

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE ON MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2019.**

**Present:** Councillors G. Keohane, A. Barry, K. McCarthy, D. Ó’Cadhla, P. O’Sullivan & S. Sheppard.

**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. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

An apology for his inability to attend was received from Cllr. C. Rasmussen

The meeting began with a moments’ reflection.

**1. Proposed Strategic Cycle Corridor Bury's Bridge to Carrigtwohill**

The members agreed to hear from the Traffic and Transportation Section on the Proposed Strategic Cycle Corridor from Burys’ Bridge to Carrigtwohill. Micheal Mulconroy gave details of the project which when complete would consist of 9km of segregated cycle path, 3m wide, between the old Ibis Hotel at Glounthaune to Carrigtwohill. The project will form part of a wider cycle network which will eventually link Cork city and Youghal. Cllr. A. Barry welcomed the project and queried when it was proposed to start and also if funding for the construction had been secured. Mr. Mulconroy replied by stating that the National Transport Authority had supplied funding for the design stage and that there was reason to believe funding for the construction phase would be forthcoming, as the project was in line with national strategic guidelines and would be constructed on a phased basis. Cllr. S. Sheppard queried if once the first stage of the project was completed from Burys’ Bridge to Little Island, was there a danger that the project could stall at this point, with the final stages to Carrigtwohill taking years to complete, Mr. Mulconroy stated that he did not see this happening. On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, it was agreed to start the Part 8 process.

**2. Proposed Amendment to Cobh Municipal District Local Area Plan 2017**

Ms. Lorraine Kennedy, Planning Policy Unit of Cork County Council, outlined a proposal to amend the Cobh Municipal District Local Area Plan 2017. The amendment is to a small parcel of land on the northern side of Carrigtwohill to be rezoned as ‘Existing Built up Area’, which was omitted from the development plan as recommended in the Chief Executives Report. A public consultation process is due to commence on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March and would last for 6 weeks. Cllr. Barry stated that he had no recollection of this proposal from discussion of the Local Area Plan and queried if re-zoned whether this parcel of land would be considered then for high density use, for example apartments. Cllr. Ó’Cadhla queried why the changes were being proposed

now and whether there were immediate plans for this area and wanted his opposition to the change noted. Following some discussion it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy to the proposed amendment as outlined on the attached drawing and not to include the adjacent existing houses.

**3. Officers Reports – Whitepoint Marina, Cobh – Part 8.**

S. O’Callaghan outlined the background to this project which was first proposed in 2009 by Scott Tallon Walker in their report. Eamonn Mullally then explained that the report envisaged a 74 berth Marina, the current proposal was for a much reduced project composing 16 permanent berths and 10 visitor berths and the facility to operate a ferry. This was a joint venture between Cork County Council and Cobh Sailing Club. Members queried whether the proposed ferry berth was to be exclusively for the operation of a second ferry to Spike Island and were informed that the berth would be available for any harbour based activity. Cllr. S. Sheppard welcomed the project and praised Cobh Sailing Club for the work done over the last number of years and thanked Cork County Council and Declan Daly in particular for the support given to the work. This was a very positive development for Cobh and Cork Harbour. On the proposal of Cllr. K. McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to start the Part 8 process.

**4. Deimhniú Miontuairiscí**

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. D. Ó’Cadhla, the Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of Cobh and East Cork Municipal Districts, held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February were adopted.

**5. Matters Arising:**

**23/24 West Beach, Cobh:**

P. Lynch confirmed that contact had been established with one of the owners regarding the necessary works.

**Traffic Calming, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that a Driver Speed Back Sign would be purchased shortly and erected at Kirkwood Villas, Cobh during May/June 2019.

**Whitechurch N.S.:**

G. O’Hora stated that a traffic speed survey has been carried out on the School road, Whitechurch. Due to some excessive traffic speeds on the road, he would apply for funding to erect a traffic calming measure and some additional road safety signage on the road.

**Brookville Estate, Glanmire:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that he was awaiting a report on the condition of the trees in the Brookville estate, if any trees are found to be dangerous, they would be removed.

**Ballincrossig Road:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that 50 Km/Hr speed repeater signs would be erected along the Ballincrossig road.

**Port of Cork:**

P. Lynch stated that he had been in contact with representatives of the Port of Cork Company who intend to invite the members to the Custom House in the coming weeks to discuss plans for Lynch’s Quay and Marino Point.

