

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Proceedings of Ordinary Meeting of Ballincollig/Carrigaline Municipal District held in Council Chambers, Floor 2, County Hall, on Monday, 19th February, 2018, at 2.00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin O'Regan, Municipal District Officer, Jim Molloy, Senior Executive Officer, Martin Walsh, Bus Eireann, Sarah O'Sullivan, Assistant Staff Officer.

APOLOGIES: Madeleine Healy.

ABSENT: Cllr. Deirdre Forde.

1: MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. Canty and seconded by Cllr. McGrath, the minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15th January, 2018, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Cllr. D'Alton

(i) Cllr. Desmond asked if there is an update on a date for the DLUTS meeting.

Kevin O'Regan advised that there is no update and noted that he is awaiting a response from the Director of Planning.

(ii) Cllr. D'Alton asked if there is an update on the traffic count carried out in Harty's Quay over the Christmas period.

Jim Molloy advised that he is awaiting the final report and it is expected within the next 2-3 weeks.

(iii) Cllr. D'Alton advised of a correction in the minutes, there is a bin outside Aldi but no public bin on the Grange Road.

Cllr. McGrath

(i) Cllr. McGrath advised that the agreed signage is not yet in place in the playground in Carrigaline.

Kevin O'Regan advised that the signage was ordered and agreed to follow up on the matter.

(ii) Cllr. McGrath advised that he had asked Madeleine Healy to look at options regarding anti-social behaviour in the area.

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

The Members expressed their sympathies to the family of Liam Miller on his recent passing.

2: CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(i) Report from Martin Walsh, Bus Eireann

The Chair welcomed Martin Walsh to the meeting and thanked him for his attendance to discuss Members concerns regarding the bus service in the Ballincollig/Carrigaline Municipal District. A discussion followed and Members raised the following queries and comments on the matter:

- Issue of delays in the afternoons on the 220 bus service. Would it be possible to have a direct service from the South Mall to Ballincollig during this period?
- The main issue is reliability of the service; buses are either turning up late or not at all.
- Capacity problems during peak times.

- Would it be possible to have a direct bus route from Carrigaline to Cork city in addition to the current service?
- Is there an update on the proposed new route between Passage West and Carrigaline?
- Additional resources are required for additional buses and drivers.
- Out of service buses have been seen, are drivers paid overtime?
- Would it be possible to change timetables during peak hours or allow minor changes to a route in order to improve the service?
- A Park and Ride facility is required in Carrigaline and the matter should be given priority.
- Ballygarvan should have a bus service.
- Concern that the 206 bus route could tie up with the Glanmire route.
- Would it be possible for the 206 service to take the Link Road to Grange during peak hours?
- A bus shelter is required in Donnybrook.
- Is it possible for Donnybrook to have its own route?
- A contact person for Bus Éireann is required on the ground to deal with delays on the South Mall.
- Private contractors are operating on the 223 route.
- Would it be possible for the 223 service to use the Link Road to Passage West during peak hours?
- Was the rationalisation of drivers implemented and if so what was involved?
- A stop at the Black Ash Park and Ride facility may help in dealing with congestion in the city.
- Issue with bus connections on the 223, 220x and 220 service, customers could be waiting up to 30 minutes for a connection.
- Residents at Lehenaghbeg have submitted a request for 2 bus shelters at Matthew Hill.
- There have been reports of bus drivers not wanting to go up Church Hill, Passage West.
- What is the figure of percentage change in missed trips and buses not turning up for this year and last year?
- Has the Bus Éireann stakeholder forum been set up? It would allow feedback to the NTA and Minister.
- A review of the Carrigaline and UCC/CIT service would be timely.
- What are Martin Walsh's views on policy and review of services?
- How effective are bus lanes?
- There is no weekend service in Parnell Place to verify children's i.d. for Leap Cards.
- There is an issue with capacity; previously drivers could request a relief bus from Parnell Place.
- There is no real time information on buses.
- A bus shelter is required at the bus stop in Donnybrook by Montpellier Road and at the inbound bus stop at the bridge in Carrigaline.
- There is no facility to use Leap Cards on private buses. Dublin bus operates a separate queue systems for Leap Cards which works well.
- There is an issue with stacking of buses in Ballincollig in the mornings, can they be staggered?
- Moving the bus service in Carrigaline to the bypass should be considered in order to ease traffic flow.

