Áise Community Building's rear yard	€44,167
Liscarroll Churchtown Gaels GAA Club	Replacing fencing at GAA grounds	€50,000
Castletownbere Development Association	Repairs to Community Owned St. Peter's Church to concert to Social Hub	€45,000
Professor Gerry O'Sullivan Memorial Park	Groundworks and installation of tarmac footpaths	€22,500
Dromtariffe GAA	Form at tiered viewing area along the side of the main pitch including wheelchair access	€48,414
Millstreet Community Council	Refurbishment of Public Toilets in Millstreet	€50,000

Gallanes Amenity Area – Phase 3

Gallanes Phase 3 is substantially complete.

The following works has been carried out:

- 250m of pathway 2.5m wide finished in surface dressing.

- Drainage works within the amenity park.
- 2 No. ponds created as part of a conservation programme for Newts.
- Fencing to ponds and construction of Hibernacula also as part of the conservation works.



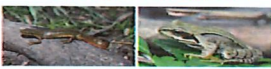
4. Workshop at Gallanes, Clonakilty

Cork County Council, in conjunction with Rob Gandola of the Herpetological Society of Ireland, will be running a workshop specifically aimed at community groups who have an interest in their local amphibian populations. The aim of this workshop is to improve their knowledge base on native amphibians, particularly Smooth Newts, while also providing a capacity building opportunity for local community groups to obtain the skill and confidence necessary to help monitor their important and protected amphibian species into the future.

This is a fully outdoor learning event at Gallanes Lough and is being funded through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund. Anyone wishing to attend the event needs to register in advance as numbers are limited.


For more information or to book a place – contact Michelle or Petra of Planning Policy Unit, Tel. 021 4285900, Email: planningpolicyunit@corkcoco.ie

**Smooth Newt & Common Frog
Survey Techniques**



FREE WORKSHOP
Gallanes Lough, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
Saturday 9th November 2024
from 1:30pm (sharp) to 4:30pm

For more information or to book a place contact Michelle or Petra at
Tel: 021 4285900
Email: planningpolicyunit@corkcoco.ie



This workshop is being funded through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund

5. Cape Clear Library

Leabharlann Oileán Chléire has been officially reopened by Mayor of the County of Cork, Cllr. Joe Carroll and Chief Executive of Cork County Council, Moira Murrell. The library, originally founded in 1978 in The Halla Glas, South Harbour, has played a pivotal role in island life for decades.

Now, after relocating several times over the years and closing in August 2023, the library has reopened in a bright, modern facility in North Harbour, as part of the Comharchumann Chléire Teo premises, alongside the island's Digital Hub.

Mayor Carroll welcomed the new facility saying, “The new Leabharlann Oileán Chléire is just one example of Cork County Council’s commitment to supporting our island communities. Libraries play an important role in bringing people together, fostering learning and preserving local culture. This is a new chapter for the island’s library, with many new opportunities for both residents and visitors to Oileán Chléire.”

Chief Executive of Cork County Council, Moira Murrell added, “This library is not just for books, it’s a community hub that will help foster social and educational development in Oileán Chléire.”

The integration of modern technology, including Starlink satellite connectivity, ensures access to library services, PC, printing and WiFi in the same way as all other Cork County Council Library locations. In addition to offering a valuable year-round service for the island’s population of 120 people, visitors and students will also avail of the library during the Summer months.”

As well as a great selection of books for adults and children and ability to request books from other libraries across the country, there is also a small meeting space for library events such as the island’s long-running monthly book club, author visits and a soon to be established knitting group. The island’s growing interest in knitting, sparked by the recent display of the ‘Geansaí Chléire’ woollen jumper pattern unique to Cape Clear island, has led to plans for a new knitting group on the island.

The Cape Clear Archive collection donated to use by Eamon Lankford is also available to view at the new library. Comprising of the International O Driscoll Memorial Archive and the Cartlann Chléire Lankford, the collection offers a unique insight into life on the island. The archive is made up of 87 bound volumes and 60 boxes of additional archived information.

