

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE ON MONDAY 4th FEBRUARY, 2019.

Present: Councillors G. Keohane, C. Rasmussen, A. Barry, K. McCarthy, D. Ó'Cadhlá & P. O'Sullivan.

Officials Present: Mr. S. O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer
Mr. G. O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer.
Ms. C. McDonnell, Cobh Municipal District
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

The meeting began with a moments' reflection.

1. REPORT ON LITTLE ISLAND TRANSPORT STUDY

The members were presented with the final report on the Little Island Traffic and Transportation Study by Mr. Andrew Archer from Systra. Mr. Archer outlined the vision and benefits of the study, the issues raised by the various stakeholders including members of the Little Island Business Association, residents etc. The final plan was presented as a series of integrated networks for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport and vehicular traffic and an outline of the next steps, however it was indicated that a third interchange for Little Island was not part of the medium or long term plan. Cllr. P. O'Sullivan queried the employee numbers being used as a basis for the plan and sought clarification of these numbers. Cllr. O'Sullivan also sought a separate report on a third interchange and raised the issue of special contributions from planning applications to ring fence funding for the various proposals, but welcomed many aspects of the plan particularly the footbridge, cycle and bus lanes. Cllr. Barry sought clarification on the 36,000 movements in and out of Little Island daily, asking if it was known how many of those journeys used the Dunkettle interchange. He also had concerns about the rejection of a third interchange to address the traffic congestion. Cllr. McCarthy said he saw many positives in the plan but also queried the employee numbers, as he stated car pooling had always been a factor for those working in Little Island. Cllr. Rasmussen raised concerns about the costings of the plan and also had concerns about the timescale involved. Cllr. Ó'Cadhlá stated that in his opinion a third access was absolutely essential. Andrew Archer stated that the construction of a third interchange would totally undermine the promotion of public transport in and out of Little Island. The measures proposed in the plan could be implemented far quicker than the construction of a third interchange and would have immediate benefits. P. Lynch reminded members that the construction or not of a third interchange was a matter for TII not Cork County Council and would take a minimum of 8-10 years to be implemented, what was being looked for now was the members support to drive ahead with this plan which concentrated on methods to reduce traffic congestion that were within Cork County Council's control to deliver in the short to medium term. The members agreed to support the measures proposed and requested the clarification of the points raised above as part of the implementation process.

2. **DEIMHNIÚ MIONTUAIRISCÍ**

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen the Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on Monday 7th January, 2019 were adopted.

3. **MATTERS ARISING:**

Harbour Row:

P. Lynch stated that he had contacted the Environment Department again and was awaiting a response in relation to the CCCTV for Harbour Row.

23/24 West Beach, Cobh:

P. Lynch confirmed that he had received a report from the engineer in relation to this property and would be following up the issues raised this week.

Traffic Calming, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that traffic surveys had been carried out between Kirkwood Villas and O’Donovan Place. Survey results showed vehicles were travelling at an average speed of 51km/Hr, just 1km over the speed limit for this area. Notwithstanding this he agreed to install one VMS sign at location (to be agreed) for traffic travelling down the hill.

Broadband, Cobh:

P. Lynch stated that letters had issued to all broadband providers, however a response had yet to be received.

Traffic Flow at Harbour Row, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed major works are to be undertaken along Harbour Row later this year in conjunction with the Lower Harbour scheme. As part of these works, “pull in bays” for vehicles can be constructed. However this will result in the loss of parking spaces. Engineer to arrange for layout drawings showing possible vehicle “pull in bays” to be drafted.

Whitechurch N.S.:

G. O’Hora stated that a traffic survey would need to be undertaken and any works would be subject to funding, he would however examine the erecting of additional road speed signage, given the proximity to the school.

Harbour Point Industrial Park, Little Island:

P. Lynch stated that he had contacted the City Council in relation to this issue; tender documents had been issued by City Council who were also in contact with Irish Water about funding.

Spy Hill, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that he would list the Spy Hill road for remedial repairs.

