

**Minutes of Meeting of the Blarney/Macroom Municipal District held in the
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Macroom on Friday 30th June 2017**

Present: Cllrs Bob Ryan (Cathaoirleach), Kevin Conway, Ted Lucey, Des O'Grady, Gobnait Moynihan & Michael Creed

Attendance: Mr. Jim Molloy, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. James Dwyer, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Marie O'Leary, Municipal District Officer
Mr. Andy O'Brien, Executive Engineer
Ms. Catherine O'Shea, Assistant Staff Officer

In Attendance for Part of the Meeting:

Mr. Seamus de Faoite, Senior Executive Officer, Housing
Ms. Mary Fitzgerald, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Mr. Peter O'Donoghue, Senior Engineer, Traffic & Transport

Apologies: Mr. Conor Shannon, Assistant Engineer

**1. DEIMHNIÚ MIONTUAIRISCÍ
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr. Conway and seconded by Cllr. Lucey, the Minutes of the proceedings of the Blarney/Macroom Municipal District Meeting held on Friday 26th May 2017 having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach and the Municipal District Officer.

**ÁBHAIR A ÉIREOIDH
MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor D. O'Grady

- (a) Coolmakee Bridge
A O'Brien, EE confirmed that the bridge was open and that the NNRDO are liaising with the Consultants and Contractors in relation to the costs.
- (b) Crookstown Flood Relief Scheme – Update
J. Dwyer, SEE said he spoke to the Flooding Section regarding the Minor Works Application. Cllr. O'Grady said if it took €1.5m to finish the works in Crookstown, how much is the increase up to – could that money be made available for minor works.
- (c) Farran – Potholes
A O'Brien, EE said that they are listed and should be finished the following week.

Councillor K. Conway

- (a) Road at Castle Close – Update
J. Dwyer, SEE said the work should be starting in mid to late July.

- (b) Playground, Blarney - Update on light
J. Dwyer, SEE said he has spoken to the public lighting section and the project would be progressed outside of the public lighting programme. Cllr. Conway said there was ducting available in the playground.
- (c) Derelict Site at Knocknasuff
A O'Brien, EE said he was in the process of compiling a report.
- (d) Coachford – Road Surface at Graveyard
Cllr. Conway said he was pleased that the work had been completed and thanked everyone involved.

Councillor T. Lucey

Cllr. Lucey requested that the following items are kept on the Agenda:

- Castlevew Cross – Up to Nutricia
- Bus Depot – Update
- Wood Road, Macroom – Stones
- Post Office, Macroom – Crossing
- Dog Control Byelaws
- Replacement of Bins in Macroom Town

- (a) Lissarda - Update
J. Dwyer, SEE said depending on the weather, the works should finish on 3rd August, 2017. He said the contractors will be working late on Friday 7th and Friday 14th July.
- (b) Lights at the Bridge, Macroom
J. Dwyer, SEE said he hoped to have any issues resolved in the next few weeks.

Councillor M. Creed

- (a) Inchigeela – Bridge Wall
J. Dwyer, SEE said that the NNRDO were working on it and that he had no update.
- (b) Coachford – Gully near Dairygold - Update
A O'Brien, EE said this was on the list to be done.
- (c) Coachford – Road Surface at Graveyard
Cllr. Creed enquired if there were any plans to resurface the other side of the road. A O'Brien, EE said there was no funding. In response to Cllr. Creed, J. Dwyer, SEE said it could be considered for a future Programme.
- (d) Entrance to Castle Grounds, Macroom
Cllr. Creed complimented the clean up that was carried out.
- (e) Road from Rylane to Ballinagree – Fuschia Bushes Growing Out
A O'Brien, EE said that the works were listed for the Hedge Cutting Contractor.