Leabharlann Oileán Chléire will be open on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 2.00pm to 4.30pm and Thursday from 11.00am to 1.30pm. It will be closed on the Saturday of Bank Holiday weekends. For enquiries please contact (021) 4546499 or email corkcountylibrary@corkcoco.ie



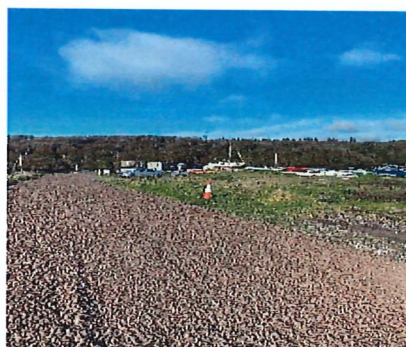
6. The League, Union Hall Anti-Dumping Initiative

A planned clean-up of The League, Union Hall was undertaken by Environment Section, Cork County Council in conjunction with West Cork Municipal District in September 2024. Funding for this clean-up project was provided under the Anti-Dumping Initiative.

The Anti-Dumping Initiative is a fund set up by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications to support local authorities and community organisations

in identifying high risk or problem areas, developing appropriate enforcement responses, and carrying out clean up operations. This is one of 17 local and community-based projects ranging from €500 to €20,000 funded throughout Cork County in 2024. The Anti-Dumping Initiative is co-ordinated through the Waste Enforcement Lead Authorities (WERLAs). Applications for funding are invited through Local Authorities in March/April annually, and works must be completed by October. Proposals for community led projects for 2025 are welcomed by the Environment Directorate to the Anti-Litter Unit on 021 4285518 or at AntiLitterUnit@corkcoco.ie.

As part of this initiative, there was approximately 15 tonnes of waste materials removed, and improvements were carried out to the access route.



7. ORIS – Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2024/2025

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, recently announced a major **€20 million fund** which will support hundreds of outdoor recreation projects across the country.

The 2024/25 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) provides funding for the development of new and existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas. It also provides support for the necessary repair, maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas across Ireland.

The scheme supports outdoor recreation activities such as walking, trekking, cycling, kayaking and hiking. It helps to make use of the resources of the countryside that contribute to healthy active lifestyles. It supports the economic and tourism potential of the area for both local communities and tourist visitors alike.

ORIS 2024/25 provides funding as follows:

Measure 1

- Small scale repair/development/promotion and marketing.
- Funding of up to €40,000 at a 90% rate of aid.
- Maximum of 6 applications can be submitted by each local authority.
- Maximum of 3 applications can be submitted by each local development company.

Measure 2

- Medium scale repair/upgrade and new trail/amenity development.
- Funding of up to €200,000 at a 90% rate of aid.
- Maximum of 3 applications can be submitted by each local authority.

- Maximum of 1 application may be submitted per local development company and state body.

Measure 3

- Large scale repair/upgrade and new strategic trail/amenity development
- Funding of up to €500,000 at a 90% rate of aid
- Local authorities and state bodies can submit 1 application each under this Measure.

Project Development Measure

- Detailed development of projects which would enable them to reach a standard for application under Measure 2 or Measure 3 of ORIS.
- Funding of up to €50,000 at a 90% rate of aid.
- Local authorities can each submit two applications under this Measure.
- Local development companies and state bodies can each submit one application under this Measure.
- Local authorities with inhabited off-shore islands may submit one additional application under this Measure (max. 3 applications) which relates directly to a project on one of the inhabited off-shore islands.

Application Deadline Dates

Measure	Application Deadline Date	Approval (Indicative)	Date	Timeline for Project Completion
Measure 1	5.15pm 14 th February 2025	Q2 2025		18 months
Measure 2	5.15pm 28 th March 2025	Q3 2025		24 months
Measure 3	5.15pm 28 th March 2025	Q3 2025		24 months
Project Development Measure	5.15pm 14 th February 2025	Q2 2025		18 months

8. Outdoor Participation Fund Allocation

The Minister of State for Sport, Physical Education and the Gaeltacht, Thomas Byrne TD, recently confirmed allocations under the new Participation Nation Outdoor Fund.