In response, Martin Walsh advised the following:

- 220 introduced in August 2014 – every 30 mins – every 15 mins in morning peak
- 220X introduced in February 2016 – every hour via N28 – extended to Grange Manor
- 220 also extended to serve Ferney Rd - +3 buses

2018

- 220 to increase to every 15 minutes in 2018 from 0700 to 1900
- Earlier & Later departures
- Increased evening / Saturday / Sunday services
- To be extended to Carrigaline Primary Health Care Centre
- More services to Crosshaven & Camden
- Possible revised routing in Carrigaline to provide two-way operation at all locations

- As part of the overall review of services along the whole Ballincollig – City Centre – Carrigaline Corridor, local connectivity to/from Carrigaline will be improved.
- This will include connecting locations such as Passage, Monkstown & Ringaskiddy to Carrigaline which will facilitate customers travelling to work, retail, educational and medical facilities including the Primary Care Centre. The timetable is still a work in progress and is not finalised. The operation of this service through the Waterpark area of Carrigaline is actively being examined by the NTA.
- There will be changes to the 216, 223 and 220x routes and these will improve connectivity. They are a work in progress and will tie in with Douglas and Maryborough Hill. The changes to the 223 route are planned for later this year.
- The bus service in Passage West and Monkstown will have improved connectivity and will also include Waterpark.
- Bus Eireann consults extensively with drivers, customers and Councillors. All matters are forwarded to the NTA - it is a matter for the NTA to approve and fund any service changes.
- Over 100 drivers have been recruited in the last 3-4 years and Bus Eireann is currently recruiting drivers.
- The NTA funds and approves services and have advised that they are happy with the response to investment.
- There are no plans for a service in Ballygarvan. The NTA are examining connecting Ballygarvan to the network. Martin Walsh advised that he will forward any clarity on the matter to Members.
- The 220 and 220x bus service has seen a doubling in passenger numbers since 2014, with 115,000 journeys per month/1.4 million per year. Up to 20 buses and 30 drivers operate on the 220, 220x and 223 bus routes each day.
- A Statistical Bulletin report was circulated to Members prior to the meeting. It identifies that the % growth in Cork was greater than anywhere else in the country.
- Fares were decreased last December.
- Traffic congestion is the main issue facing the bus service. 90% of communication received was during the months of September to December.
- The NTA report on Pinch Points in Cork circulated prior to the meeting identifies the 25 worst sections that have a speed of 1-6kph during peak times. Bus lanes are needed to deal with this matter. A survey on bus lanes identifies that they are working well. The average speed during peak time is 20-22 kph as opposed to 2-3 kph where there are no bus lanes. Hopefully DLUTS will support additional bus lanes as there are issues in Douglas village. Investment is needed to allow street space for bus lanes. There has been an excellent public response to changes.
- There are 2637 bus movements daily in Cork, 972 of which travel through Patrick Street.
- Bus Eireann drivers are governed by domestic and EU driver regulations regarding working hours and drivers are being asked to do overtime.
- Contractors are being used more so than in the past, in the long term Bus Eireann will try to revert to its own resources.
- There is now a direct service from Maryborough to CIT/UCC. These services serve every stop on the route in order to keep it as simple and convenient as possible.

- With regard to capacity issues, most new buses are double decker. However single deck buses are used on the Crosshaven to Fountainstown route due to an issue with overhanging trees.
- A new route from Carrigaline to Mahon is not currently being look at.
- 206 is a good route from Grange to the city. The proposed change will be discussed and the decision will be made by the NTA. We will include all feedback in the decision making process.
- Bus Eireann are working on getting a presence in the city centre. There is CCTV in the city and this is linked to Capwell. Each bus has GPS.
- Martin Walsh advised that he will revert directly to Cllr. Desmond regarding the weekend service in Parnell Place to verify children's i.d. for Leap Cards.
- The NTA decide on bus shelter locations, Bus Eireann forwards requests to them. There have been a number of requests for a shelter by the bridge at Carrigaline. The path is not wide enough and it is a difficult location. It is a matter for the NTA and requests can be forwarded to them. If possible Cork County Council could look at infrastructural requirements. The request regarding Donnybrook will be forwarded to the NTA.
- Use of Link Road – there is a fear of people crossing the road. The service is used by customers in Grange, Frankfield and schools on the back Douglas road, a direct service may not be advantageous.
- There are a number of apps that provide real time information. Traffic can cause issues and difficulty in estimating times. Martin Walsh agreed to revert to Members regarding a bus location website.
- A direct bus service from Grange to the South Mall can be looked at but will affect the service as an extra trip requires an extra bus.
- Private buses use old machinery that unfortunately cannot facilitate the use of Leap Cards. Dublin Bus operates a different system.
- The Labour Court recommendations following last year's strike were accepted by staff and it is nearing the end of implementation of these changes. Bus Eireann are recruiting staff at present and this will continue until the end of 2018.
- The Black Ash Park and Ride facility is managed by Cork City Council and is not full every day. There would be challenges in introducing a facility in Carrigaline; it would be most likely that residents would continue to drive to the city. A facility at Shannonpark for people travelling to Ringaskiddy may work.
- Reliable services need Bus Lanes to facilitate guaranteed trip times.
- A direct service from Passage West to Carrigaline will happen but there is no timeline.
- Missed trips are due to traffic congestion. The amount as a % is in low single figures.
- Stacking of buses can happen due to traffic congestion. There is a demand for 2 buses in Ballincollig during the morning period, the matter will be monitored.
- Taking bus services out of towns may not be seen as prioritising. It is preferable to have bus stops in brightly lit areas with significant footfall.

