



MINUTES OF WEST CORK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
held in Dunmanway Pool and MS Teams at 11.00 am on Friday 7th February 2025

- Members Present:** Cllrs. Patrick Gerard Murphy, Caroline Cronin,
Danny Collins, Deirdre Kelly, Finbarr Harrington,
Noel O'Donovan, Isobel Towse, Daniel Sexton.
- Council Officials:** Nicola Radley, Manager W.C.M. D.
Noreen O' Mahony, S.E.O. W.C.M.D.
Eimear O' Neill S/MDO W.C.M.D.
John Ahern, SEE, Skibbereen
Kevn Lynch EE, Bantry
Martina O'Driscoll, Meeting Administrator W.C.M.D.
- Apologies:** Cllr. Joe Carroll

Cllr. PG Murphy presided.

Statutory Meeting

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(a) *Minutes of West Cork Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 6TH January 2025*

Proposed by Cllr. Caroline Cronin, Seconded by Cllr. Deirdre. Kelly

Resolved:

"That the minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 6th January 2025 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach".

(b) *Minutes (as circulated) of 'In Committee' West Cork Municipal District meeting dated 6th January 2025.*

Proposed by Cllr. Finbarr Harrington, Seconded by Cllr. Daniel Sexton

Resolved:

"That the minutes of 'In Committee' Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 6th January 2025 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach".

MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. D. Collins reported that there was an extremely long delay in commissioning the pedestrian crossing lights at Newtown Bantry.

Cllr. D. Collins highlighted the hedge cutting he requested for road at the Enterprise park, Bantry had not been done and he advised that he had sought quotations from private contractors.

2. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Municipal District Officer's Report – 7th February 2025

1. Cork County Council Community Fund Scheme 2025

Reminder deadline for submission of applications regarding Cork County Council's 3 No. Community Fund Schemes 2025 is 4.00pm Friday 14th February 2025.

2. Community Recognition Fund 2024 – Window 3

Reminder deadline for submission of applications regarding Community Recognition Fund 2024 – Window 3 is 4.00pm Monday 17th February 2025.

3. Cork County Council Local Enhancement Programme 2025

Cork County Council is inviting applications from community and voluntary groups for funding under the new Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) Fund 2025. The scheme follows on from the very successful 2024 programme which supported over 160 groups in Cork County.

Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, the LEP allocation of €277,633 for County Cork will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities and to purchase equipment such as furniture, tools, signage, IT equipment, lawnmowers, canopies, and training equipment. The fund can also support non-pay running costs, for example, energy costs, rental/lease costs, or insurance bills.

This funding will help communities, community groups and committees, allowing them to continue to provide valuable services to the people in their area, and in the process strengthen the bonds that tie communities together. The fund also aims to support local strategic priorities through linkages with local Economic Community Plans (LECPs)

The closing date for applications is Monday the 17th of February at 3.00pm

For further information, click on link below or contact the Council's Local Community Development Unit on (021) 4285797 or (021) 4285828 or email communitydevelopmentunit@corkcoco.ie.

The LEP is supported by Cork County Council's three Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs).

4. Michael Collins House Education & Outreach Programme

As part of the Michael Collins House education and outreach programme, the museum hosted a special 'History Scoops' on Friday 31st January 2025.

The aim of these free events is to make history more accessible to all, with three informal history talks taking place in the relaxed casual environment of De Barra's Folk Club. The speakers will also attend Clonakilty Community College earlier in the day to bring these talks to a younger audience.

5. Three Storytellers for the West Cork Islands

Cork County Council has announced a Storytellers in Residence Programme for the West Cork Islands. Supported by Creative Places West Cork Islands, an Arts Council-funded initiative that aims to build sustained arts investment and create opportunities for local arts programmes.

The residency will see acclaimed storytellers Paddy O'Brien, Nuala Hayes and Simone Schuemmelfeder undertake a 10-month residency across the seven inhabited West Cork islands: Dursey, Bere, Whiddy, Long, Heir, Sherkin and Oileán Chléire with their project entitled 'Three Heads / Na Trí Chinn on Seven Islands'.

Paddy O'Brien, Nuala Hayes, and Simone Schuemmelfeder have worked with communities, arts centres, and storytelling festivals for many years. Storyteller Paddy O'Brien expressed the groups excitement for starting the project, saying: "Nuala, Simone and I are excited to further develop our relationships with the islands and connect with islanders of all ages through the art of storytelling."