A total of €2.26million has been allocated to 30 local sports partnerships across the country to support the purchase of and installation of permanent sport infrastructure that can be placed on public land for community use.

In line with the Programme for Government target of reaching 60% overall participation in sport by 2027, the fund is designed to spur physical activity in local community settings by supporting Local Sports Partnerships with the development of barrier-free sport projects on publicly accessible land.

Allocations are funded by the Department and administered by Sports Ireland. Examples of the type of projects supported under the Fund include 3x3 basketball courts, outdoor soccer tables, table tennis, and outdoor gym equipment.

€126,750 was allocated to Cork County for the provision of table tennis tables & equipment, box up units & sports equipment, volleyball nets and equipment, storage container, chess tables, way marking and distant marking signage, pedestrian counters, orienteering, outdoor swimming infrastructure, storage container, rails, ramps, and signage for Cork County Districts including West Cork Islands.

9. Burial Grounds - WCMD

There are twenty-five burial grounds with plot availability and twenty burial grounds that facilitate interment only burials with the West Cork Municipal District.

Approximate availability of plots per Area:

Skibbereen Electoral Area:

Area	Approx. availability
Clonakilty	1,045
Dunmanway	524
Skibbereen	325

Bantry Electoral Area:

Area	Approx. availability
Bantry	312
Castletownbere	929
Schull	87

Maintenance

A maintenance programme is in place for 2024.

Maintenance is carried out by caretakers, who are employed by the Local Authority to carry out these duties outside of their normal working hours. Where resources are limited, contractors are engaged to carry out burial ground maintenance.

Cork County Council continues to actively explore options with a view to identifying suitable locations on both Council and third party owned lands, and in that vein, recent progress includes:

- Glengarriff – CCC land identified with necessary trial hole test confirming suitability. The development of this burial ground is an objective for West Cork Municipal District in the next 3 years, subject to funding.
- Castlehaven Burial Ground - Lands purchased for the development of additional plots, which is an objective for West Cork Municipal District to develop in the future, subject to available funding.
- Skibbereen – Additional plots developed within Coronea Burial Ground. CCC land identified and its suitability to be determined. Other options also being explored. The development of this burial ground is an objective for West Cork Municipal District to develop in the future, subject to available funding.
- Kilcrohane – Suitable sites to be identified and land acquisition progressed subject to available funding.
- Glandore - Lands purchased for the development of additional plots, which is an objective for West Cork Municipal District to develop in the future, subject to available funding.
- Caheragh – New burial ground under development.
- Bantry – Land available within existing Abbey Burial ground and additional plots will be developed as required.
- Schull – Suitable site to be identified and land acquisition progressed.

Cork County Council are reviewing all council burial grounds in West Cork at present with a view to coming up with a programme of works based on priority.

End of Report

Cllr. D. Kelly requested an update on the Outdoor Participation Fund allocations, in response Noreen O' Mahony S.E.O. advised that the funding was granted to Cork Sports Partnership and the Council had not been advised of the specific locations for the funding yet.

Cllr. D. Kelly queried the rollout of columbarium walls in burial grounds. In response Noreen O' Mahony noted that a programme needed to be developed for the rollout in West Cork.

Cllr. N. O'Donovan welcomed the Burial Ground report and requested that Rossmore burial ground be included in future reports. He called for the maintenance programme to be done throughout the year and not to confine it to the summer months.

Cllr. J. Carroll highlighted an issue with Skibbereen burial grounds where additional plots were installed on the walkways along the fencing bounding the road.

Cllr. D. Sexton highlighted the need to put accessible footpaths into burial grounds as a lot of burial grounds had stone pathways which were not accessible for wheelchairs.

Cllr. P.G. Murphy concurred with Cllr. Sexton and requested that all new burials grounds should have wheelchair accessible paths going forward.