Cllr. McGrath advised that he had a petition signed by over 1,400 people asking for improvements to the 223 bus service and the petition was given to Martin Walsh.

(ii) Municipal District Monthly Update Report

Kevin O'Regan advised that the report circulated to Members prior to the meeting is for information purposes. The Communications Section has been in contact with all MDOs to try and increase positive publicity in relation to Municipal District Operations. Members work should be promoted and the monthly update report could include a report or note from the Chair or other Councillors of events that they attended in an official capacity. Kevin O'Regan advised Members to submit suggested issues and items for the monthly report.

Kevin O'Regan advised that a brief outline report on the proposed World War 1 Cork Harbour Trail was circulated to Members prior to the meeting. The majority of items are in the Cobh Municipal District but a number are in the Ballincollig/Carrigaline MD. Kevin O'Regan advised that the hope is that each Municipal District will fund their own plaques and where locations are in private ownership there will be discussion with owners to put a plaque in place but there will be no right of access. Kevin O'Regan advised Members to forward any other possible areas of WW1 significance that are not included in the report.

3: CORREPENDENCE

(i) Correspondence from the Office of Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government re City-County Boundary Extension Rochestown.

Correspondence circulated to Members prior to the meeting was taken as read.

(ii) Correspondence from the Office of Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government re Derelict Sites Act 1990.

Correspondence circulated to Members prior to the meeting was taken as read.

(iii) Correspondence from the National Transport Authority re Bus Service Passage West – Carrigaline.

Correspondence circulated to Members prior to the meeting was taken as read.

(iv) Correspondence from Irish Water re Kilmoney Road, Carrigaline.

Correspondence circulated to Members prior to the meeting was taken as read.

(v) Pride of Place 2018

Kevin O'Regan advised Members to talk to local communities regarding possible nominations. Kevin O'Regan advised Members to email any suggestions and that he would contact the proposed group.

4: DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

(i) To consider the lease of land at Glenbrook Ferry Terminal, Strand Road, Passage West Co. Cork to Cross River Ferries Ltd for the consideration of €127.00 per annum.

Members noted that the proposed disposal had been advertised, that this was a property that the Council deemed should be disposed of and agreed that the matter should be forwarded to Full Council for approval.

(ii) To consider the disposal of land at Shannonpark, Carrigaline, Co. Cork to Astra Construction Services Ltd, Carrigaline, Co. Cork for the consideration of €1.00 (in addition Astra Construction Services Ltd to transfer 0.25 hectares to Cork County Council & construct storage compound).

Members noted that the proposed disposal had been advertised, that this was a property that the Council deemed should be disposed of and agreed that the matter should be forwarded to Full Council for approval.

5: NOTICES OF MOTION

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

1. "Re: Laneway from Togher to Sarsfield Road - that the Engineer responds to requests from residents to clean the stream, erect lighting and cameras and request the appropriate people to clean public areas as necessary, to help deal with problems currently being experienced."

2. "That the appropriate official gives a written report in relation to the amount of bond currently and previously held in relation to Maryborough Mews and Maryborough Downs and explain if, despite ongoing difficulties within these estates, that the bond was reduced and what actions are being carried out to address their difficulties."

As Cllr. Forde was not in attendance it was agreed to defer the motions until the March meeting.

To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Derry Canty:

1. "That a full in-depth report be made in relation to the weir at the Regional Park, Ballincollig including:

- Has a report been made to Council from all departments dealing with this in-house.
- Has any contractor been asked to give an estimate for the repair of the weir.
- Has Cork County Council approached any government department for funding seeing that every time this is raised at any meeting with officials the same excuse is money."

Members noted a report from Kevin O'Regan, which outlines as follows:

Following the breach in the weir Cork County Council, through the County Engineer's Office, commissioned J.B. Barry & Partners to examine the damage to the weir outline potential solutions to its breach and estimate associated order of magnitude costs.

As part of this process they consulted with inland Fisheries Ireland to get their input.

They identified four potential options for consideration and gave indicative construction costs for carrying out works. It is unclear if these are VAT inclusive or not.

Option 1 Repair the weir and install a fully functioning new fish pass mid river. Estimated cost including contingency was €400,000 - €500,000.

Option 2 Do not repair the Weir and leave the Mill Race channel run dry by installing sheet piles at the upstream intake and closing fully the downstream sluice. Estimates cost including contingency €40,000 - €50,000.

Option 3 Do not repair the Weir and maintain full flows in the Mill Channel Race by installing a pumping station to divert the main River Lee flows. Estimated cost €50,000 - €60,000.

Option 4 Do not repair the Weir and maintain full flows in the Mill Race Channel by installing a low flow channel/pipe to divert main River Lee flow into the Mill Race. Estimated cost € 57,500 to €67,500.

Note: This option is to try and resolve the fact that the river level is lower than the canal level be close to a meter.

The costs provided above are not all inclusive as depending on which option is selected there are other works that would probably be required.

Ideally the Council would prefer a solution that would facilitate returning water to the canals. However there are a number of issues with trying to achieve this aim.

Option 1 is not considered desirable by fisheries.

Option 3 could meet considerable resistance from Heritage and would entail considerable running costs, if it got permission.

Option 4 is also unlikely to be allowed as it would require breaking through existing structures thereby impacting on the Heritage of the site.

Options 2 – 4 will require work to remove debris and an element of protection work to prevent further damage to the weir. It should also be noted that depending on the option that is considered appropriate the Council may have to go through the Part VIII Planning process as well as obtaining Ministerial consent for proposed works. Additional costs will be incurred as other specialist reports may be required for these.

Other considerations in returning water to the canals include that the canals will need to be cleared out and to check if they will still hold water. The ideal time for undertaking any work is during the summer when water levels are at their lowest. Considerable Health and Safety measures will be required as this is peak usage time in the park and the works would be occurring at a very popular location.

Finally the Council will also need to engage with the landowner on the other bank of the river as they have riparian ownership of one half of the river and works will probably need to be undertaken on the northern half of the river.

As Members are aware there was a proposal for a slalom course above the weir but there are a number of issues that mean that this proposed project cannot be facilitated.

There are unique difficulties in trying to arrive at a solution. The existing broken remains of the weir and the associated materials will need to be removed. It would obviously be more cost efficient to carry out all works at one time.

Consultants who can deal with the Heritage, Structural and Health and Safety Issues involved in working in this challenging location will need to be engaged to propose a programme of works that best meet what we are trying to achieve.

Cllr. Canty advised the matter is ongoing for a long time and noted that David Keane had previously given an undertaking that Cork County Council would undertake some of the required work. Questions raised were answered by Mary Sleeman and Fisheries. The slalom was stopped and will revert at a later stage. Cork County Council owns the weir and it is in a dangerous position. There has been a lot of expenditure on the park and it is a tourist attraction. The barrier in place is a magnet to children. Water is going into the canals at present; the issue is when water levels drop. Fishermen have no issue; they want an area to access salmon. Work can be carried out from the Powdermills section and the weir is an eye sore at present. Cllr. Canty asked that something be done on the matter.

Cllr. Canty was supported by the members in his Motion and a request was made that signage be put in place to alert the public that the weir is collapsed and dangerous.

Kevin O'Regan advised that there is signage in place for a number of years advising people it is not an area for swimming and noted that safety is very well highlighted by Cork County Council. Kevin O'Regan advised that it was previously clarified the weir is the responsibility of Cork County Council and not the OPW. The preferred option is to get water back into the weir and the estimated cost to repair the weir was €400,000 - €500,000. Kevin O'Regan advised that a person specialised in heritage needs to be engaged and noted that he will raise the matter again with the Director of Service.

To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. John A. Collins:

- 1. "That this committee would investigate the possibility of installing a CCTV system in the environs of Carrigaline as a matter of urgency."**

Members noted a report from Kevin O'Regan, which outlines as follows:

There is a Scheme in place that is operated by the Department of Justice and Equality. The Community Based CCTV Scheme provides for a maximum grant of €40,000. Within this limit or up to 60% of the total capital costs of the system may be awarded. Relevant link to Web page is: <http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/Community-Based-CCTV>

From my initial examination the following would apply:

- *An application requires an "Assessment of Need by Local Divisional Officer of Garda Síochána" to be completed in support of a proposal.*
- *JPC approval is required*
- *The Local Authority would have to be the Data Controller for Data Protection purposes.*
- *Ongoing maintenance costs would fall on the local authority.*
- *Replacement costs would fall on the local authority.*

Potential Issues:

How the balance of the installation costs would be funded? Presumably the Municipal District would have to fund this from its own resources.