Parking Spaces at Centra, Cobh:

R. O’Sullivan will have drawings and proposals for the next meeting.

Traffic Poles, Cobh:

R. O’Sullivan stated that the new traffic poles would not need to be painted; they will be covered by black sleeves. G. O’Hora stated that a programme for remedial repair works for all damaged poles was in place and that works would resume as soon as possible.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letters to Broadband providers – Letters sent, no replies yet received.
2. Email from Irish Water re Belvelly – circulated to members.

5. OFFICER’S REPORTS:

G. O’Hora had a number of programmes to bring to the attention of members:

- a. Proposed Road Improvement Works 2019 – 16 locations
- b. Surface Dressing Works 2019 – 18 locations
- c. Drainage Works 2019
- d. Footpath Programme 2019 – 31 locations.

Cllr. K. McCarthy asked for Joe Reid Place, Cobh to be included. R. O’Sullivan stated that this was on last year’s programme which still had to be finished.

Cllr. Rasmussen raised Cooline, Cobh, the engineer replied that as far as he was aware a planning application was due to be submitted for that area and a footpath should be included as part of the ancillary works.

G. O’Hora stated that he would be presenting a Public Lighting programme to the members at next month’s meeting. Cllr. Barry asked whether there was a programme to replace the old yellow lights with new LED ones. G. O’Hora stated there was an ongoing remedial programme for these works and if members wished they could contact the Public Lighting section of Cork County Council to acquire an update.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the programme of works, as outlined above, were adopted.

Parks Use Policy Review:

P. Lynch stated that a Parks Use Policy had been introduced in April 2017 and was now due for review. He outlined three changes which have been sought to the existing Parks Use Policy.

Following a debate by the members it was agreed to amend the policy to cover the existing uses within John F. Kennedy Park which are currently permitted under the Cobh Town Council Casual Trading Bye-Laws and which would cease once the County Council Bye Laws come into effect i.e. the weekly Cobh Farmer’s Market and a mobile coffee stall which operates on cruise liner days and on Sundays in the summer season.

It was also agreed to amend the policy to cover a mobile coffee stall in the Haulbowline Island Public Recreational Amenity and to examine the demand for a Farmer's market at the facility.

The other change requested namely an extension of the coffee stall licence to daily between April and October was deferred to the March meeting.

6. HOUSING REPORT FOR COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT:

This report had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting, as was marked as read.

7. MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICERS REPORT:

P. Lynch circulated the report and reminded members that the Community Fund Scheme closing date was the 15th February 2019 and that all applications had to be made online and invited proposals from the members for the Town Development Fund. P. Lynch was to meet with representatives from Glounthaune in relation to the Village Enhancement Scheme. A grant in respect of Harpers Island in the sum of €156,000 in addition to €40,000 from Cork County Council had been received; P. Lynch had a meeting with representatives in the next few days. P. Lynch presented members with a nomination form and guidelines for the annual Pride of Place competition and requested any submissions to be returned by 22nd February.

8. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY:

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed to dispose of the Old Courthouse Riverstown, Glanmire, to Scorpion Capital & Asset Management Ltd for the consideration of €100,000.

9. To Consider the Taking in Charge of Carrigtwohill Rail Station Entrance Road (85 metres in length)

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the taking in charge of the above road, was agreed.

10. To Consider the Taking in Charge of Water Rock Link Road (330 metres in length)

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. D. Ó'Cadhlá, the taking in charge of the above road, was agreed.

11. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:

“That Cobh Municipal Council calls on Cork County Council to develop and implement a by-law prohibiting the use of election posters subject to guidelines and legal advice throughout the County, in support of a cleaner and safer environment”

The Motion was deferred in view of Cllr. Sheppard's absence.

- 12. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Ger Keohane:**
“That this Municipal install a road drain and a single bigger pipe to alleviate the ongoing flooding issue in Brooklodge East.”

G. O’Hora stated that he had met the landowner and works will be carried out shortly, on the proposal of Cllr. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. O’Sullivan, the motion was carried.

- 13. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Ger Keohane:**
“That this Municipal make safe the dangerous trees at the entrance to the Brookville Estate, Riverstown; these trees are on a steep gradient with very little soil to support them, these trees are causing damage to the main sewer pipe and are causing structural damage to a private dwelling.”

Cllr. G. Keohane stated that he had a report from a tree surgeon in relation to the trees. G. O’Hora confirmed trees will be inspected and if trees are deemed dangerous they will be removed. On the proposal of Cllr. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. O’Sullivan, the motion was carried.

- 14. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Ger Keohane:**
“That this Municipal formulate a road safety plan to slow down traffic on the Ballincrossig road (R639) to protect residents living on this road and to protect pedestrians.”

G. O’Hora stated that a traffic survey would need to be carried out at this location to determine traffic speeds on the road. He would examine additional speed limit signs be erected on the road. On the proposal of Cllr. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. Ó’Cadhla, the motion was carried.

- 15. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:**
“That Cobh Municipal Council would request a Traffic Management Survey done of the island, to highlight the need for upgrading of the road infrastructure in Cobh”

The Motion was deferred in view of Cllr. Sheppard’s absence.

- 16. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**
“That this municipal would look at traffic calming and possible signage in the Cuskinny Area, the Carrigaloe area from the ferry to the village itself and also near Belvelly Bridge heading in on the R624, owing to the volume of traffic and speed at which the cars are travelling as it is making crossing or walking on the road impossible.”

G. O’Hora responded by stating that all three areas would be examined and confirmed. CCC had erected 2 VMS signs on the Cuskinny road last year, and one VMS sign on the R624 at Carrigaloe. Traffic speed was an enforcement issue and a matter for the Gardaí. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy, the motion was carried.

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

“That this municipal would invite in the Port of Cork to make a presentation to us on the planned second terminal at Lynch's Quay and to see how this will affect the planned Streetscape plan for the town. Also can we have a update on the launch of the draft plans for the streetscape in Cobh.”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that there had been no official presentation from the Port of Cork regarding their plans for Lynch's Quay. P. Lynch stated that he would follow up with the Port of Cork and the architects department regarding the draft plans. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy the motion was carried.

18. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the names of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard and Cathal Rasmussen:

“That Cobh Municipal Council would give a detailed report on the days and hours that the outdoor staff spends on the island and details on how our litter management program is being implemented since coming into effect a number of months ago”

Cllr. Rasmussen queried how the Litter Management Plan was working, how the 10 zones outlined in the plan were being monitored and if cleaning the public toilets once a day was enough, particularly during the tourist season. It was agreed to defer this motion to next month in order for the officials to compile a report on the issues raised.

19. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:

“That this council write to the Department of Education requesting an update on the proposed education campus for Carrigwohill, and as to whether the delay in construction of the road from station Road to Main St is a contributing factor in the delay.”

Cllr. Barry stated that a site had been secured by the Department of Education for the proposed campus, however there had been no progress. Cllr. O'Sullivan stated that according to his information the school was due to begin in the 2nd quarter of 2020. On the proposal of Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan the motion was carried.

20. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:

“That this Council ensures that when the new Council comes into effect, that the municipal district boundary is also the boundary for the delivery of services”

Cllr. Barry stated that there was an anomaly in the current divisions between Municipal Districts as there were roads that were the responsibility of the Cobh Municipal District but which were in the electoral area of the East Cork Municipal District. On the proposal of Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan, the motion was carried.

21. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Diarmaid Ó'Cadhlá:

“That the Municipal Council requests clarification from the Executive as to the ownership of lands / property, including:

1. The walkway stretching from the Annie Moore statue to the end of the 5 Foot Way.

2. The walkway, adjoining fields, and the cottage (known as Summerlee/Kealties) at Marino Point.

In addition, that this Council confirms that a public ‘right of way’ exists along these traditional walkways and lands.

3. That the Port of Cork Company be asked to remove obstructive fencing and ‘Private Property Notice’ that it erected on the Marino Point walkway last November or since.

4. That the Port of Cork Company be asked to refrain from blocking access to public property, walkways or roads (unless via approved road closure licensing).

And that this Municipal Council proceed immediately to register these Rights of Way, in accordance with whatever legal provisions allow that, in order to ensure their continuance and the beneficial use of the public. This Council also asks that these Rights of Way be identified in the next County and Local Development Plans and in the White Papers preceding it, and that they also be advised to the various bodies interested in tourism and outdoor leisure.”