Cllr. D. Collins queried the report and expressed his concern that the report should not be categorised by electoral areas and he requested a breakdown of plots in Kilcrohane/Glengarriff and Goleen. In response Noreen O'Mahony S.E.O. noted that a development priority listing will be based on factors such as usage and works will be based on priority and cautioned that funding was limited.

Cllr. P.G. Murphy queried the closing the date for the Power Up Scheme. Eimear O' Neill S/MDO noted that the closing date was Thursday 7th November. Cllr. F. Harrington expressed concern that if a business had not previously applied for the first scheme that they are unable to apply for the Power Up Scheme and highlighted that businesses could miss the deadline if that issue is not addressed. Eimear O' Neill advised that members could contact Susan O'Leary in the Rates Department with any specific queries in relation to applications for the scheme.

3. STATUTORY BUSINESS /GNO REACHTUIL

Section 183 – Notices

In accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notices circulated to members.

Bantry Enterprise Park, Bantry

<u>Situation:</u>	Disposal of Site and Right of way at Bantry Enterprise Park, Bantry, Co. Cork.
<u>Area:</u>	Site measuring c. 0.39 hectares and right of way coloured yellow as outlined on attached map.
<u>From whom acquired:</u>	In CCC ownership since 1991.
<u>To Dispose To:</u>	Rainbow Childcare (Bantry).
<u>Consideration:</u>	€75,000.00.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Collins, seconded by Cllr. P.G. Murphy, members approved the above disposal and recommended it to full plenary Council for consideration.

4. NOTICES OF MOTION/ FOGRA RUN

(a) **Proposed by Cllr. Isobel Towse, seconded by Cllr. D. Collins**

"That this council would re-instate Tetra Pak recycling at Clonakilty Civic Amenity Site, and at all sites across West Cork".

Eimear O' Neill Acting MD Officer Response

Tetra Pak has always been and still is accepted in the mixed recycling compactors at the Skibbereen, Derryconnell and Castletownbere facilities.

Tetra Pak is also now accepted for recycling in the cardboard compactor at Clonakilty CAS.

Cllr. I. Towse queried the recycling process of Tetra Pak and expressed concern that it may be incinerated.

Cllr. D. Collins reported that the Castletownbere Civic Amenity site was closed during the week at very short notice due to staffing issues which caused a lot of frustration for

people in the local area. Cllr. F. Harrington reported that the closures are a recurring issue and it may lead to fly tipping if people have travelled a long distance to use the amenity to find that it is closed. Cllr. D. Kelly noted that her recent request to reinstate the cardboard recycling facility in Dunmanway on a trial basis was refused due to the costs involved but she highlighted that the cardboard facility is a self service facility and is not staffed and requested that her request be reviewed again. Noreen O' Mahony noted that the Divisional Manager and the DOS Environment had noted the matters for review at the Western Divisional meeting and they would revert to the members in due course.

(b) Proposed by Cllr. Finbarr Harrington, seconded by Cllr. P.G. Murphy

“That this council would extend the street lighting in Ardgroom Village on the R571 road to Castletownbere to include the remaining houses without lighting”.

Kevin Lynch E.E. Bantry Response

CCC's public lighting section were consulted with the response below:

Cork County Council's policy on prioritisation of new lights, attached, prohibits the extension of public lighting into rural areas outside of the speed limit (indicative of the limit of urban development) and more especially so where no footpath is present. Policy below:-

Policy on Prioritisation of Public lighting Schemes for PL Programmes

When considering priorities for projects which merit funding from public lighting programmes, the following criteria should apply;