Operating costs would have to be funded from the Municipal District budget?

Would it lead for requests from other areas across the Municipal District?

Council not willing to act as Data Controller as system based in Garda Station and controlled by Gardai?

CCTV undoubtedly can prove very effective in the fight against crime at all levels, from antisocial behaviour to organised gangs. In particular the ability to use cameras that can 'read' car registration numbers can be useful in identifying vehicles involved in criminal activities. The ongoing debate would appear to be around whether the funding of the balance of the cost of installing such systems, the Data Protection obligations and ongoing running costs should fall on the local authority.

Cllr. Collins advised that the motion is a result of contact from Carrigaline Tidy Towns and a spate of burglaries in the Carrigaline area. Cllr. Collins advised that he is aware the onus to operate CCTV is on the Gardai and the maintenance is the responsibility of the Department of Justice. Cllr. Collins advised that he has discussed the matter with the Gardai and they support installing a CCTV system in Carrigaline. Cllr. Collins advised that the system is important for public safety and security.

Cllr. Collins advised that he is looking for Members support and noted that there are CCTV systems up and running in other areas of Cork County Council.

Cllr. Collins was supported by the Members in his motion.

Kevin O'Regan advised that the maximum grant available is €40,000 or 60% of the cost, which depending on the size of a scheme may not be considerable. The recent robberies took place outside the centre of town and to identify cars here would mean the system could not be confined to the Main Street. Kevin O'Regan advised that the ongoing maintenance costs would fall to the Municipal District and noted that Cork County Council is not willing to be the data controller. Any data breaches would rest with Cork County Council and this would be a major concern.

A discussion on the matter followed. Cllr. Collins suggested that Irish Water could be asked to contribute to the cost of the system to offset recent disruption and noted that Fermoy MD contributes €20,000 per annum to CCTV. Cllr. Collins advised that he is not suggesting going into housing estates and noted that additional Gardai are needed in Carrigaline.

Jim Molloy advised that it is written into the Scheme that the Local Authority must be the Data Controller and noted that the report circulated to Members includes points that are listed in the Scheme.

Kevin O'Regan advised that Mary Ryan will only consider CCTV where Cork County Council is not the Data Controller and noted that Local Authorities have no role in crime control. Kevin O'Regan agreed to revert to Mary Ryan on the matter and following a request agreed to liaise with areas in Cork County Council that operate CCTV.

2. "That Cork County Council would provide additional funding to the Area Offices to facilitate the removal of residual tree stumps and other debris following the recent storms."

Members noted a report from Kevin O'Regan, which outlines as follows:

As Members are aware the Council and Municipal District Budgets for 2018 have already been approved. It is not possible at this point to obtain extra funding.

The cost of extra works that are now required following the storms that we have experienced over this winter will have to be met from our existing resources. The Area Office have identified a number of locations (Council land only) where there will be no need to wait for the root system to be killed off as they are not located near any private property or structures. Work will be undertaken throughout the year on removing stumps but within existing resources/ budgets.

Cllr. Collins advised that the residual tree stumps are a danger and asked that something be done on the matter at a Municipal District level.

Cllr. Collins was supported by the Members in his motion.

Cllr. Collins acknowledged the help provided by the area office following recent storms. Cllr. Collins advised that the issue was raised at Development Committee and identified as a national issue.

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

1. "That the Area Engineer furnishes a report on any and all available speed modifications or restrictions that could be installed on the Maglin Road, Ballincollig."

Members noted a report from Kevin O'Regan, which outlines as follows:

The Area Engineer has advised that Maglin road is within a 50km/h zone. The Area Roads Office is not aware of any speeding concerns on this road from members of the public and currently has no proposal to install any speed restrictions or modifications on this road.

If there are details available relating to a specific speeding concern we will examine them in consultation with the Gardaí.

Cllr. O'Donnabhain advised that the issue of speeding in the area has been raised and asked that flashing speed signs or rumble strips be put in place. Cllr. O'Donnabhain advised that Gardaí have stopped cars driving in excess of 100 kph in the area and asked if anything can be done notwithstanding the report from Don O'Sullivan.

Kevin O'Regan agreed to speak to Don O'Sullivan on the matter.