**Carrigtwohill School Campus:**

P. Lynch stated he had received an acknowledgement of his letter, but no further response.

**Right of Way – Marino Point & Deep Water Quay:**

Cllr. Ó’Cadhla stated that he continued to be in contact with residents of at Carrigaloe who were very upset that access to the Public Right of Way, which had been established over many years, continued to be blocked by the Port of Cork. He stated that there was no legal requirement to have a public right of way registered, however he did have in his possession a map which purported to show that a public right of way existed at the Deep Water Quay on land previously owned by Irish Rail. It had been suggested to him that several members of the public were prepared to place pickets at the Deep Water Quay during cruise liner visits. Cllr. Ó’Cadhla further stated that the safety concerns expressed by Port of Cork during liner docking did not extend to ports in other countries and that the byelaws quoted by the Port of Cork in recent correspondence referred to their own internal company bye-laws not those of Cork County Council or Cobh Town Council.

Cllr. K. McCarthy agreed with most of the sentiments expressed by Cllr. Ó’Cadhla, he did not agree with protests being mounted on days cruise liners were in port. He stated that IFI had cleared the walkway in the past as a goodwill gesture to residents in the area and queried why the members were accepting the Port of Corks’ version of events and requested that the Council’s solicitors investigate the matter on behalf of the members. P. Lynch stated that he had received advice from the County Solicitors office to the effect that the Local Authority had no powers to intervene where there was a dispute between the parties as to whether or not a right of way existed.

Cllr. Sheppard stated that she and Cllr. Rasmussen had met the residents on several occasions and she was of the opinion that the walkway had always been a public amenity. However she stated that any pickets at the Deep Water Quay would be detrimental to the image that the town has cultivated over a number of years and urged further engagement with the Port of Cork by the residents and the Municipal District.

Cllr. Barry stated that he felt a lack of communication between the Port of Cork and the residents was at the root of the current dispute and stated that it was essential that it be ironed out. He also believed that certain rights were extended to the public over private lands where access had been granted over a period of at least 12 years and that this

should be clarified by the County Solicitors office. Cllr. O'Sullivan asked if the County Council could make provision for an amenity when in discussions with the Port of Cork over its future plans for the area.

P. Lynch will contact the County Solicitors office again with a view to establishing the role of the Local Authority in resolving the issue. Cllr. Ó'Cadhlá stated that he would make whatever documentation and maps he had available.

**Breakwater at Cobh:**

P. Lynch stated that that he had been informed by Coastal Management that the breakwater in question was not in the ownership of Cork County Council and that office believed that the Port of Cork owned the property.

**Little Island National School:**

G. O'Hora confirmed that road remedial repair works had been listed for the above location and that he had also applied for additional funding to refurbish the road.

**Tunnel Exit at Little Island:**

G. O'Hora stated that the road had been listed for repair work.

**Rathpeacon:**

The road potholes had been repaired.

**Forge Cross:**

G. O'Hora has requested the Roads Design Office to examine the junction and for the office to draft a design to improve the sightlines at the junction. Improvement works will be subject to available funding.

**Ballintubber, Carrigtwohill:**

New speed limit signs for the road have been ordered.

**Fota Road:**

G O'Hora confirmed the R624 Fota road been listed for cleaning. It is programmed to be cleaned on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Blocked Drains, Cobh:**

G O'Hora confirmed some of the roads drains have had been cleaned, and there is an ongoing cleaning programme for the remainder.

**Cow Cross, Cobh:**

Traffic Calming works at cow Cross has commenced.

**Potholes, Cobh:**

The potholes outside of the Lidl supermarket have been repaired.

**Public Toilets, Cobh:**

G. O'Hora stated that the toilets had been repaired following the initial fire and had been damaged again by a recent second fire and were now undergoing further repair.

### **Glanmire Yard:**

P. Lynch stated that he had received a reply from the Director of Roads in relation to the Council office and compound at Ballinglanna. The yard would be shared with the City Council for a period of 18 months after the boundary extension and would revert to the County Council in full thereafter. The members welcomed the news. G. O'Hora expressed his thanks for the members support in this matter on behalf of his staff.