- 1. Small scale infill projects within Town/Village Centers.*
- 2. Urban roadways within the environs of Cork City, where there are significant traffic volumes and where a footway exists/proposed and there is a likelihood of significant pedestrian use late into the evening.*
- 3. Links to Housing estates on the fringes of towns/villages where public lighting exists within the estate already and where a footpath exists or is proposed to link to center.*
- 4. Pedestrian links to railway stations/bus stops in urban zones.*
- 5. Along existing or proposed new footpaths within 50 kph speed limit zones, where late evening/nighttime use by pedestrians is likely. (PL could be installed in conjunction with a proposed new footpath project, where warranted).*
- 6. At busy traffic junctions within city environs and town centre locations.*
- 7. Avoid erecting new lights outside of speed limit zones save for exceptional circumstances (rural bus stop, amenity walkway) and in such circumstances consider the use of solar powered lights as an alternative.*
- 8. Upgrading of poor intensity old lighting stock which has lost its effectiveness, especially in town/village centers or where non-standard poor quality lighting stock exists in areas.*
- 9. Amenity footpaths in public areas, which are accessible to plant for installation and subsequent maintenance. If these are not adjacent to public roads, then they should be timed to come on at dusk and off at midnight.*

John Ahern S.E.E. requested that the members contact the local Area Offices if they are aware of any area that are looking for public lights bearing in mind the policy as the Area Offices area applying for funding.

Cllr. F. Harrington reported that a housing development in Allihies village requires public lighting and Kevin Lynch noted that matter for follow up.

(c) Proposed by Cllr. Finbarr Harrington, seconded by Cllr. P.G. Murphy

“That this Council would give a full financial report and update on the current status of the playground in Bere Island”.

Kevin Lynch E.E Response

The original design was commissioned by Bere Islands Project Group (BIPG) who also applied for planning permission. Funding was applied for from CLAR and DCRD, with the design amended to match available funding. A small works tender was invited for the construction of the infrastructure for the playground and a footpath to ‘The Hotel’. Another tender was invited for the playground equipment and playground surfacing. Four invited for infrastructure. Equipment and surfacing from members of playground framework.

- To date a total of €112,744.16 has been expended on the playground.
€57,672.08 for playground equipment and playground surfacing.
€55,072.08 on playground infrastructure, footpath and additional works.
- Cork County Council completed the playground.
- A request was made 18 months after the completion of the playground i.e. that a railing be erected on the wall.
- On completion of the playground an inspection was carried out to ROSPA standards.
- The playground remains in the ownership of BIPG.

Cllr. F. Harrington queried the ownership of the playground and requested clarification if there was a lease agreement between the land owner and Cork County Council. Cllr. P.G. Murphy requested an update on who got the funding to develop the playground, who will maintain it. Noreen O’ Mahony S.E.O. noted the matter for further investigation and will revert to the members in due course.

(d) Proposed by Cllr. Finbarr Harrington, seconded by Cllr. P.G. Murphy

“That this Council would liaise with NPWS to address the major problem and many traffic accidents happening on our public roadways caused by the currently overpopulated “Deer” and their link to the possible spread of disease in both humans and farm animals”.

Eimear O’ Neill Acting MD Officer Response

The Environment Directorate has no functional role in the management of deer. Responsibility rests with the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine (DAFM) and as indicated in the motion is dealt with by the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), who are under the control of DAFM.

Members may be aware that in December last, government published the report of the Deer Management Strategy Group which contained a number of short term

recommendations including the appointment of a program manager nationally, local coordinators, as well as providing for the set up of Deer Management Units in critical/hot spot areas and changes to the hunting season period. At the time of the launch it was indicated that the Strategy Group would develop and advance an initial implementation plan for these and other short-term recommendations and report back to Minister within 9 months. We have sought an update from NPWS on progress and will revert when we receive a response.

For the information of members, the report of the Deer Management Working Group can be accessed on <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/e2309-deer-management-strategy-group-report-launched>

(e) Proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Kelly, seconded by Cllr. D. Collins

“That the Individual Property Protection Scheme would be rolled out in West Cork in light of recent flooding”.

John Slattery County Engineer Response:

Cork County Council received approval of funding from the OPW on 7th October 2024 for the supply and installation of 32 floodgates in 20 properties subject to tidal flooding in Bantry. Cork County Council has since tendered for the floodgates and for a contractor to undertake any remedial works required to allow the operation of the floodgates – e.g. squaring of openings for doors. A preferred tenderer has been identified for the supply of the floodgates and a contract will be put in place in early November 2024. Cork County Council will endeavour to provide floodgates to property owners where possible before the end of 2024. However, for some types of floodgates, there is a longer lead in period for delivery. Therefore some property owners may not receive floodgates until Q1 2025.