2. "That this Municipal District calls on the Council to allocate resources to prevent vehicles wrongly parked in and around the wheelchair spaces in the western car park of the Regional Park, Ballincollig."

Members noted a report from Kevin O'Regan, which outlines as follows:

It is a matter for the Municipal District, as opposed to Council to try and deal with this issue from its own resources.

The crux is, as always, the ability to enforce compliance with proper parking. As Members are aware the Park is open 365 days a year and in the summer months the car park closes at 21.00. There would be a considerable cost in trying to provide any type of enforcement. This in turn would have to be financed by the Municipal District from its own resources. Consideration would have to be given under such circumstances to means of recouping the costs involved.

There is no extra space available at the Western Car Park to extend the number of parking spaces.

Efforts have been made to promote use of the car park at Innishmore and anyone organising any event in the Park is required to use this car park.

Cllr. O'Donnabhain advised that the issue is inconsiderate parking by vehicle owners and noted that people are parking in the white hatched areas. Cllr. O'Donnabhain advised that the matter has been raised with the Gardai who will attend when called out. Cllr. O'Donnabhain advised that issuing tickets would require the introduction of bye-laws and asked if it would be possible to stagger staff to work at weekends.

Kevin O'Regan advised that there are 2 staff Members in the park and noted that the only way to make the matter an offence is to introduce bye-laws. It is technically not an offence at present. We do not have enough staff to enforce bye-laws and an outside contractor would have to be engaged. There would be a cost involved which may require the introduction of a parking fee.

Cllr. O'Donnabhain advised that he is not in favour of introducing bye-laws.

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

1. "That this Municipal District would request that the Housing Department of Cork County Council would include Passage West and Monkstown as part of the Vacant Homes Action Plan."

Members noted a report from Kevin O'Regan, which outlines as follows:

Report from M Manning S/ Director of Service, Housing:

The key objectives of the Cork County Vacant Homes Action Plan are as follows:

- (a) Outline Local Context including current key statistics for Cork County.*
- (b) Assessment of what is the "real" vacancy rate in the county.*
- (c) Prioritise and target properties on the basis of housing demand*
- (d) Identification of suitable vacant properties for Social Housing Purposes*
- (e) Actions to address vacant properties – Private & Social*
- (f) Implementation & Measurement of these Actions*

The purpose of carrying out a detailed survey in the 4 named towns of Ballincollig, Bantry, Newmarket and Youghal is to determine how this figure relates to the Census 2016 figures which show a County Vacancy rate of 13.2%. Carrying out a survey in these 4 different geographically dispersed towns should provide a more conclusive figure on the "real" vacancy rate. As this detailed survey will be an actual manual exercise it would neither be practical or feasible to extend it out beyond these existing 4 towns.

This however does not mean that Passage and Monkstown are excluded from the identification of Vacant Homes process. Similar to all of Cork County, the registration of vacant properties for these towns on the website www.vacanthomes.ie would be welcomed. This website has been developed on behalf of the local government sector, as a central portal for individuals to anonymously log vacant properties that have potential to be brought back to productive use and to alert local authorities who can then follow up with the owners to establish if the house can be re-used quickly. The website also provides some useful information for property owners as to what steps are currently needed, and how, to bring their house back into use.

As of 16th February 2018, a total of 203 properties had been registered for Cork County on www.vacanthomes.ie. These properties are being assessed in accordance with Cork County Council's Procedure for both Buy & Renew and Repair & Lease Schemes.

These properties are currently being analysed to identify those that would be suitable for Social Housing purposes by focusing primarily on properties in reasonable condition and that have no ownership issues.

In addition the Housing Department are working closely with both the Planning and Municipal District Directorates in identifying suitable vacant properties for Social Housing purposes in all areas including Passage and Monkstown.

Cllr. Murphy thanked Kevin O'Regan for his report and noted that the matter requires urgency. Cllr. Murphy advised that Passage West and Monkstown should be included in the plan.

Cllr. Murphy was supported by Members in his motion.

Kevin O'Regan agreed to forward the request to Madeleine Healy.

2. "That traffic calming measures are put in place between the roundabouts at Pembroke Woods as I have had a number of complaints."

Members noted a report from Kevin O'Regan, which outlines as follows:

The Senior Executive Engineer has advised that the Council cannot take any action at this location as the road is private – not taken in charge.

Cllr. Murphy thanked Kevin O'Regan for his report on the matter.

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

1. "That the Community Centre car park in Carrigaline would be resurfaced after the Main Drainage works are complete and that consideration be given towards increasing the car park spaces also."

Members noted a report from Kevin O'Regan, which outlines as follows:

Members may recall that this issue was raised over 12 months ago. It is planned to resurface the car park but this has been delayed due to the presence of Irish Water on site. The work will be undertaken once Irish Water's works are completed. There are no plans to extend the car park.

Cllr. McGrath advised that the matter had been raised previously and noted that he is issuing a reminder at an opportune time. Cllr. McGrath advised that he appreciates the space is restricted and asked that the design is looked at when resurfacing and relining works are being carried out.

Cllr. Murphy supported Cllr. McGrath in his motion.

2. "That a stretch of the Passage West to Rochestown Road (R610), particularly by Hop Island be resurfaced."

Members noted a report from Kevin O'Regan, which outlines as follows:

The Senior Executive Engineer has advised that this stretch of the R610 is not on the 2018 programme. It is, however on the programme for 2019.

Cllr. McGrath advised that the road is in poor condition and noted the report taken as read.

3. "To request that Ballybrack estate be considered for resurfacing and footpath works in the upcoming programmes."

Members noted a report from Kevin O'Regan, which outlines as follows:

The Senior Executive Engineer has advised that an inspection will be carried out in due course. Resurfacing works are unlikely for 2018.

Cllr. McGrath noted the report on the matter and advised that it is an older estate.

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

1. "That the engineers of this Municipal District would develop a plan to improve pedestrian safety in the vicinity of the roundabout on Togher Road. This plan should include improvements to pedestrian routes, traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossing improvements."

Members noted a report from Kevin O'Regan, which outlines as follows:

The Senior Executive Engineer has advised that this is being considered as part of the Togher Flood relief works.

Cllr. Jeffers advised that the matter had been raised previously by a number of Members and noted that there is a danger. Cllr. Jeffers advised that the path is not wide enough and noted that it is a difficult location. Cllr. Jeffers advised that there was an accident with a truck in the area last year. Cllr. Jeffers advised of the positive response regarding flood relief works and asked that the Members are kept updated on the matter.

Kevin O'Regan agreed to ask for detail regarding the works and circulate to Members. Kevin O'Regan advised that he is anxious that we do not carry out works that will be undone with flood relief works. The matter has been raised on a number of occasions and Madeleine Healy has noted Members' concerns.

2. "That traffic calming measures would be implemented above Scart Cross, Donnybrook by College Corinthians."

Members noted a report from Kevin O'Regan, which outlines as follows:

The Senior Executive Engineer has advised that this area is within the 50kph speed limit. There are road markings in place to ask that motorists SLOW down. No other measures being considered.

Cllr. Jeffers asked that Madeleine Healy is advised that there are no markings on the road. It is a dangerous spot with speeding on the road. Cllr. Jeffers requested that lines and flashing speed signs are put in place. Cllr. Jeffers advised that the recent traffic calming put in place is ineffective. The 2 table tops are too flat and not severe enough.

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

Kevin O'Regan advised that he will refer the request to Madeleine Healy. Kevin O'Regan advised that there may be size regulations for the table tops and agreed to revert to Members on the matter.

3. "That this Municipal District would undertake a plan to develop possible rapid bus corridors, light rail lines and cycle networks within the Municipal District for future planning and that correspondence be made to the Minister for Transport of this plan, with a request for assistance."

Members noted a report from Kevin O'Regan, which outlines as follows:

The Senior Engineer Traffic and Transportation has advised that the National Transport Authority is currently working, with stakeholders, to develop a Transport Strategy for Metropolitan Cork, similar to a Strategy that is already in place for the Greater Dublin Area. Cork County Council, Cork City Council and TII are stakeholders to this process.

This Strategy will consider all transport modes and will detail a strategy for the Metropolitan area in terms of transportation requirements with a horizon year of 2040, to coincide with the Government's National Planning Framework.

Work is underway at present on the development of this strategy and it is expected that a Consultation Draft will be available early in the current year.

The final Strategy will guide investment in transport infrastructure in the Metropolitan area, in order to assist with the delivery of the objectives of the National Planning Framework.

He is satisfied that all the matters raised in the Notice of Motion will be addressed in the proposed Transportation Strategy. Other points worth mentioning:

- The Transport Strategy for Metropolitan Cork was introduced to the Members of Cork County Council at the Development Committee meeting in July 2017.*
- The Cycle Network Plan for Metropolitan Cork has been completed for some time and is something that can be delivered subject to the availability of funding. Work underway on the Ballybrack scheme, the TVP access route, Harbour Greenway and a range of other cycling projects are generally as laid out in the Cork Cycle Network Plan. A copy of this Plan is available on-line at this link: <https://www.corkcoco.ie/traffic-transport/walking-and-cycling>.*
- Funding of transportation infrastructure is likely to be closely aligned to the Transport Strategy once it is fully developed.*

Cllr. Jeffers advised that he welcomes the plan and would prefer that it be legislated on. We have to start planning; it may take 20-30 years. This Municipal District has a role to play and we need to look at where we can develop corridors. Cllr. Jeffers requested that the Minister be written to in this regard.