The residency will combine participatory live events, song, story-exchange, research into existing folklore and island stories, video, podcasting, and visual art inspired by island stories. As with many of the Creative Places West Cork Islands programming, there will be an emphasis on connecting different islands and islanders through the arts, as well as responding to the rich creativity already on the islands. The residency will engage with the Cape Clear Storytelling Festival, as well as Storytellers of Ireland.

Rose Woods, Director of the Cape Clear Storytelling Festival added, "We look forward to partnering with the storytellers and Creative Places West Cork Islands in order to connect further with islands and also to platform our festival, which is an international highlight on the storytelling calendar."

To keep up to date with the residency, visit the Creative Places West Cork Islands website at www.creativeplaceswci.ie

The Storytellers in Residence programme is supported by Cork County Council and Creative Places: West Cork Islands, an Arts Council initiative.

6. Cork County Council's Circular Economy Fund 2025

Cork County Council has launched a second round of its Circular Economy Fund, with the aim of empowering local action to reduce waste. The fund aims to support communities to move away from the traditional linear 'take-make-use-dispose' model towards more circular living where resources are reused or recycled.

This year, schools, community groups, sports clubs, and festivals are invited to submit proposals aimed at minimising single use plastics. These plastic materials pose a significant threat to our environment, contributing to pollution in our oceans and harming wildlife.

With an increasing demand from the public to reduce single use plastics and a desire from communities to act, the fund will support projects such as the installation of temporary or permanent water refill stations or reusable cup or container schemes in schools, community buildings, sports clubs and at festivals. The Council hopes to build on the success of recent years, which has seen over 40 water refill stations installed in schools and community buildings as well as numerous pilot mobile hydration stations at events across the county.

Applications for the Circular Economy Fund are now open and will be accepted online until Friday the 21st of February at 5:00pm. Eligible applicants in the Cork County Council administrative area include schools, community groups, sports clubs, festivals and events. Commercial, for-profit bodies are not eligible. Only applications addressing the single use plastics theme will be assessed in the 2025 Fund, the ambition is to focus on a wider range of circular themes in future years.

7. Dunmanway Swimming Pool – Extended Opening Hours

The pool will open at the earlier time of 7.00am on Monday, Wednesday & Friday of each week, beginning from 31st January 2025. This is for a trial period of 4 weeks.

It will be reviewed at the end of the trial period and if there is sufficient demand, it may be extended.

8. Jack L to perform in Skibbreen Town Hall

As part of his Unbroken Songs Tour 2025, Cork County Council will welcome Jack Lukeman to Skibbreen Town Hall on Saturday, the 22nd of March.

Join Jack L for an unforgettable evening celebrating resilience, hope, love, and dreams through his extraordinary musical journey. *'Unbroken Songs'* draws from Jack's 30-year career, during which he has uplifted spirits and touched hearts worldwide, performing through joyful and challenging times.

The show will offer fans a powerful emotional journey from the bold energy of tracks like Georgie Boy, If We Only Have Love, and Keep Dancing to the reflective depth of Open Your Borders and the life-affirming Wicked Way.

"These songs carry the lessons and experiences I've gathered along the way," Jack reflects. "Music has always been what helps us push forward, especially when things get tough. This tour is a journey through my life, immersed in songs."

In *'Unbroken Songs'*, audiences will experience the evolution of an artist whose distinctive storytelling and powerful voice continue to captivate. The show features signature tracks and rare gems while marking the 20th anniversary of Jack's seminal album *'Broken Songs'*, offering fans a fresh opportunity to revisit this landmark work. "These songs have grown with me," Jack says. "Playing them now feels like coming full circle."

Tickets are priced at €30 (incl. booking fee) and are available from www.tickets.ie

End of Report

3. STATUTORY BUSINESS /GNO REACHTUIL

(a) SECTION 11 NOTICES

That, being satisfied that a public right of way exists over it, and the roads are of general public utility, Cork County Council hereby declares pursuant to Section 11(1) of the Roads Act, 1993 the following roads to be public roads: -

ESTATE NAME	LOCATION	LINEAR METRES
<i>An Clochán</i>	<i>Kilcrohane</i>	<i>95</i>
<i>Ardmanagh Beg</i>	<i>Schull</i>	<i>136</i>
<i>The Arches</i>	<i>Ballydehob</i>	<i>278</i>
<i>Fan Mor</i>	<i>Kilcrohane</i>	<i>154</i>
<i>Dun Orga</i>	<i>Dunmanway</i>	<i>416</i>

On the proposal of Cllr. Caroline Cronin, seconded by Cllr. Danny Collins, members approved the above declarations of a public road at the five estate locations noted above.

