



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council

Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork and by Microsoft Teams on 26th October 2021 at 11am.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir Gillian Uí Chochláin, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri: Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Sé, Sean Pól, Ó Murchú, Gearóid, Críod, Ó Luanaigh, Ó Cochláin, M, Uí Loinaigh, Ó Luasa, Ó hAodha, Padraig, Ó Cinnéide, Ó Madaoin, Léanacháin - Uí Foghlú, Ó Héigheartaigh, Ní hEachthigheirn, Uí Thuama, MacCarthaigh S, Mac Uaid, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Cearbhaill, Ó Muirthile, Uí Chaochlaioich,, Ó Haodha Pól, Uí Chochláin G, Ó Colmáin, Ó Murchú, Caoimhín, Uí Shuilleabháin Máire, Ó Coileáin, D, Ó Murchú PG, Ó Conaill, Mac Craith, Uí Daltún, Ó Muircheartaigh, Uí Bhuachalla, O'Conchubair L, Daltún Ó Suilleabháin, Ní Cheallacháin, Barra, Sheppard, Rasmussen, Ó Conchubair S, Ó Conchubair A, MacCarthaigh N, Ó Flionn, Uí Bhriain, Ó Laoghaire, Dawson, De Róiste

PRESENT

Councillor Gillian Coughlan, County Mayor, presided.

Councillor: Doyle, O'Shea JP, Murphy Gerard, Creed, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Kennedy, Madden, Linehan – Foley, Hegarty, Ahern, Twomey, McCarthy S, Quaide, Kelly, Carroll, Hurley, Coakley, Hayes Paul, Coughlan G, Coleman, Murphy Kevin, O'Sullivan M, Collins D, Murphy P.G, O'Connell, McGrath, D'Alton, Murtagh, Buckley, O'Connor L, Dalton – O'Sullivan, O'Callaghan, Barry, Sheppard, Rasmussen, O'Connor S, O'Connor A, McCarthy N, O'Flynn, O'Brien, O'Leary, Dawson, Roche,

Chief Executive, Mr. Michael Plaice, Senior Executive Librarian, Mr. Aidan Weir, Senior Engineer, Senior Executive Officer.

The Mayor outlined the Public Health Restrictions at the beginning of the meeting and reminded Members of the COVID-19 SOP management requirements of the meeting.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Proposed by Cllr. Liam Quaide

Seconded by Cllr. Michael Hegarty

- a. To discuss the closure of Owenacurra Health Centre.

Proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Kelly

Seconded by Cllr. Joe Carroll

- b. To discuss the opening hours of Dunmanway Swimming Pool.

Members agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss these matters at 1.00pm

[a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/10-2

Proposed by Cllr. Pat Hayes

Seconded by Cllr. Karen Coakley

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 11th October, 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/10-2

TO: Ms. Mary Smithwick on the death of her sister Anne Smithwick.

TO: Ms. Mary Banks on the death of her father George Banks.

TO: Mrs. Carmel Fox on the death of her husband Jimmy Fox.

TO: Ms. Ann Looney on the death of her father Pat Looney.

The Mayor also asked Members to remember the people in hospital and the Health Service who need our support.

[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS

3/10-2

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY:

SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001:

Members noted the following disposal:

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KANTURK/MALLOW:

Disposal of property at Meetinny East, Meelin, Newmarket, Co. Cork .

3(a)10-2

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 15th October, 2021.

SITUATION: Disposal of property at Meetinny East, Meelin, Newmarket, Co. Cork.

AREA: As outlined in Red on File Plan CK156036F

CONSIDERATION: €40,000

Disposal of land at Glencarney, Rockchapel, Co. Cork .

3(b)10-2

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 15th October, 2021.

SITUATION: Disposal of property at Glencarney, Rockchapel.

AREA: As outlined in Red on File Plan CK23854F

CONSIDERATION: €53,000

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF EAST CORK:

Disposal of access passageway adjoining Hillside Court, Ballinacurra, Midleton, Co. Cork.

3(c)10-2

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 15th October, 2021.

SITUATION: Disposal of access passageway adjoining Hillside Court, Ballinacurra, Midleton, Co. Cork.

CONSIDERATION: €1

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF WEST CORK:

Disposal of derelict property on land at Dromore, Bantry, Co. Cork.

3(d)10-2

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 15th October, 2021.

SITUATION: Disposal of derelict property on land at Dromore, Bantry, Co. Cork.