Councillor G. Moynihan

- (a) Coolmakee Bridge
Cllr. Moynihan said she was pleased that the work had been carried out and thanked everyone involved.
- (b) Lissarda
Cllr. Moynihan asked if the TII had met local residents to inform them of the finish date. J. Dwyer, SEE said there was a meeting held with the TII and it was mainly businesses who attended. Cllr. Moynihan queried if there could be signage erected in Lissarda to let people know that the works are coming to an end. J. Dwyer, SEE said the business people were also adamant that signs were erected and that the TII were looking at it.
- (c) Coachford – Road Surface at Graveyard
Cllr. Moynihan said she was delighted the work had been carried out.
- (d) ESBi Update
J. Dwyer, SEE said the entire road width would be recycled from Ballyvourney to Coolea for the length of the trench. He said that ESBi are planning to hold public meetings in the next few weeks to inform the local residents.

Councillor B. Ryan

Tap in St. Senans graveyard

A O' Brien EE said that Irish Water would have to be contacted re a connection and there would be a cost associated to deliver a connection here.

2. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) "Repair and Lease" Scheme 2017

Seamus de Faoite, SEO made a presentation to the Members giving an overview of the Scheme and circulated the presentation document to all.

All Members welcomed the Scheme and the following observations were made:

Cllr. Creed

- If the works cost more than €40,000 could the work be carried out
- How many offered that were not suitable
- No demand for houses in rural areas
- Extra staff to operate the Scheme

Cllr. Lucey

- If an old farmhouse was divided into three could they qualify for 3 separate grants

Cllr. O'Grady

- Will the tenant be paying differential rent to the Council
- Will the rent to the owner be fixed for the duration of the time
- Will the contractors have to give evidence of payment

- An applicant should not be refused if they have not specified a particular area.
- Buy and Renew Scheme – Compulsory Purchase Orders

Cllr. Moynihan

- If there is no tenant in the house, the owner should still be receiving rent

Seamus de Faoite, SEO said that the Scheme was run in Waterford and Carlow on a pilot basis. He said that there were 40 applications received with 16 inspections carried out and that 8 of them were valid. He said that most of the jobs were costing approx. €34/€35k.

Mr. De Faoite replied to the Members observations as follows:

- Whereas there may be a demand for houses in rural areas they would have to weigh it up as Choice Based Letting exists.
- Extra staff will be requested if deemed necessary
- If the works cost more than €40,000 the owner will have to pay the excess
- If a farmhouse is converted into 3 units, they could qualify for 3 grants however, it may be difficult to pay back as this money would have to be paid back through rent. All properties must be compliant with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017.
- Tenants will be paying the Differential Rent which will be reviewed in accordance with the Consumer Price Index
- It is the responsibility of the owner of property to hire the Contractors/sub contractors.
- The property owner is guaranteed the rent if the property becomes vacant – it's up to the Local Authority to ensure the property is occupied.
- The properties would be regarded as social houses and it would be the responsibility of Cork County Council to maintain them
- Buy and Renew Scheme – no details on the Scheme

(b) Inniscarra Bridge Traffic Management Improvement Report

Peter O'Donoghue, SE made a presentation to the Members outlining potential traffic management options recommend by ARUP Consulting Engineers.

All Members welcomed the report and the following observations were made:

Cllr Conway

- How will it affect traffic at Inniscarra Bar
- How long would the works take.
- Could be a countdown light be installed

Cllr. O'Grady

- Yellow boxes a good solution
- Why private consultants were used
- Cost of Work
- Is the finance available – has government funding been sought
- Disruption at the Anglers Rest side.

Cllr. Moynihan

- Will there be public consultation.

Peter O'Donoghue, SE replied as follows to the Members:

- No information on how long the bridge will be closed. He said they are hoping to time the works for the summer period when the schools are closed to minimise traffic delays
- Impact at Inniscarra Bar – this has not been analysed. He said traffic will increase and there was a limit to what can be done. He said they will have to keep an eye on it.
- Countdown lights - would be an additional cost but could be considered
- As regards private consultants, Traffic and Transport has a countywide brief and that Local Authorities do not engage traffic experts specialising in different fields as firstly there is a difficulty in recruiting them and also retaining staff. He said private consultants have a high level of expertise and as there is a Framework in place this ensures good value for money.
- The Scheme depends on Yellow Boxes
- Will be an expensive Scheme – no details on cost
- Reduction in volume at the Anglers Rest
- The public can make submissions as part of the Part 8 Process
- The Scheme is at Design stage and not on any Programme. It will need support from the Members to progress it.

