

**MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH.**

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

**Officials:** Ms. Sharon Corcoran, D.O.S.  
Ms. N. Brennan, S/SEO  
P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer  
G. O’Hora, Snr. Executive Engineer  
R. O’Sullivan, Executive Engineer  
Ms. C. McDonnell, Cobh Municipal District.

Apologies were received from Cllr. S. Sheppard for her inability to attend.

**1.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024.**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. G. Curley, the Minutes of the Cobh Municipal District Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 were adopted.

**2.0 Matters Arising.**

**Overgrowth at Carrigaloe:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that CCC have cut back the hedge overgrowth at Carrigaloe.

**Rahilly Street & Harbour Hill:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that the roadway had been temporarily repaired and further works would be carried out when the weather improves.

**Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill:**

G. O’Hora stated that works have been carried out.

**Ballyrichard/Carrigan:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that additional safety signs had been ordered and would be erected as soon as they arrive.

**Newtown & St. Marys School:**

G. O’Hora stated that the contractor has replaced the damaged bollards.

**Barrymore Avenue:**

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

**Joe Reid Place, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated that the Children at Play signs have been erected.

**Bus Shelter at Knockraha:**

G. O’Hora stated contractor is scheduled to erect bus shelter during February.

**Wall at Seaview, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated that wall at Seaview is listed for inspected.

**Potholes by Mills Garage, Cobh:**

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

**Wrotten Poles for safety buoys on Five Foot Way:**

G. O’Hora stated that the replacement poles had been ordered.

**Fencing at College Manor, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated that this matter had been referred to the developer for repair.

**Roadway at Centre of town in Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated that roadway was listed for a hot-patch repair.

**Church Road, Carrigtwohill:**

G. O’Hora stated that the potholes had been repaired, the new sign for the Church had been ordered and the road lining would be carried out when the weather improves.

**Quarry at Rossmore:**

G. O’Hora stated that the quarry had been contacted regarding their lorries driving through Carrigtwohill. They are to submit traffic management plan.

**Sightlines at Glounthaune:**

G. O’Hora stated that to improve sightlines at the junction it was proposed to remove two road car parking spaces in front of the Church.

**Road lining at Hilltop Park:**

G. O’Hora stated that this road lining work was listed for when the weather improves.

**Blocked Drain by the Monument in Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated that the drain had been unblocked.

**Footpath at Springfield Park, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated that the footpath was listed for repair.

**St. Colman’s Square, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated that the road surface was listed for repair and the works would be carried out shortly.

**Signage at Coolamber:**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if additional “Slow Down” signage could be erected in this area before the pedestrian access is opened up from the new estate as children will be exiting on the main road.

Engineer agreed to examine.

**Bollard and wall at Newtown:**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen said that the broken bollards have not been replaced yet and the private wall damaged by the contractors needs to be replastered.

G. O’Hora stated that he would contact the contractors again.

**Pothole at Top of Hill, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated that the pothole was listed for a hot patch repair.

**Trees at Fota:**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if a letter had issued to the owners of Fota regarding the overhanging trees.

G. O’Hora stated CCC would send a letter to landowners requesting overhanging trees to be cut back.

**Programme of works for Signage:**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if the programme of works for signage could be circulated to the Members.

G. O’Hora stated that it will be circulated quarterly.

**Caravans at the Five Foot Way car park:**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if there was any update.

P. Lynch stated that he has been in contact with the Gardaí and the Council’s solicitors in relation to this issue.

**Bus Stop at Park Road, Cobh:**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if there was any update on a meeting with Cobh Connect to address the locations of the bus stops at Park Road and Ballynoe.

P. Lynch confirmed that a letter had issued before Christmas and that no reply had been received to date. Cllr. C. Rasmussen said that he had a contact in Cobh Connect. It was agreed that P. Lynch would ring to arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

**Port of Cork:**

Cllr. D. Finn asked if there was any update on a meeting with the Port of Cork.

P. Lynch stated that the Port of Cork have said that they will revert by the end of January with a suitable date for a meeting with the Members.

**Toilet Block Whitepoint:**

P. Lynch stated that a repair crew are due to inspect the toilet block this week.

**Proposed Meeting between the Gardaí and members of Cobh M.D.**

P. Lynch to follow up on arranging a suitable date.

**3.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence.**

P. Lynch informed Members that he had written to Cobh Connect on 11<sup>th</sup> December, but no response had been received to date.

**4.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigigh / Officer's Reports.**

**Roads Restoration Maintenance Programme 2025.**

G. O’Hora presented the Roads Restoration Maintenance Programme for 2025 to the Members. He outlined the 18 projects throughout the Municipal District listed for surface dressing (tar and chip).

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan asked what the approx. cost of the entire programme.

G. O’ Hora stated that the RM grant allocation is €560k (This amount could vary from year to year)

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the Roads Restoration Maintenance Programme as presented, was approved.

### **Roads Drainage Programme 2025**

G. O’Hora presented the Roads Drainage Programme for 2025 throughout the M.D. area.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. D. Finn, the Roads Restoration Maintenance Programme as presented, was approved.