Cllr. Jeffers was supported by the Members in his motion and there was a comment that this Municipal District may not be the correct forum.

Kevin O'Regan advised that there are opportunities for Members to engage and ensure strategy is driven in a sustainable manner. There are a number of stakeholders involved and it is not just a matter for the Municipal District, it covers the whole metropolitan area. We as a Council are fully engaged and it is unnecessary to write to the Minister.

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

1. "That Bus Eireann would provide two bus shelters to serve the Lehenaghbeg community, one at the bus stop opposite the Texaco garage and the second on Matthew Hill."

Cllr. D'Alton advised that the matter was addressed earlier in the meeting and requested that a letter is sent to the NTA requesting the shelters.

Kevin O'Regan agreed to forward a letter to the NTA on the matter.

2. "That Cork County Council would install a controlled pedestrian crossing on the table-top ramp on Church Road between the Douglas Village Shopping Centre and the Douglas Community Park."

Members noted a report from Kevin O'Regan, which outlines as follows:

The Senior Executive Engineer has advised that this is being considered as part of the suite of measures undertaken by the Traffic and Transportation section to improve pedestrian and cycle network in Douglas.

Cllr. D'Alton thanked Kevin O'Regan for his report on the matter and noted that the crossing is urgently required as there are a large number of pedestrians in the area. Cllr. D'Alton advised that the matter cannot wait until DLUTS.

Cllr. D'Alton was supported by the Members in her motion.

Cllr. D'Alton asked that Madeleine Healy deal with this matter as a stand-alone issue.

3. "That a noise barrier would be provided on the southern side of the N40 flyover as it crosses Douglas village. A noise barrier is already in place on the northern side to provide mitigation for residents of the Main Douglas Road and Well Road."

Members noted a report from Kevin O'Regan, which outlines as follows:

The Senior Executive Engineer has advised that this is a matter for Transport Infrastructure Ireland as opposed to Cork County Council.

Cllr. D'Alton acknowledged that this is a matter for TII and noted that the atmosphere in the village is suffering as a result of there being no barrier in place. Cllr. D'Alton asked that a request be sent to TII and was supported by the Members.

Kevin O'Regan agreed to send a letter to the TII on the matter.

6: VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

Cllr. Jeffers congratulated Saoirse Noonan on winning the Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star award.

Cllr. Jeffers congratulated Eoin Noonan on winning 3rd place in the Sports Feature 2018 section of the Photographer of the Year Awards.

Cllr. Jeffers congratulated Cllr. Murphy on taking part in the over 60's singing competition.

7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Kevin O'Regan

Kevin O'Regan advised that March meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th March as previously agreed and noted that the meeting should commence at 2.30pm in order to allow an in committee meeting to take place beforehand to discuss the 2018 Town Development Fund & General Municipal Allocation.

This was agreed by the Members.

Kevin O'Regan advised Members that he would forward details of time and location of the meeting.

Cllr Murphy

(i) Cllr. Murphy advised that the signage at Harbour Heights is turned in the wrong direction and noted that additional signage is required.

(ii) Cllr. Murphy raised the matter of the Remembrance Garden in Passage West and noted that it matched the criteria of public art article identified at SPC.

Kevin O'Regan advised that public art and a remembrance garden are two different matters and agreed to refer the matter to Ian McDonagh. In addition, Kevin O'Regan agreed to refer the matter

to Conor Nelligan and the commemorative committee and advised that he will include the Members in the correspondence.

Cllr. D'Alton

(i) Cllr. D'Alton advised that she had learned through social media that the Skatepark in Carrigaline will be installed in March 2018 and noted that it would have been more appropriate for Members to be advised of the works through the Municipal District.

Cllr. D'Alton was supported by the Members.

Kevin O'Regan advised that he had not been notified and had also learned of the works through social media. Kevin O'Regan advised that an official opening by the Municipal District should be considered on completion and was supported by Cllr. McGrath on the matter.

(ii) Cllr. D'Alton requested that the minutes of the regular meetings held by Mary Ryan with the Chairs of the Municipal Districts are circulated to Members.

Cllr. Desmond advised that she will contact Mary Ryan's office on the matter.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed:


CATHAoirleach

Date:

20/3/18