It was proposed by Cllr. Creed and seconded by Cllr. Ryan, and agreed by all the Members to progress to Part 8.

P. O'Donoghue, SE said that the full ARUP report will be on public display and that he would meet with anyone if they have any questions.

(c) Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism Update to Municipal District on the activity of the Tourism Section to end of May 2017

The Members noted the report.

All Members agreed that the Blarney Macroom MD had so much to offer which was not included. They requested that it is included on the Agenda for September.

(d) Discretionary Fund Applications

The Members noted the report.

Proposed: Cllr. Moynihan

Seconded: Cllr. Lucey

(e) 2017 Clár Approval from Department

The Members noted the report.

(f) 2017 Town & Village Renewal Scheme

J. Molloy, SEO informed the Members that 15 applications had been submitted together with 3 reserve applications. The Department will decide on the applications and there is no guarantee that all of the Council's submission will be granted funding. In response to Cllr. Lucey, Mr. Molloy said that the Church of Ireland application was one of the reserve applications.

(g) Kilmurry School Crossing – Section 38 Notice

All Members supported this and agreed that this should help reduce the speed through Kilmurry and therefore make it safer.

(h) Update on Proposed Housing Development at Oakwood Estate, Macroom

The Members noted the report.

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed by all the Members that Housing be contacted to request a meeting with the residents and Members to brief them on proposals for the Part 8 before the next monthly meeting.

(i) Briery Gap Update

The Members noted the report.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

None

**4. CHUN NA RUIN SEO LEANAS ÓN GCOMHAIRLEOIR A MHEAS:
TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICES OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF:**

(a) Cllr. O'Grady

To seek a report and update on planned road resurfacing works that were due to take place in 2016 on Station Road , Kilcrea, (L2207) from Currahaley Cross to Creed's Cross and which haven't so far been carried out.

Report

Preparation works are due to commence on the Station Road L2207 in early July once phase two of the Surface Dressing works are complete.

Andrew O'Brien, Executive Engineer

A O'Brien, EE said that the works are listed for the forthcoming week. He said that due to limited funding all of Station Road will not be completed but will be listed for a Programme of Works next year.

(b) Cllr. O'Grady

"To seek a report on Council plans for housing on the Council owned sites at Coachford (2.21Ha) and Agharinagh, Dripsey (1.33Ha). The report to include the potential number of units that could be accommodated on each site, the Council approach to developing these sites, plans already drawn up, the progress made so far and the timescale involved in having units built and occupied on these sites"

Report

Cork County Council has no immediate plans for either site. Both sites were assessed in 2015, and given local demand, infrastructural requirements on each site and associated site development costs the sites were deemed more suitable for long term development and therefore were not prioritised.

The land in Coachford is a significant landholding and is currently leased to the local soccer club. The development of this site will be challenging and expensive and we would have to look at the demand in the area closely before beginning any design process on site. It is intended to develop an initial plan for this site in the coming year, and an initial assessment of the costs of infrastructural works to support the development will be undertaken.

In relation to Agharinagh, Dripsey, this is a site located in the village that will be expensive to develop due to topography and servicing issues. Cork County Council is currently working on a proposal for 6 units at Model Village that has received initial approval from DHPCLG. In this context the development of the lands at Agharinagh is considered a longer term prospect.

Padraig Barrett, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Department

It was outlined by Cllr O'Grady that there could be a lot of families removed from the housing list if houses were built on these sites. He outlined that both sites are in good locations and the infrastructure is already there. However, he accepted that there are problems with water & sewerage in Coachford & Dripsey. Cllr O'Grady, together with the Members, agreed that a plan should be put in place to utilize these sites for housing

(a) Cllr. Moynihan

To ask Cork County Council to undertake a road safety audit of the L92206 Junction of the Baile Mhuirne N22 road."