## **6. Correspondence:**

- (a) Acknowledgement from the Department of Education and Skills in relation to letter issued in connection with proposed education campus for Carrigtwohill
- (b) Invitation from Cobh Tourism to members in connection with events to commemorate the anniversaries of Titanic, Lusitania and Spike Island Handover

## **7. Officers' Reports:**

### **a Public Lighting Programme 2019**

G. O'Hora presented a list of 7 schemes under the Public Lighting Programme 2019, however given the limited funding available it would only be possible to undertake the first 3, located at Whitechurch, Carrignavar and Carrigaloe. Cllr. Barry enquired about progress to replace the old public lighting with LED lights, G. O'Hora referred him to the council's public lighting section. S. O'Callaghan stated that the programme was progressing and members would be informed in due course. On the proposal of Cllr. P. O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, the Public Lighting Programme 2019 was adopted.

### **b Proposed Alteration of Parking Spaces on West Beach, Cobh.**

R. O'Sullivan presented the members with a drawing showing the proposed alteration of the parking spaces on West Beach, Cobh, by moving the loading bay outside of Centra and removing one of the 2 doctors spaces and re-lining the remaining spaces, the pinch point obstructing traffic travelling from west to east would be removed, with a minimum impact on the parking spaces available. On the proposal of Cllr. K. McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the proposal was adopted.

### **c Funfair Licence, Cobh**

A Funfair Application had been received from Ms. S. Piper for 10 dates throughout the summer for the Promenade in Cobh. The application is for 3 pieces of equipment to be rotated amongst the proposed dates and was accompanied by a Certificate of Safety. P. Lynch recommended that a Licence for the requested dates be granted, subject to the appropriate insurance documents, fee and up to date Safety Certificate being supplied. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, the Licence was granted subject to the above conditions.

### **d Litter Management Plan Report**

P. Lynch presented a report to the members on the implementation of the Litter Management Plan setting out the objectives identified in the plan and the performance of Council staff in respect of those objectives, in all areas the objectives were either met

or exceeded, a comprehensive record of all activities in relation to the plan was being kept. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that any group who contact the Council in relation to a clean-up are facilitated and acknowledged the work being done by Council staff, however she queried the emptying of the dog litter bins, stating that she had been contacted on several occasions by the Tidy Towns in relation to overflowing dog fouling bins. She also stated that the public toilets needed to be cleaned more often and that a lot of domestic rubbish was being put into the litter bins. Cllr. K. McCarthy queried how many hours the full time staff member cleaned the footpaths, as he had had walking tours that had to be guided around dog fouling. G. O’Hora expressed his disappointment at the members’ remarks, stating that his staff were working to maintain litter bins and street cleaning in Cobh. He confirmed there is a full time operative working at street cleaning and litter picking in Cobh and that the public litter bins and dog fouling bins are being emptied three times a week. S. O’Callaghan reminded the members that the issue of dog fouling was not confined to Cobh and had been raised a full Council level, also that for the last four years Cobh had won a Gold medal in the national Tidy Towns. R. O’Sullivan stated that he was aware of the incident to which Cllr. Sheppard referred, 2 bins were subsequently inspected by Council staff and found to be only partially full, it would appear that the dog owners had not fully opened the bin and left the contents partially hanging over the edge.

**e Jack Doyle Statue – Part 8**

P. Lynch stated that a satisfactory location beyond the band stand had now been identified by a senior planner in relation to the proposed statue of Jack Doyle. On the proposal of Cllr. D. Ó’Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, it was agreed to start the Part 8 public consultation process after the necessary screening assessment had been carried out.

**8. Parks Use Policy Review:**

P. Lynch presented the members with the changes to the Parks Use Policy agreed at the last meeting. As agreed at the February meeting, this allowed for the Farmers Market and the existing mobile coffee licence to continue in the Promenade; it also provided for a mobile coffee licence to operate in the Haulbowline Amenity Park once it was opened to the public. P. Lynch stated that the current holder of the coffee licence had requested that the licence be extended to 5 days per week from April to October. He advised that any decision to facilitate this change was purely a matter for the elected members. On the proposal of Cllr. K. McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the amended Parks Use Policy, including provision for a 5 day licence as requested for the mobile coffee stall in the Promenade, was adopted.

**9. 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”

Cllr. Sheppard stated that the last time a review had been carried out was over a decade ago by a private developer seeking planning permission. There was a need to highlight the huge amount of traffic accessing Cobh on a daily basis, particularly in light of the plans to attract over 100,000 visitors a year. Cllr. Sheppard queried whether the survey could be carried out as part of the Port of Cork master plan for Marino. Cllr. Barry

stated that the Great Island had been ear-marked for a major expansion for housing expansion and the least that was required was a Traffic Management Survey. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, it was agreed that P. Lynch to ask the Traffic and Transportation Section to look at carrying out a survey.

- 10. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:**  
“That Cobh Municipal Council would re look at the parking Machines in Cobh and look into a more reliable, long term option such as online pay parking”

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the Council was losing out on much needed revenue as the machines were out of order so much of the time. She pointed out that other Councils were moving towards ticketless options and online payments, Cork County Council should also be seen to be moving with the times. P. Lynch stated that traditionally individual towns within the County implemented their own bye-laws and parking collection systems, however it was now envisaged that parking would be organised centrally and introducing new technologies to control same would make become more economical. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy the motion was carried.

- 11. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:**  
“That Cobh Municipal Council would allocate funds in the region of €2,500 from pay parking to a “pick up after your dog” signage initiative on the island in conjunction with the primary schools”

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that she had been in contact with the parents association and principals of the national schools in the town in relation to running an art competition, in conjunction with the tidy towns, to design signs regarding dog fouling. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, the motion was adopted. It was agreed that Cllr. Sheppard would discuss the proposal further with the Municipal District Officer before proceeding.

- 12. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Ger Keohane:**  
“That this Municipal install traffic signs to slow down traffic outside Coppervalley Vue estate in Brooklodge in the interest of pedestrian safety and to avoid further car collisions.”

G O’Hora confirmed he would examine traffic speeds on the road and would seek to erect addition road speed limit signs along the road.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. D. Ó’Cadhla, it was agreed that the engineer would install speed repeater signs at this location.

- 13. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Ger Keohane:**  
“That this Municipal make the one way system within the St Joseph/Marble Park estate more clear and understanding to help pedestrian safety and safer for the school children attending St Joseph’s Primary School.”

G O’Hora said the road office would examine the estate road layout and traffic speeds on the road and would further examine erecting possible road safety signage along the estate road. On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Sullivan the motion was carried.

**14. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Ger Keohane:**

“That this Municipal take away a dangerous bend on the Rathcooney road up from the New Inn School as the land owner has given permission to take his ditch away to avoid further traffic collisions.”

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Sullivan it was agreed that the engineer would liaise with the landowner.

**15. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Padraig O’Sullivan:**

“That this Council would undertake a road safety assessment of Glenmore and the New Line, Glounthaune with a view to improving conditions on this heavily trafficked road.”

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that the engineer would contact the Councils’ Road Safety Officer to carry out a safety inspection.

**16. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Padraig O’Sullivan:**

“That the area engineer would give a report detailing any further plans to improve road safety at Killard.”

G O’Hora confirmed he had applied for funding for a traffic calming scheme at Killard. However the application had not been successful. He was presently examining other mechanisms for funding for the scheme. G O’Hora confirmed a VMS (Driver Feed Back Sign) would be erected at Clogheen shortly. The VMS sign was requested by the Gardai. Proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard.

**17. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Padraig O’Sullivan:**

“That this Municipal District would devise a policy where we would aim to provide electronic speed signs in ALL of our local town and village approaches. That this plan would identify the most suitable locations in the MD for the erection of such signage and that a programme would be devised and carried out by the area office in which those areas most adversely affected by speed would be given priority.”

G. O’Hora stated that the Council’s current policy provided for funding for 3 signs in each Municipal district each year. For 2019, the proposal was to install signs on the Tay Road, and Kiskwood Villas in Cobh and at Killard. He was also considering requests for Carrigtwohill and Little Island.



On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry the motion was carried.

- 18. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:**  
“That this council write to the operators of the Cross River Ferry asking them to put on the two ferries at peak times in the evenings.”

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the motion was carried.

- 19. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:**  
“That this Council write to the owners of the lands across from Aldi in Carrigtwohill requesting they secure their property or remove the horses on site in the interests of the health and safety of road users in the area.”

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by K. McCarthy the motion was carried.

- 20. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllrs. Anthony Barry and Padraig O’Sullivan:**

“That this Municipal district request that a master plan for Glounthaune be prepared by the planning policy unit due to the large number of housing planning applications of late.”

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that P. Lynch would write to the Planning Policy Unit.