### **Section 38 - Public Consultation**

G. O’Hora told the Members that the proposals for the following works would be advertised on the Echo on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

- a) Proposed Pedestrian Crossing at Newtown, Cobh.
- b) Proposed Traffic calming measures at Carrignafof, Cobh.
- c) Proposed Traffic calming measures at Caherlag.
- d) Proposed Traffic calming measures at R639, Watergrasshill.

G. O’Hora stated that there would be a 4 week period for submissions and confirmed that drawings will be available for inspection in the Cobh MD Office, Carrig House, Cobh and CCC’s road office, Ballinglanna as well as online.

## **5.0 Tuairisc ó Oifigeach Ceantair Bardasacha / Municipal District Officer's Report.**

P. Lynch circulated the figures collected relating to the Community Fund Scheme, Town Development Fund and the figures for Pay Parking for the year to date.

P. Lynch stated that the income from the pay parking machines and the Camper Van facility were up on last year.

### **2025 Community Fund Scheme**

P. Lynch advised the Members that details of the 2025 Community Fund Scheme will be advertised in the coming weeks. Applications will be accepted between 13<sup>th</sup> January and 14<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Village Enhancement Scheme 2025**

As agreed by the members at the December meeting, the Village Enhancement Scheme funding for 2025 will be allocated to Carrignavar. P. Lynch confirmed that he had notified the Carrignavar Community Council of this decision to allow them to commence the process of identifying suitable projects.

### **Local Festival & Event Fund 2025**

P. Lynch told the Members that this fund was launched by Cork County Council in December.

The programme supports festivals and events that stimulate economic growth, celebrate local culture, and attract domestic visitors to Cork County.

Grant amounts of up to €6,000 available for eligible Festivals and Events. Applications must be submitted by 5pm on Monday 20th January. Further information and the application form are available at <https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/visitor/festivals/local-festival-event-fund-2025>

Cllr. Rasmussen asked if there was any update on when the revised Parking Byelaws would go out for Public Consultation.

P. Lynch stated that the draft by-laws have now been sent to N. Brennan, and she will submit them to the County Solicitors Office to ensure that there were no legal issues.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if the proposed meeting with the Cobh Tidy Towns could be followed up on.

P. Lynch to arrange meeting to be held within the next few weeks.

### **6.0 Review of Cobh Municipal District Parks Use Policy**

P. Lynch asked the Members to examine the policy as licences are up for renewal in 2025. The item will be placed on the agenda for the February meeting where any issues/suggestions can be raised.

### **7.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.**

- 1. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:**  
That Cobh MD would look at speed Calming measures to be undertaken within the Rushbrooke Manor Estate.

As Cllr. S. Sheppard was not in attendance at the meeting, it was agreed to defer this motion until the February meeting.

- 2. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan:**

That Cobh Municipal District would include Clash Road, Little Island for traffic calming measures including speed ramps.

**Response:** CCC will assess the L-2987, Clash Road, Little Island for traffic calming measures in accordance with CCC Traffic calming policy.

The L-2987, Clash Road will initially be examined to see whether it complies with basic criteria before it receives further consideration.

These criteria are:

- The site must be inside a 50 kph speed limit zone. Where short circuiting (rat running) is an issue a lower speed limit may be considered.

- There must be a significant majority (two thirds) of residents in favour of the introduction of traffic calming.
- In the case of a through road the minimum length of road shall be 300m.
- In the case of a cul-de-sac the minimum length of road shall be 150 m.
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If the request complies with these initial criteria, a further assessment will be carried out under the following headings and assigning a score for each heading.

- Accident History/Data
- 85th Percentile Speed
- Vulnerable Road Users
- Traffic Volumes
- Local Conditions

In consultation with the members (area committee) a list of schemes will be established and agreed based on the rankings from the priority assessment form.

Implementation of any scheme will be subject to funding.

G. O’Hora stated that the first step in the process is to reduce the speed limit in estates from 50km to 30km ph. A speed survey is then carried out and based on the results, speed calming measures like the installation of buildouts, ramps can be looked at.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the costs of ramps is very expensive and said that the installation of cameras would be a better option, whereby fines could issue for excessive speed.

G. O’Hora said traffic speed is traffic enforcement matter and the Gardai are the enforcement authority. Erection of speed cameras is not a policy that can be dealt with locally but countywide and with the Gardaí.

G. O’Hora also stated that there have been a number of similar requests for traffic calming measures over the last 12 months, and he is working his way through them.

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

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

That a full update be given on the planned public realms for both Cobh and Carrigtwohill and if the funding will be available this year to commence work on the projects.

**Response:** This Motion has been referred to the relevant Section within Cork County Council and the response will be circulated to members once it is received.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if CCC had received the money for the centre of the town from Irish Water.

P. Lynch confirmed that it was received.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that planning permission has been granted for 1300 houses in Carrigtwohill, yet the road has not been upgraded. He also said that there is no guarantee of funding for the Carrigtwohill Public Realm.

N. Brennan told the members that a meeting has been held with the Divisional Managers and proposals have gone to Senior Management for the appointment of a contractor to carry out the detailed design for all phases of the Cobh Public Realm.