Report

The junction in question is north of the N22, west of Ballyvourney village. The junction is located shortly after the start of the climbing lane on the westbound carriageway. I have raised the matter with the TII Road Safety Officer. As soon as I have a response I will revert to the elected members.

James Dwyer, Senior Executive Engineer

Cllr. Moynihan requested that it is included on the Agenda for the next meeting.

- (b) ***To ask Cork County Council to confirm that the compulsory road safety measures outside Killmurry National School be carried out during the school holidays, causing the least amount of disruption to the school functioning.***"

Report

Following on from concerns in relation to traffic safety outside Killmurry School previously raised at this meeting, the NNRDO has prepared a design for the footpath and crossing point in front of the school. I have discussed the proposed design with the local traffic Garda Sergeant and the school principal and they are satisfied with it.

If the elected members are satisfied with the proposal it will now be necessary to carry out a consultation process in accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act. This will take approximately 5 weeks from the date of publication of the notice. This scheme was not originally included as a Low Cost Accident Scheme for 2017 but recently a number of other planned schemes have been delayed. It is anticipated that funding will therefore be available for Killmurry in 2017.

Although it may be possible to progress some of the work in August it is extremely unlikely to be complete before the schools re-opens at the end of the month. I will however examine the programme of work in order to minimise its affect on pupils and parents.

James Dwyer, Senior Executive Engineer,

5. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

None

**6. AON GHNÓ EILE
ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr. Kevin Conway

Blarney to Waterloo Road – Overhanging Trees
A O'Brien, EE said he would investigate

Cllr. Ted Lucey

Installing a tap in an Estate

Cllr. Lucey enquired as to what the residents need to do to install a tap. J. Molloy, SEO said he would talk to Irish Water.

Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan

Briery Gap – Update

J. Molloy, SEO outlined that Consultants should be appointed in September with tender documents ready early in the New Year. It is hoped that works could commence on site by March 2018. Report to be requested on progress.

Cllr. Des O'Grady

(a) SIPTU Work Stoppage

Cllr. O'Grady said that he fully supports the workers and queried what number of staff was required as the services are being affected.

(b) Anti Dumping Initiative

Cllr. O'Grady said that €1.3m has been made available to Local Authorities across the state and that 85 projects have been approved for funding. He queried how it was being operated and was there any information available. He also questioned why the Municipal Districts had not been made aware of it. M. O'Leary, MDO said she would contact the Environment Department and endeavour to have a report for the next meeting.

(c) Verge Cutting

Cllr. O'Grady highlighted the following areas:

- Junction at Lower Farran towards Farran Wood
- Courtbrack Village area is totally overgrown
- Junction at Ballytrasna on the N22 – turning right – can't see traffic on the bridge

J. Dwyer, SEE said verge cutting is being carried out at present and the the N22 has been prioritised. He said that funding for verge cutting was limited but to let him know if there are any areas of concern.

Cllr. Bob Ryan

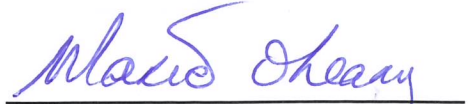
SIPTU Work Stoppage

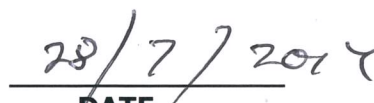
Cllr. Ryan said that the staff numbers have decreased so much they are finding it increasingly difficult to meet day to day commitments.

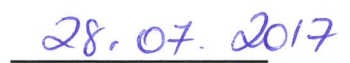
All Members agreed to write Senior Management expressing their concerns and requesting that the workforce workforce crews be built back up to the pre recession numbers.

This concluded the business of the meeting


CATHAOIRLEACH


MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER


DATE


DATE