AREA: c. 1.39 hectares

CONSIDERATION: €115,000

4(a)/10-2

**PART 8 MANAGER'S REPORT SECTIONS 179(3) OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000
(AS AMENDED)**

RESOLUTION UNDER SECTION 179 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF COBH:

Part 8 - Chief Executive's Report for Cobh Public Realm Enhancement Scheme, Co. Cork

Proposed by Councillor Anthony Barry

Seconded by Councillor Cathal Rasmussen

RESOLVED:

Noting that in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, (as amended), notice of the proposed development was published, 722 submissions were received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Section 179 of the Act is given for the following:

Proposed Cobh Public Realm Enhancement Scheme.

4(b)/10-2

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MACROOM:

Part 8 - Chief Executive's Report for Middle Square Public Realm, Macroom, Co. Cork.

Proposed by Councillor Michael Creed

Seconded by Councillor Ted Lucey

RESOLVED:

Noting that in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, (as amended), notice of the proposed development was published, no submissions were received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Section 179 of the Act is given for the following: Proposed development to Middle Square Public Realm, Macroom.

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

5/10-2

Approval of attendance by Members at conferences on the Conference list for October 2021

Proposed by Councillor John Paul O'Shea

Seconded by Councillor Frank O'Flynn

[e] **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF OFFICERS
TUAIRISCÍ AGUS MOLTAÍ OIFIGI**

6/10-2

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL:

Corporate Services

6(a)10-2

Quarterly report of the Corporate Services Directorate for the 3-month period up to 30th June 2021.

Members noted the Corporate Services Quarterly Report.

Library Services

6(b)/10-2

Quarterly report of the Library Services for the 3-month period up to 30th June 2021.

Members noted the Library Services Quarterly Report.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- The Members thanked the Director for the report.
- Members are very grateful for the library service and thanked the staff for all the outstanding work during Covid.
- Members asked for progress update on Kanturk Library.
- They also asked if there was any update on Kinsale library. They stated there was issues with the parking at the site entrance and requested a report on it.

Michael Plaice, Senior Executive Librarian stated that Kanturk Library will open early in the new year. The County Librarian will revert to the Member regarding Kinsale Library. The Mayor asked when will the new Library in Bandon be opened. Mr. Plaice said the shelving work will be done in November. It is expected that the old Library will close in December and the new Library will open in January 2022.

The Mayor also complemented the Library Services and praised it's online presence.

**[g] CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
COMHFHREAGRAS Ó RANNA RIALTAS**

7/10-2

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE:

Correspondence dated 11th October 2021 in response to the Council's letter dated 27th August 2021 in relation to providing alternative options for housing applicants that have difficulties using online services from the Department of Social Protection and Revenue.

Members noted the correspondence from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

8/10-2

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

Correspondence dated 14th October in response to the Council's letter dated 28th September 2021 in relation to reducing back to school costs on parents.

Members noted the correspondence from the Department of Education.

[h] NOTICE OF MOTIONS

9/10-2

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES (CIS) & LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES (LIS) CARRIED OUT IN CORK COUNTY

Councillor John Paul O'Shea proposed, seconded by Councillor Seamus McGrath

“That Cork County Council would outline the number of Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) & Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) carried out in Cork County over the period 2019, 2020 & 2021. The

Council should also provide a breakdown per Municipal District the current waiting lists for each scheme”.

RESPONSE:

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES – CORK COUNTY

The Number of Local Improvement Schemes completed and being undertaken is as follows;

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES UNDERTAKEN		
YEAR	NO. OF SCHEMES	GRANT CLAIMED
2019	20	840,524
2020	19	751,693
2021	33	1,557,738 *
TOTAL	72	€3,149,955

* 2021 indicates the number of schemes currently being completed, the grant is the full amount allocated for 2021 as a claim has not yet been finalised.

The following is the number of applications on our waiting list as of October 2021:

LIVE APPLICATIONS (Waiting List) AS AT OCTOBER 2021		
Municipal District	No. of applications	Estimated Grant Amount
FERMOY	10	253,000
KANTURK-MALLOW	15	585,000
BANDON-KINSALE	9	375,000
CARRIGALINE	1	165,000
COBH	1	43,000
MACROOM	28	1,368,000
EAST CORK	4	196,000
WEST CORK BANTRY	73	2,850,000
WEST CORK SKIBBEREEN	9	365,000
TOTAL	150	€6,200,000

I confirm that the live applications have not been assessed for eligibility as the Scheme’s outline changes each year, therefore, we assess those being put forward each year as per that current year’s criteria.