P. Lynch circulated a report on the various issues surrounding rights of way that were raised at the January meeting. He clarified that the Port of Cork own the Deep Water Quay and have the authority to restrict or remove members of the public when ships are loading or unloading. The remainder of the Five Foot Way is registered to Cobh UDC. There is no reference in the Public Registration Authority to any registered Right of Way through the Deep Water Quay.

A search of the PRA website indicated that the lands at Carrigaloe are not registered and not right of way is registered across the lands. The members were supplied with information indicating the existence or otherwise of a right of way across these lands.

P. Lynch to examine this matter and revert to the members in relation to what action, if any, could be taken in this regard.

P. Lynch also stated that while the Roads Act 1993 gives a Local Authority powers in relation to the protection of the rights of the public to access public rights of way within their administrative area, a Local Authority has no power to assert that a right of way exists – that power rests with the Attorney General.

Following a debate it was agreed that the members should raise the issue of public rights of way at full Council or the Development Committee.

22. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Diarmaid Ó'Cadhlá:

“That this Council requests that the breakwater on the west side of the Pilot Boat pier be repaired, it is allowing rubbish to become trapped inside the pier wall.”

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó'Cadhlá, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy, it was agreed to refer this issue to Coastal Management.

23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS/AON GHNÓ EILE.

23.1 Little Island National School:

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan stated there were very large potholes on the road leading to the school. Engineer confirmed road was listed for repair.

23.2 Tunnel Exit at Little Island:

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan stated that trucks exiting a site on Little Island were damaging the surface of the road leading to the tunnel. Engineer confirmed road was repaired by CCC.

23.3 Rathpeacon:

Cllr. O'Sullivan stated that trucks from the Little Island site were damaging the road leading to Rathpeacon. Engineer confirmed road was repaired by CCC.

23.4 Forge Cross:

Cllr. O'Sullivan sought an update. Engineer confirmed landowners on the road have been written too and asked to cut hedges at the junction to improve sight lines.

23.5 Ballintubber, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. Barry stated that very few of the cross roads in the Ballintubber area had sign posts. Engineer to examine.

23.6 Fota Road:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that rubbish and leaves had accumulated along the Fota Road. Engineer to examine.

23.7 Blocked Drains, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen raised the issue of blocked drains throughout the town of Cobh, particularly at the Burma Steps and outside the youth centre. Engineer confirmed programme of drain cleaning works to commence shortly.

23.8 Cow Cross, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen sought clarification of when the works at Cow Cross were to begin. G. O'Hora replied that the works were due to start in the next few weeks.

23.9 Potholes, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen raised the issue of potholes outside the Lidl supermarket and near the traffic lights at the top of Ticknock hill. Engineer confirmed pothole was listed for repair.

23.10 Public Toilets, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen queried when the public toilets in Cobh were due to re-open, following the recent fire. Engineer to revert.

23.11 Jack Doyle Statue, Cobh:

Cllr. Ó'Cadhlá raised the issue of the Jack Doyle Statue and sought an update. P. Lynch replied that the Conservation officer was not in favour of the proposed area and

suggested that the location be moved beyond the bandstand, towards the playground. Cllr. Ó' Cadhla queried whether the existing plaque be replaced by the proposed new statue. He also asked if a site meeting could be arranged with the Conservation Officer to agree an exact location for the proposed statue. P. Lynch agreed to contact the Conservation Officer in relation to a meeting.

23.12 Velvet House Crossroads, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen proposed that the Municipal District would work with the Tidy Towns Association to upgrade the roundabout at the Velvet House Crossroads. This would require a Part 8 application. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy, it was agreed to start this Part 8 process once the Tidy Towns Committee had submitted the necessary drawings.

23.13 Glanmire Yard:

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan requested that the Director of Roads be contacted in relation to the yard at Ballinglanna, requesting that the yard be kept under the control of Cork County Council following the boundary extension. He stated that the loss of the facility would greatly impact the work of the Municipal District. Cllr. K. McCarthy seconded the motion. P. Lynch to write to the Director of Roads.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.