N. Brennan confirmed that CCC has the funding in place and that the detailed design should be completed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2025.

N. Brennan told the Members that she would invite staff from the Active Travel Department to a meeting with the Members to discuss the proposed projects throughout the district.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if there was any update on a call-out for funding from the Department. P. Lynch said that no announcement had been made yet.

Cllr. A. Barry asked if there was a time limit on Part 8 applications. P. Lynch stated that a Part 8 does not run out unless there is a variation to the application.

Cllr. G. Curley stated that he was not happy with the proposed loss of parking spaces at the Top of the Hill and asked if there can be variations to the separate phases of the plan.

N. Brennan stated that this discussion was premature until the detailed designed phase is completed.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the motion was adopted.

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

That work can be undertaken on the sections of footpaths near the train station in Cobh heading in the direction to white point and that the drainage can be improved to prevent flooding as is happening regularly now.

**Response:** CCC will examine footpaths and road drainage on the L-2965-20 road from the train station, Cobh town heading towards Whitepoint as part of the 2025 Cobh MD footpath and road drainage programme.

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

R. O'Sullivan stated that the drains will be checked in this area and lower sections of footpath will be raised to prevent flooding.

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

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

Can consideration be given to making the grates on roads bigger in many areas to deal with the volume of water flowing due to heavy rain as it appears some of the grates at present cannot handle the volume of water.

**Response:** CCC have examined road drainage and road gully grates at various locations around Cobh and increased grating size to cater for increased flow and volume of road surface water.

As part of the Cobh MD 2025 road drainage programme CCC will further examine road drainage and road gully locations around Cobh town and will increase gully grating size if deemed necessary.

R. O’Sullivan told the members that larger sized grates had been used in Rushbrooke and are working well. He agreed to discuss specific areas to trial with the members.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the use of larger grates should be looked at in the design phase of planning applications and asked if this matter could be brought to full Council.

P. Lynch to arrange submission of Notice of Motion to full Council.

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

**8.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business.**

**Cllr. S. O’Callaghan:**

Cllr. O’Callaghan asked if the drains on the Ballytrasna Road, Little Island near Centra could be cleared of leaves.

G. O’Hora said that while these drains are cleared on a regular basis there are a large number of trees with leaves falling constantly. He suggested that a bigger grate could be trialled in this location.

**Cllr. D. Finn:**

Cllr. D. Finn asked if a grate could be placed at the exist of the Cathedral Gates on the right hand side as there is a big drop from the level of the road and pedestrians have had falls.

Engineer to examine.

**Cllr. C. Rasmussen:**

1) Raised the issue of flooding by the Dockyard.

Engineer stated R624 road and road drains are scheduled for cleaning.

2) Can we find out when Irish Rail will be finished their work on the bridge as it is closed off for months.

R. O’Sullivan to follow up.



- 3) The dyke at Cuskinny needs attention.  
Engineer stated valve chamber had been checked and is not blocked.
- 4) Asked if the design of the proposed barrier at Cuskinny has been sent to the property owners.  
P. Lynch confirmed that it had been sent to the owners for their consideration.
- 5) Potholes on the Newtown Road  
Engineer stated potholes are listed for repair.
- 6) Asked when the School Safe Scheme at Ticknock would be finished.  
G. O'Hora stated that this scheme was being carried out by the Traffic and Transportation Dept. and suggested that they be invited to a meeting to update the members.
- 7) Patching at the bottom of East Hill, the ground is very rutted.  
Engineer to examine.
- 8) Wall at Connolly Street in need of repair.  
Update to be sought from CCC coastal dept.
- 9) Raised the issue of Outdoor furniture licences enabling the placing of Tables and Chairs on valuable car parking spaces throughout the winter months when they are not being used for outdoor dining.  
P. Lynch suggested that we discuss this matter in full immediately after the upcoming meeting with Cobh Tidy Towns.  
This was agreed.

**Cllr. A. Barry:**

- 1) Raised the issue of the dangers of the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing at Barryscourt junction, Carrigtwohill. Cllr. Barry said that the volume of traffic passing through this junction is huge and drivers cannot see the crossing.  
Engineer to examine.
- 2) Timeline for lighting and footpath at Cedars Estate, Glounthaune  
Engineer to follow up.
- 3) Blocked gulley outside the credit union, Carrigtwohill.  
R. O'Sullivan confirmed that this gulley had been unblocked.
- 4) Policy for the naming of new roads.  
P. Lynch to follow up.

**Cllr. G. Curley:**

- 1) Asked if we can get a completion date for the ESB works at Ticknock  
Engineer to follow up with ESB.

- 2) Issue of cars parking on footpaths by Coláiste Mhuire at school times.  
Cllr. Curley asked if the traffic warden could be sent up as pedestrians are forced to go onto the road, especially those with buggies.  
N. Brennan suggested that the gardaí would have a better outcome than the warden.  
P. Lynch to contact the Gardaí.
- 3) Double yellow lines at Glounthaune Train Station.  
Engineer stated cars are parking on the double yellow lines and obstructing sight lines at the train station entrance. Matter to be discussed with the Gardai.

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

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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CATHOIRLEACH

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MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER.