

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Proceedings of Ordinary Meeting of Ballincollig/Carrigaline Municipal District held in Council Chamber, Floor 2, County Hall, on Monday, 19th June, 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Derry Canty (Cathaoirleach) presided. Councillors: Mary Rose Desmond, Joe Harris, Deirdre Forde, Marcia D'Alton, Seamus McGrath, Eoghan Jeffers, Michael Murphy, Daithi O'Donnabhain.

ABSENT: Councillor John A. Collins.

IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin O'Regan, Municipal District Officer, Jim Molloy, Senior Executive Officer, Madeleine Healy, Senior Executive Engineer, Peter O'Donoghue, Senior Engineer, Seamus de Faoite, Senior Executive Officer, Sarah O'Sullivan, Clerical Officer.

1: MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. McGrath and seconded by Cllr. Desmond, the minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15th May, 2017, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Cllr. McGrath

Cllr. McGrath asked if there is an update on the walkway between Lehenaghmore and Lehenaghbeg. Madeleine Healy advised that there is no update at present and noted that the issue is vehicular access. Madeleine Healy advised that staff have been on leave and noted that she will look at the matter.

2: CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(i) Repair and Leasing Scheme

Seamus de Faoite attended the meeting for this item and circulated a report on the matter to Members. Seamus de Faoite advised that he will be attending a meeting of each Municipal District to outline the scheme to Members and noted that the scheme was piloted in Waterford and Carlow and has been open for applications since April.

Seamus de Faoite outlined the scheme to Members and noted that it aims to deliver 3,500 units over 5 years. Details of the scheme are available on the Council website, the Department has taken out adverts on national newspapers, journal.ie and rte.ie, and Cork County Council has taken out radio adverts to drive the scheme. To date 28 applications have been received and they are being looked at with regard to validity. Seamus de Faoite advised that the scheme is another form of social housing support and it should deliver properties on a quicker basis. The proposed complementary Buy and Renew Scheme will allow local authorities to purchase and renew properties and is aimed at tackling dereliction. This scheme is not yet launched.

Members thanked Seamus de Faoite for his report on the matter and welcomed the scheme. A discussion followed and Members raised the following questions/comments on the matter:

1. What are the locations of the applications received?
2. €40,000 would only allow for cosmetic repairs to a property.
3. A 20 year lease period would not be attractive to property owners.
4. What control does the landlord retain when the lease is signed? The landlords will be known and contacted regarding complaints.
5. What are the penalties for the landlord/property owner in the clawback clause?
6. How many applications were received for properties vacant less than 12 months?
7. Are there checks in place that the property owner cannot raise the funding themselves?
8. Are there checks in place that the contractors are applying standards and paying industrial wage rates?
9. Is there a plan if a property will not be taken for tenancy?

In response, Seamus de Faoite advised the following:

1. 28 applications were received as of 16th June, 12 in North Cork, 9 in South Cork, and 7 in West Cork.
2. If the works required exceed the funding provided there is nothing in the scheme prohibiting the property owner putting their own money with the funding to carry out the works. The Council has to ensure we will have a solid end product. The figure of €40,000 was set by the Department and they have advised that it may have to be looked at following the roll out of the scheme.
3. The lease term will probably be 10 years. Cork County Council wants security of tenure for their tenants, the housing market is volatile at present.
4. There will be a 10 - 20 year lease between Cork County Council and the property owner. In addition, when the tenant is appointed there will be a tenancy agreement between Cork County Council and the tenant. They will be a local authority tenant and have the same rights as existing social tenants.
5. We are awaiting details on the clawback from the Department; it may be similar to the clawback in the Affordable Housing Scheme.
6. None of the applications received to date have been for properties vacant less than 12 months. 10 reports have been completed to date on the 28 applications received.
7. All landlords regardless of wealth can apply.
8. Contractors will have to be tax compliant and this will be checked by Cork County Council.
9. Cork County Council will assess the housing need in the property location when assessing an application. We are looking at individual properties and it is unlikely that we will be unable to lease out a property.

Seamus de Faoite agreed to update Members on the Buy to Renew Scheme once information is received.

(iv) Traffic Management Inniscarra Bridge

Peter O'Donoghue attended the meeting for this item and advised that a report on the matter had previously been circulated to Members.

Peter O'Donoghue advised that he has been requested to review the situation regarding traffic flow. It is a narrow, historic bridge with occasional gridlocked two way traffic at present. ARUP consultants were appointed to carry out an assessment and have prepared a report and recommendations on the matter. A number of options were considered and the most favourable identified is signalisation.

A sensitivity analysis was carried out, and it identified that a 20% increase in traffic can be accommodated without significant delay. If the increase gets to over 20% it will have reached its limit. It is a restricted area, cables and induction loops will be required. It is not an inexpensive scheme. Peter O'Donoghue advised that the signalisation will work and deliver rational traffic flow for Ballincollig, it is important to keep the bridge functioning. Peter O'Donoghue advised that he will also be attending a meeting of Blarney/Macroom Municipal District on the matter and if there is agreement with the two Municipal Districts the matter will proceed to Part VIII.

Members thanked Peter O'Donoghue for his report and a discussion followed. Members raised the following questions/comments on the matter:

- There are concerns regarding the location of the lights as Wood Road is busy and the lights need to go back towards the Gaelscoil.
- Can the turn of the road be expanded as it could feed into a bottleneck?
- Can a rough outline of the Part VIII be given?
- The consultation period will be very important and a period of substantial engagement will be required.
- Timing of traffic lights will be an issue.

In response, Peter O'Donoghue advised the following:

- The signal will be located on the bridge only; it will depend on the yellow boxes to keep Wood Road free. The only reason that signalisation can clear 1000 vehicles per hour is due to proximity.
- The Part VIII process will take 3-4 months and construction will be difficult.
- There will be time for engagement and anyone with concerns can get advice and contact the Traffic and Transportation section directly. There is a negative perception of delay with signals and there will be no lost time during off peak. Signalisation is a good solution and the matter should be put to the public for their views.

Members agreed to support the commencement of the Part VIII process.

(ii) Control of Dogs (Parks and Greenways) Bye-Laws 2017

Kevin O'Regan advised that following discussions at the May meeting the matter was put to Members for feedback and their views have been synthesised in the report previously circulated. Kevin O'Regan advised that it is up to Members to decide on the introduction of Bye-Laws. The report also includes activity levels in the Regional Park and Passage West Greenway and shows that the areas are busy and heavily used. The majority of the users in the park are pedestrians and usage is more mixed on the greenway. Members thanked Kevin O'Regan for his report on the matter and a discussion followed. Members raised the following questions/comments on the matter:

- Length of leash may be an issue.
- Who will implement the Bye-Laws? There is an issue regarding enforcement with regard to dog fouling in the MUGA in Passage West.
- Compromise regarding time is welcome. Will the Bye-Laws be for all parks in the Municipal District?
- Adequate signage will be required.
- Concern regarding consistency across the county.
- The matter should be progressed and the Bye-Laws put forward for public consultation.
- 10.30am is too early for elderly residents who walk their dogs.
- The dog wardens are about to blitz the parks and we should await the outcome regarding enforcing existing legislation.
- September will be a better time for public consultation.
- There is legislation regarding leads for dangerous breeds and the wardens should be asked for feedback on this.

In response, Kevin O'Regan advised the following:

- The dog warden has advised that Bye-Laws are required as under current legislation they cannot prosecute people for not having a dog off a leash.
- Dog fouling is a littering matter.
- The previous document listed four parks and greenways that have large mixed usage but it is a decision for the Members as to where the Bye-Laws are to apply. The Bye-Laws will have to be checked by the Council Solicitors.
- It would not be fair if the Bye-Laws are not introduced in all parks. The simpler the Bye-Laws are the better.

In response, Jim Molloy advised the following:

- A leash length of two metres is seen as short as can be allowed.
- There is nothing to stop this Municipal District leading the way and if the Bye-Laws work they can be recommended to the county.
- We can review what parks to include.

Jim Molloy advised that the draft Bye-Laws will be ready for the September meeting and it was agreed to put the matter on the agenda for consideration.

(iii) Tourism Section Update

Kevin O'Regan advised that a report on the matter was previously circulated to Members for information purposes and noted that queries can be forwarded either to the Municipal District Office or to Nicky Carroll.

3: CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence from Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government - Election Posters

Kevin O'Regan advised that the correspondence previously circulated to Members advises that the matter has been forwarded to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and there has been no further response.

4: GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION 2017/TOWN DEVELOPMENT FUND 2017

No update at present.

6: NOTICES OF MOTION

To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Deirdre Forde:

1. "That the Engineer examines if Cork County Council can assist in minimising anti social behaviour adjacent to Mount Oval."

Cllr. Forde advised that she has received complaints and recommended that residents contact the Garda forum.

Madeleine Healy advised that she visited the area previously regarding traffic at the boundary fence and potential anti social behaviour in the area. At the time the Council did not have any power as the area was not taken in charge. A large part of the area is still not taken in charge. Madeleine Healy advised that she has had no contact with the Gardai on the matter.

2. "That the Municipal District Manager gives a report on what, if any restrictions are placed on the erection of satellite dishes on residential properties."

Kevin O'Regan advised that a report was circulated on the matter and noted that the matter is a planning enforcement issue.

Cllr. Forde advised that people are unaware that satellite dishes cannot be placed at the front of properties and noted that the issue is causing bad blood. Cllr. Forde asked that the requirement be put on the Council website in order to make people aware of the restrictions.

Kevin O'Regan advised that it is his understanding that the information is available on the Council website and agreed to check the matter and revert to Members.

3. "That the Engineer considers more safety measures on the zebra crossing at the Fingerpost Roundabout. In particular, motorists coming from the Rochestown Road on to the main Carrigaline Road. More prominent signage is needed and flashing lights on existing poles half way down poles. CCTV cameras to monitor offending motorists would be a big help."

Cllr. Forde asked if improved lighting and signage at the roundabout can be put in place or if it is awaiting DLUTS. Cllr. Forde was supported in her motion by the Members. Members also raised safety concerns in the area regarding encroaching tree growth.

Madeleine Healy advised that concerns were raised previously and flashing lights were put in place on the Rochestown Road in response. Madeleine Healy advised that works required regarding growth will be carried out and noted that costings are being identified at present regarding upgrading to LED lights. Madeleine Healy advised that she is looking at improving lighting on the Carrigaline Road at the location of the crossing and noted that the scope of works carried out will be dependent on resources.

Following a comment from Members that the crossing at Rochestown Road is too close to the roundabout, Madeleine Healy advised that there is a constant battle in urban areas regarding desire lines for crossings and noted that if the crossing was further back it would not be used. Following a request from Members, Madeleine Healy agreed to look at highlighting road markings by Exham House.

To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Mary Rose Desmond:

1. "To ask the Engineer to examine the possibility of extending the parking facilities at the greenway car park opposite Underwood on the Rochestown Road, (R610). The measure is being sought to in

some way alleviate the illegal parking that is taking place at the entrance to Underwood, which is in turn resulting in dangerous access onto the R610 for residents of Underwood."

Cllr. Desmond asked if it is possible to extend the car park by Hop Island.

Madeleine Healy advised that removing landscaping would only allow an additional 4/5 spaces and noted that the area is very restricted. There is not much scope for extending. There is equal abuse at Hartys Quay but there is potential to extend, it comes down to resources.

Following a request from Members, Madeleine Healy agreed to look at putting up signage at Underwood Estate.

Madeleine Healy advised that the Municipal Technical Team is currently in discussions regarding a plan for the area.

Jim Molloy advised that he had looked at car parks in the area recently and we need to see what the demand is and distances driven. We are flagging where the appropriate car park is and the matter is with the greenway team at present. Jim Molloy advised that he will report back to Members on the matter at the September meeting.

2. "To ask the Engineer to give an update in relation to the repainting of the yellow box at the entrance to Amberly Estate on the Grange Road."

Madeleine Healy advised that the works will be carried out within the next couple of days.

To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Marcia D'Alton:

1. "That this Municipal District would consider Passage West and Monkstown as two separate settlements so that Monkstown might benefit from funding for villages."

Cllr. D'Alton thanked Kevin O'Regan for his report on the matter and noted that it would help as a Municipal District to consider both areas separately for funding.

Kevin O'Regan advised that the County Development Plan identifies only two villages in the Municipal District but we will go beyond these. Kevin O'Regan advised that the Municipal District has already and will continue to differentiate between Passage West and Monkstown for funding.

2. "That the Municipal District would undertake a review of the adequacy of car parking at both Hop Island and Hartys Quay to safely serve the needs of users of the Greenway along the former railway line."

Cllr. D'Alton advised that this matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

3. "That the Area Office would provide an overview of its intentions for weed control along kerbs and footpaths in the Municipal District."

Madeleine Healy advised that the weed control being undertaken will not extend into housing estates and urban areas. The aim is to spray the weeds in the centres, which are being carried out, but there is very quick re-growth so the matter is a constant battle.

To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Seamus McGrath:

1. To seek an update on plans to increase the parking capacity of Owenabue carpark in Carrigaline.

Kevin O'Regan advised that he will request a report on the matter from Peter O'Donoghue and revert to Members.

Cllr. McGrath advised that he is aware that the land was acquired by Cork County Council and noted that the scout group are open to relocating. There is a need to increase capacity.

2. To seek an update on plans to provide a skateboard facility and running track in Carrigaline Park.

Cllr. McGrath thanked Kevin O'Regan for his report on the matter and asked why the running track is being reduced in length as the lagoon would be a feature.

Kevin O'Regan advised that is a potential issue with widths as the proposal does not include the replacement of paths. Kevin O'Regan advised that Vincent Florish is looking at the matter and noted that he will speak to him.

3. To request that we contact Irish Water immediately to express our deep frustration at the number of water outages in Carrigaline recently and to request that watermains which are frequently breaking would be prioritised for replacement.

Cllr. McGrath advised that the water main needs replacement and noted that there have been a number of outages recently. Cllr. McGrath requested that correspondence on the matter is sent to Irish Water.

Cllr. McGrath advised that the issue is a disaster for residents and there are huge problems.

Cllr. McGrath was supported by Cllr. Jeffers in his motion.

Kevin O'Regan agreed to write to Irish Water on the matter.

To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Eoghan Jeffers:

1. That fencing would be erected along the boundary of Springlane estate in Carrigaline to give distinction and protection for the estate.

Cllr. Jeffers advised that there is a privacy and safety element and noted that the matter requires to be prioritised at some stage.

Cllr. Jeffers was supported by Cllr. McGrath in his motion, who advised that the matter had been raised years previously and the response at the time was that there was no call on the developer to put screening in place.

2. That the Municipal District would develop a plan in conjunction with Toghher Tidy Towns and willing local businesses to develop and improve the visual appearances from the start of Forge Hill to, and including the junction at Pouladuff Road.

Cllr. Jeffers welcomed the report on the matter and noted that the area looks poor. Cllr. Jeffers noted that residents at Pouladuff have carried out works and given the area a lift.

3. To seek a written report on the Lehenaghmore and Lehenaghbeg road redevelopment. The report should include costs to date, what phases of the development have been completed and what phases are left to be completed, overall projected costs and projected timeline for completion.

Kevin O'Regan advised that he will circulate a report on the matter when available.

Cllr. Jeffers advised that Cork County Council needs to look at funding the works from their own capital budget.

To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Michael Murphy:

1. With Regeneration of Passage west maybe all road markings could be painted.

Cllr. Murphy requested that the yellow boxes outside Father O'Flynn Park and road markings in the area are refreshed.

Cllr. Murphy was supported by Cllr. Jeffers in his motion.

Madeleine Healy advised that she will assist if she can but it may be a wasted effort in the short term as Irish Water will be carrying out works in the area.

2. What is update on road in Rockenham

Madeleine Healy advised that the contractor has commenced works and noted that there is no date for Rockenham but it will be this summer.

3. With proposed Museum is a Toilet not a must for Passage West

Kevin O'Regan advised that as part of the proposed museum there will be a toilet and noted that this will provide limited help as it will only be available when the museum is open. Kevin O'Regan advised that he is working with the museum committee to progress that project. Kevin O'Regan advised that it is a question of funding regarding the public toilet and noted he is conscious that it be put in place if possible. Following a suggestion from Cllr. D'Alton that the museum toilet would have access both from the museum and the street, Jim Molloy advised that the museum will have to have its own toilet under health and safety regulations.

To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Daithi O'Donnabhain:

1. That Cork County Council would install a pedestrian crossing at the traffic island in Coolroe Meadows and Greenfields.

Cllr. O'Donnabhain thanked Kevin O'Regan for his report on the matter and asked him to expand on TII specifications.

Kevin O'Regan advised that the area office will have to carry out investigations under TII standards.

Cllr. O'Donnabhain advised that school buses are stopping at the islands and noted that a crossing is required.

2. That a report be carried out on the traffic at the Iniscarra Bridge. Further, that the such Report would consider pedestrian safety issues on the crossing from the old gaelscoil and the footpath to the park

Cllr. O'Donnabhain advised that there have been people accessing the western side of the Regional Park through Westcourt and noted that it is very dangerous and there have been a number of near misses.

Cllr. O'Donnabhain suggested widening the path or creating an opening in the wall into the park as there is precedence near McDonalds.

Madeleine Healy advised that she had spoken to Don O'Sullivan on the matter. The Heritage Officer advised that an opening cannot be made in the wall. Madeleine Healy advised that as there is precedence she will speak to the Heritage Officer on the matter.

7: VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

Cllr. Jeffers

Cllr. Jeffers congratulated the outgoing Mayor on a fantastic year.

This was seconded by all the Members.

Cllr. D'Alton

(i) Cllr. D'Alton congratulated the Irish Heart Foundation for the Tri Monkstown event and their ongoing assistance in running it.

(ii) Cllr. D'Alton congratulated Sineád O' Flynn on jointly winning best Junior Girl Competitor at the Munster Karate Championships.

(iii) Cllr. D'Alton congratulated Passage West Maritime Heritage Festival Committee for their achievements with an excellent festival again this year.

Cllr. Murphy

(i) Cllr. Murphy congratulated the Cork Hurling Team on getting to the Munster final.

(ii) Cllr. Murphy congratulated Aisling Corkery on jointly winning best Junior Girl Competitor at the Munster Karate Championships.

Cllr. O'Donnabhain

Cllr. O'Donnabhain congratulated the Munster Agricultural Society on a successful summer show and a great family day out.

8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Kevin O'Regan

(i) Kevin O'Regan advised that the Chief Executive wants the Municipal Districts to be more publicised regarding the funding they provide to community groups. To this end, grant presentation photos are being organised with Ballincollig Rugby Club, Ballinora Tidy Towns and Ballincollig Tidy Towns. Kevin O'Regan advised Members that he will contact them with a date and times for the events.

Cllr. McGrath advised that the matter had been raised at CPG and noted that sponsorship signage should be put in place.

(ii) Kevin O'Regan advised that he has been contacted by Anthony Buckley regarding a proposed Wellness Day in the Regional Park that would be free entry and noted that the Municipal District has been asked to provide sponsorship for the event. Kevin O'Regan advised that he will forward details to Members and put the matter on the agenda for the July meeting for discussion.

Cllr. Forde

Cllr. Forde advised that the Irish Water signage is still in place by the garage in Rochestown and asked for a copy of the correspondence previously sent by Madeleine Healy.

Madeleine Healy agreed to send a copy of the correspondence to Members and contact Irish Water on the matter.

Cllr. Desmond

(i) Cllr. Desmond asked that the yellow lines by Parkgate be reinstated.

Madeleine Healy advised that the contractor is in the area and noted that the works will be completed shortly.

(ii) Cllr. Desmond requested that signage be put in place at St. James's Cemetery advising of the additional parking inside the gates.

Madeleine Healy agreed to follow up on the matter.

Cllr. O'Donnabhain

Cllr. O'Donnabhain asked Madeleine Healy for an update on line painting in Ballincollig.

Madeleine Healy advised that works have not yet been completed due to weather conditions and noted that she will speak to Don O'Sullivan on the matter.

Cllr. Murphy

Cllr. Murphy asked Kevin O'Regan for an update on the Streetscape Paint Scheme.

Kevin O'Regan advised that the level of applications has been less than hoped and noted that staff has started to follow up with people who made submissions of interest but did not submit an application. Kevin O'Regan advised that if there is something that we can do this will be looked at.

Cllr. Murphy asked if the owners of rented premises have been contacted.

Kevin O'Regan agreed to follow up on the matter.

Cllr. Murphy advised that he will also follow up on the matter.

Kevin O'Regan advised that he wrote to the owner of the post office premises and agreed to follow up on the matter. Kevin O'Regan advised that the issue in Passage West may be that a large number of the premises are three storeys and there is an extra cost involved in painting these premises.

Cllr. D'Alton thanked Kevin O'Regan for his help on the matter and agreed to forward details of the two owners of the buildings on the approach.

Cllr. Jeffers

(i) Cllr. Jeffers advised that the grass is overgrown at the Catholic graveyard in Douglas and maintenance is required.

Madeleine Healy agreed to look at the matter.

(ii) Cllr. Jeffers advised that the trees at Grangewood Court are overgrown and the overgrown bushes have spread to the path, creating a hazard.

Madeleine Healy agreed to look at the matter.

Cllr. McGrath

(i) Cllr. McGrath asked if Raffeen village and bridge have been looked at.

Madeleine Healy advised that they have not been looked at and agreed to follow up on the matter.

(ii) Cllr. McGrath advised that the 1st set of lights towards Shannonpark roundabout are obscured by a hedge and asked that the matter be addressed.

Madeleine Healy agreed to look at the matter.

Cllr. D'Alton

(i) Cllr. D'Alton asked if there is an update on Dock Terrace.

Kevin O'Regan advised that he had written to the planners in Ballincollig who acted on behalf and has not received a response. Kevin O'Regan advised that he will contact them again.

(ii) Cllr. D'Alton advised that there is manure on the R610 from the nearby riding school and asked if there is anything that can be done on the matter.

Madeleine Healy advised that she will contact the riding school.

(iii) Cllr. D'Alton requested a report on derelict sites be made available at the next meeting.

Kevin O'Regan agreed to arrange a report on the matter.

(iv) Cllr. D'Alton asked if there is an update on Marino Point.
Kevin O'Regan advised that there is no update on the matter.

(v) Cllr. D'Alton asked if there is an update on the pedestrian crossing at Ringaskiddy.
Kevin O'Regan advised that there is no update on the matter.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

Date: 17/7/2017