(b) PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (as amended) – Part XI PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (as amended) - Part 8

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and in accordance with the requirements of Part 8, Article 81 and Article 83 of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) that Cork County Council proposes to carry out the following development:

Proposed Bantry Mill Culvert Upgrade Project - Report of Chief Executive.

The proposed development comprises of the following:

- Reconstruction of a new Mill River Culvert along Bridge Street and New Street and Wolfe Tone Square and connection to the existing Mill River Culvert at chainage 80m.
- Connect to existing drainage/ services at William Street and Main Street.
- Repair/upgrade works to be carried out to the Mill River Culvert from Chainage 0 to 80m.
- Road and footpath reinstatement works.

- Removal and reinstatement of the central section of Wolf Tone Square architectural feature will be required to facilitate the tie in of the New Mill River culvert.
- A short extension (approximately 4m) of the Alley River culvert will be required so that it ties into the line of the new Mill River Culvert.
- Construction of new services and utilities including foul water drainage. Surface water drainage, watermain infrastructure, electricity and communications will be required at Wolfe Tone Square, New Street and Bridge Street.
- Including modifications to existing services including foul, surface water and services generally to facilitate the proposed scheme.
- Construction of 2 No. surface water pumping sumps in Wolfe Tone Square.

Liam Ahearn briefed the members on the proposed Part VIII for Bantry culvert and the members commended the team working on the project for their hard work in preparing the Part VIII.

4. NOTICES OF MOTION/ FOGRA RUN

(a) Proposed by Cllr. Caroline Cronin, seconded by Cllr. Danny Collins

"I propose that Cork County Council consider addressing the hazardous bend located just before Stouke Cross in Ballydehob on the R592. This bend is extremely blind and has a significant risk to motorists and pedestrians having been the site of many road traffic accidents over the years. Taking action to improve safety at this location is essential".

Response from Kevin Lynch EE:

This was added to a list of proposals for low-cost safety improvement works 2025 to progress the first stage of purchasing required lands in order to carry out works.

(b) Proposed by Cllr. Caroline Cronin, seconded by Cllr. Danny Collins

"I propose that Cork County Council, together with Transport for Ireland (TFI), take immediate action to extend the footpath from Ballydehob village to Stouke Cross. This route is a popular walking loop by both locals and visitors, however, there are significant safety risks due to the lack of a proper footpath along the main Schull Road R592".

Response from Kevin Lynch EE:

Currently this section of roadway is too narrow to accommodate a regulation width footpath. It may be feasible if in first item above relating to Stouke cross is progressed.

(c) Proposed by Cllr. Caroline Cronin, seconded by Cllr. Danny Collins

“I propose Cork County Council together with TFI extend the footpath from Cooridorigan to The Workhouse Cross in Schull on the R592. This area is also a highly popular walking route, yet it remains extremely dangerous for pedestrians due to inadequate walking facilities”.

Response from Kevin Lynch EE:

There are no plans at this point to extend the footpath from Cooridorigan as far as the Workhouse Cross at this time. The possibility of extending the footpath from Schull town to join up to the Cadogan Strand slip on the L-4415 (also the link to “Historical Butter Road”) is being examined to make safe this section of roadway for pedestrians.

(d) Proposed by Cllr. Danny Collins, seconded by Cllr. PG. Murphy

“I am calling for a breakdown of costs on the new public signage and signposts around Bantry and especially the structure that replaced the seating area at the harbour side of the town. I am also calling for any future projects that are proposed in villages and towns to include a consultation with councillors and community organisations from that area before it progresses”.

Response from Nicola Radley

Fáilte Ireland has identified that attractive towns play a key role in encouraging visitors to choose Ireland as a holiday destination, particularly when those towns showcase interesting history and culture. However, one of the challenges is ensuring that tourism translates into tangible economic benefits for local businesses and communities.

The Destination Towns initiative aims to enhance visitor experiences by improving accessibility, orientation, and signage—helping visitors navigate towns more easily, increasing dwell time, and driving spending in local businesses.

Funding for this project was allocated through Fáilte Ireland as part of the €15.5 million Destination Towns initiative, provided for under the Government’s Project Ireland 2040. Each local authority selected one location to benefit from this initiative; and each was required to provide an element of match funding.

Bantry was selected by Cork County Council due to its strategic importance as a tourism hub, its status as a vibrant market town, and its proximity to the Beara, Sheep’s Head, and Mizen Peninsulas. A funding proposal was submitted to Fáilte Ireland, which subsequently approved €500,000 in funding, with Cork County Council providing an additional €170,000 match funding to progress the project.

The project was designed, developed, and implemented in accordance with Fáilte Ireland’s Development Guidelines for Destination Towns - as can be seen from the focus on detailed design, unique placemaking, storyboards and interpretation, combining specialist skillsets to tell the unique story of the Town in a way that will appeal to visitors and encourage longer stays in Bantry and the wider Penninsula.

Indeed, Fáilte Ireland has provided positive feedback on the Project and its alignment with the Destination Towns Development Guidelines.

Public procurement procedures were followed, and Cork County Council is satisfied the Project will continue to deliver value over the long-term, in terms of marketing Bantry as a destination in itself, as well as a Gateway to the Peninsulas.

Local consultation for this project involved engagement with key stakeholders, including: Bantry Historical Society, Bantry Tourism & Development Association and the Bantry Bay Port Authority. Regular updates were also given to elected members through the Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism Quarterly Full Council Update Report and the Tourism SPC quarterly meetings, with summary reports shared with each Member of Council.

Cork County Council remains committed to ensuring future projects involve continued engagement with councillors and community organisations to ensure alignment with local priorities and needs.

The principal components of the Bantry Destination Towns project included:

- Heritage Trail Enhancements: Removal of 20 outdated interpretive panels across the town, from Abbey Cemetery to St. Finbarr's Church.
- Public Realm Improvements: Reconfiguration and decluttering of seating and street furniture in Wolfe Tone Square to create a more structured and aesthetically pleasing space.
- New Signage & Interpretation Features: Installation of new streamlined stainless steel structures and storyboards to replace the old Heritage Trail panels.

The project includes a total of 23 new structures:

- A large gateway structure in Wolfe Tone Square
- 6 totem structures and 8 lecterns, focusing on Bantry's historical development, maritime connections, Wolfe Tone Square, and the story of notable local figures
- 8 directional fingerposts at key locations to complement the new storyboard structures and guide visitors to points of interest

While the project outturn costs of this design-led project are not yet finalised, it can be confirmed the Gateway Structure in Wolfe Tone Square cost €95,000 ex Vat.

It is anticipated the overall project costs when finalised in the coming weeks will be substantially under the €670,000 budget.

(e) Proposed by Cllr. Finbarr Harrington, seconded by Cllr. PG. Murphy
"That this council would erect "Tidal Flooding" signs known locally as "the red cliff" on the L4704 road from Durrus to Ahakista".

Response from Kevin Lynch EE:

The area known as the Red Cliff is not affected by tidal flooding. As such it is not necessary to erect such signs. The area does suffer infrequently from debris (stones, seaweed, etc.) being washed onto the road as a result of wave action during certain storm conditions including the previous Saturday and Sunday (yellow wind alert). It did not occur during the red wind alert on last Thursday and Friday.

(f) Proposed by Cllr. Finbarr Harrington, seconded by Cllr. Caroline Cronin
"That this council would include a number of stretches of road for line painting ie. the R575 between Allihies and Urhan, the top of Coolieragh on the R 575 Glengarriff to Castletownbere road".

Response from Kevin Lynch EE:

That section of the R-575 from Allihies village to the top of the hill at Reentrisk, over approximately 4.9kms is to be included in the 2025 Restoration Maintenance programme. Subject to sufficient funding, road markings on this section of the R-575 shall be installed, and a tender for same was generated on the 17th January 2025. That section of the R-572 from the junction of the L-95723-1 at Loughavaul to the top of the hill at Coolieragh shall be included in the three-year Restoration Improvement Programme. The section of the R-572 from the junction of the L-95723-1 at Loughavaul to the junction of the L-4926-54 at Tracashel will be in the 2025 Restoration Improvement Programme, with tenders currently being generated. From Tracashel to Coolieragh will be included in the 2026 and 2027 programmes. Road markings will be included in the Programmes, so road markings as requested will not be carried out in advance.

(g) Proposed by Cllr. Finbarr Harrington, seconded by Cllr. PG. Murphy
"That this council would write to the Department of Transport to allow for the call out of rescue 115 at night by a GP or Paramedic in the event of immediate medical emergency transportation to hospital in the West Cork area, especially for the peripheral and Island regions".

Response from Noreen O Mahony SEO

This motion will be discussed at the Islands Interagency meeting with the HSE next Friday 14th February 2025.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. N. O'Donovan noted that an Uisce Éireann Wastewater Operations newsletter regarding the Rosscarbery/Owenahincha bathing water was circulated to the members in August 2024 and he queried if a further newsletter update could be supplied by Uisce Éireann.

Cllr. PG. Murphy requested that the West Cork MD agenda include a quarterly update for the members regarding outdoor staff and progress of works on the ground.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH _____ **DATE** _____