- 21. Any Other Business/Aon Ghnó Eile.**

**21.1 Little Island – Traffic:**

Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated that the traffic situation at Little Island was unacceptable with delays of up to an hour caused by the current works and asked if anything could be done to improve the situation. G. O’Hora replied that there was a Garda on duty to help direct traffic at evening rush hour and Infratech were also monitoring the traffic signals to ensure no hold ups to the traffic. Council resident engineering staff were also monitoring traffic flows around the roadworks at Little Island.

**21.2 Crestfield Downs & Oakfield, Glanmire:**

Cllr. G. Keohane stated that there were very bad potholes at Crestfield Downs and Oakfield Estates. Engineer confirmed potholes were listed for repair.

**21.3 Castle Pub, Glanmire:**

Cllr. G. Keohane stated that the double yellow lines at the Castle Pub, Glanmire needed to be renewed. Engineer to examine.

**21.4 Carers Pass, Spike Island:**

Cllr. G. Keohane stated that a member of the public had been in contact with him regarding the lack of carers passes for Spike Island. P. Lynch stated that while Spike Island Development Company was owned by Cork County Council, it was legally a separate entity and responsible for the day to day running of the facility, however the management of SIDC were aware of the issue and were investigating.

**21.5 Flooding Lidl, Glanmire:**

Cllr. G. Keohane stated that the flooding outside Lidl, Glanmire still had not been resolved. G O’Hora confirmed new road gullies were installed along the road to alleviate flooding. However some of the gullies were getting blocked due to fallen leaves.

**21.6 East Cliffe Road, Glanmire:**

Cllr. G. Keohane queried if a Traffic Management Plan was in place for the current works as the proposed closure of the road would lead to problems for the residents. Engineer confirmed a road closure was granted by CCC for closing the road and road closure and alternative routes was advertised in the Irish Examiner newspaper on two dates.

**21.7 Ballyseedy, Carrigtwohill:**

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the bollards installed opposite Ballyseedy at Carrigtwohill to stop trucks parking on the side of the road had been knocked over and queried when they would be replaced. The engineer stated that it would appear that the bollards had been cut down and would be replaced as soon as possible.

**21.8 Flooding, Carrigtwohill:**

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the flooding outside the Family Resource Centre at Carrigtwohill still hadn’t been resolved. Also the gullies on Main Street needed to be cleared out and outside of the Church a water manhole cover looked in danger of collapse. Engineer to examine.

**21.9 Hedge cutting, Carrigtwohill:**

Cllr. Barry queried if the hedge cutting season was now over, as some works due to be carried out in the Carrigtwohill area had not been completed. Engineer stated present hedge cutting season was over.

**21.10 Aherns Place, Cobh:**

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the angle of the traffic lights had been changed and that had helped the situation, but additional signage needed to be installed. Engineer to examine.

**21.11 Cluain Ard, Cobh:**

Cllr. Sheppard stated that while she was aware that the Cluain Ard estate had not been taken in charge which created difficulties, she asked that the current owners be written to regarding problems with at least 13 lights, which were not working.

**21.12 Assumption Place/Ringmeen, Cobh:**

Cllr. Sheppard stated that a cul de sac area between Assumption Place and Ringmeen estate needed to be resurfaced; it was currently concreted and was in very bad

condition. Also the road surface at St. Colman's Square needed to be repaired. Engineer to examine.

**21.13 Election Posters:**

Cllr. S. Sheppard queried whether it was possible to restrict election posters to certain areas outside of the town centres. P. Lynch replied that elections posters were exempt from the Litter Pollution act and it was a matter for the candidates if they wished to restrict use, but that the local authority was not in a position to enforce any agreement.

**21.14 Rockgrove, Little Island:**

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan queried if all the caravans had now been removed from the Rockgrove site and how much the whole operation had cost the Council and what was the plan now for the area. P. Lynch to revert with the costings.

**21.15 Vote of Condolence:**

Cllr. K. McCarthy proposed a vote of condolence in respect of Mrs. Marion Buckley, RIP, mother of Council staff member, Stephen Buckley.

**21.16 Vote of Congratulations:**

Cllr. S. Sheppard proposed a vote of congratulations to Cllr. Pdraig O'Sullivan and his wife, Bernie, on the birth of their son. The other members and staff offered their congratulations also.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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**Cathairleach**

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**Municipal District Officer.**