In parallel with the above process, an additional 50 properties in Bantry have been surveyed in recent weeks to identify if these would benefit from floodgates. An assessment of these surveys is currently being undertaken, with a view to making a further application funding to the OPW for the provision of floodgates to additional properties.

(f) Proposed by Cllr. Danny Collins, seconded by Cllr. P. G. Murphy

“I am calling on the Council to give an update on the placing an of an extra pontoon on the Western Pier at Bere Island. This is imperative before an accident is going to happen due to the high volume of usage on the existing pier”.

Noreen O'Mahony WCMD SEO Response

Ownership and responsibility for Oileán na gCaorach is being clarified at present. This clarity is required in advance of Cork County Council considering any investment in the pier. Legal advice has been received and is being considered. This is a complex situation due to a number of legislative changes that have occurred over the years. A further update will be provided to the members in the coming months.

(g) Proposed by Cllr. Danny Collins, seconded by Cllr. P. G. Murphy

"I am calling on the Council to contract a company to check that all the culverts in Bantry town are free from any large debris and rubbish at least 6 times a year, and when the culvert works are complete we can revisit this again".

Kevin Lynch E.E. Bantry Response

Cork County Council have previously identified a number of potential problem areas on the streams/ivers that flow into the culvert, and these are maintained on a regular basis. These locations are inspected/cleaned before forecasted weather events and again after the forecasted weather events have passed. This work is carried out by the Roads Operations staff in the Bantry Area who have extensive knowledge of the existing drainage systems and it is not proposed to employ external contractors at this point.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. D. Collins highlighted an issue with a road near Ballylickey which had been badly damaged by Coillte, in response Kevin Lynch E.E. noted that the Bantry Area Office had been in contact with Coillte and repairs were being carried out to the road this week.

Noreen O'Mahony gave an update to the parking issue in Baltimore noting that the MD office is in consultation with the greenways team regarding their plans for the West Cork Greenway from Skibbereen to Baltimore as they develop route corridor options and to see if there is potential to develop additional parking in conjunction with their plans. In the interim we will review existing parking in the village to see if there is any potential to free up spaces or create additional spaces. Cllr. N. O' Donovan queried if there was any land that the Council owned that could be developed for a carpark. Cllr. Carroll noted that there was land available, but it had a complicated history with Fáilte Ireland. Cllr. J. Carroll queried if the carpark was put in place originally for island use during Eamon O'Cuiv's tenure. Cllr. Carroll queried if a islanders pass systems needed to be put in place or a short-term and long-term parking system and highlighted how Dingle deal with the issue of car parking and dealing with boat trailers.

Cllr. F. Harrington reported that a lot of roads were damaged during the recent flooding and requested that all efforts should be followed up to get extra funding to repair these roads. In reply Kevin Lynch E.E. noted that there is a lot of roads reported and funding is being sought for the repairs.

Cllr. N. O'Donovan reported that a lot of farm property was also damaged by flooding and requested that a letter be written to the Dept of Agriculture to put a package in place for farmers.

Cllr. C. Cronin wished congratulations to Durrus village for their recent Pride of Place ware and wished to acknowledge the hard work and credit that was due to the community in Durrus.

Noreen O' Mahony S.E.O. gave an update on the Sherkin Island public toilets noting that the Council are engaging with the island development group in relation to the long-term provision of toilets on the island. She also stated that the council is engaging

locally to see if there are any short-term solutions that could be in place. Any proposals would be subject to coming to a suitable arrangement that is value for money. Eco toilets require considerable maintenance and regular desludging and putting arrangements in place in conjunction with an existing premises on the island is considered a more optimal solution.

The Mayor J. Carroll on behalf of the members wished to send the members best regards to Jackie Mansfield and wished her a speedy recovery.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH _____ **DATE** _____