I also confirm that the costings on the live applications are preliminary estimates and no detailed assessment of the schemes has taken place. There are a large number of applications on the waiting list and it may be some years before works are undertaken. Therefore, a very simple estimate is done to give us an idea of the funding required in order to communicate our position to the Department of Rural & Community Development.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES – CORK COUNTY

The Number of Community Involvement Schemes completed and being undertaken is as follows;

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES UNDERTAKEN		
YEAR	NO. OF SCHEMES	Programme costs
2019	26	€ 1,025,426
2020	22	€ 751,693
2021	28	€ 1,557,738 *
TOTAL	76	€ 3,334,857

* 2021 indicates the number of schemes currently being completed, the costings will be confirmed at the end of the programme.

The following is the number of applications on our waiting list as of October 2021:

Future CIS schemes as of OCTOBER 2021		
Municipal District	No. of schemes	Programme costs
FERMOY	12	950,680
KANTURK-MALLOW	20	840,891
BANDON-KINSALE	11	1,175,272
CARRIGALINE	2	89,200
COBH	3	189,806
MACROOM	12	796,764
EAST CORK	7	421,000
WEST CORK BANTRY	4	207,035
WEST CORK SKIBBEREEN	10	424,679
TOTAL	150	€5,095,345

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Members thanked the Director for the report.

- Members welcomed the report but noted that the criteria is restrictive and has changed for eligibility.
- Members asked if additional funding can be accessed if offered.
- Said 60% of allocation should be spent early in the year.
- Noted that 150 applications were on the waiting list.
- Member requested that the Council be prepared to carry out the maximum number of schemes each year and that early clearance to commence be sought from the Department.
- Requested that the Council carry out as much work as possible early in the year so to be ready if additional funding made available.
- Members stated it was agreed at the Divisional Meeting to write to the Department and highlight the need to look at the criteria for eligibility of the schemes.
- Stated that it was not fair that those that applied a few years ago do not qualify now.
- Stated that the AERO report shows the Council cannot refuse Government funding and should be ready to spend the monies when granted.
- Asked if private operators could be used if additional funding is granted.
- Requested that criteria be broadened as some minor roads do not come under either scheme.
- Asked if funding could be rolled over to the following year if not utilised.
- Members stated they were well utilised schemes and were very appreciated by communities.

Mr. Aidan Weir, Senior Engineer stated that the Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) were very successful and there is a clear allocation at the start of each year.

He stated that the Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The Council received €1m at the start of the year. All of this will be spent in this current year. The Roads and Transportation Director has agreed to write to the Department regarding the criteria and conditions of the Scheme. He stated that presently the Council must abide by the current conditions and criteria.

“Members agreed to write to the Minister of Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphries, and request that criteria and conditions be broadened for the Local Improvement Schemes as the current conditions are too restrictive for some groups.”

10/10-2

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICE (PAS)

Councillor Alan O’Connor proposed, seconded by Councillor Liam Quaide

A personal assistance service (PAS) involves the employment of personal assistants by disabled people in order that they may live as independently as possible.

Recognising:

1. Ireland’s ratification, in 2018, of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD), Article 19 of which states that disabled people have the right to live in the community and have access to a range of in-home and other supports, including a PAS;
2. The motion passed by Dáil Eireann on the 19th November which reaffirms that PAS should be legislated for as a right;

It is moved that Cork County Council also supports the right to a PAS for disabled people, for greater freedom, choice and control over all aspects of their lives, and to better enable us all to fully participate in an inclusive society as equals.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

Councillor Alan O'Connor stated that this Motion has been passed by many other Local Authorities and requested that Members endorse this Motion.

- Members stated that disabled people do not always have freedom without a personal assistance.
- Noted that The Independent Living Movement of Ireland has set out how it is difficult for a person with a disability to make a career for themselves without having a personal assistant.
- Members said that the Disability Federation of Ireland has stated that Ireland has the lowest employment rate in the EU for people with disabilities.
- Members noted it will be a challenge to implement providing a personal assistant when required but stated it is a step towards a more inclusive society.
- Said that needs of young adults with disabilities need to be supported.
- Stated that 'job shadowing' that is already in place in the community is a huge advantage to everyone.
- Said that there are many people in society that can support others.

The Chief Executive said Cork County Council is committed to providing additional assistance to staff that might require it. He also stated that members of the public with disabilities are facilitated when accessing services.

11/10-2

TACKLE CYBER/PHONE/EMAIL/TEXT CRIME

Councillor Seamus McGrath proposed, seconded by Councillor Pat Hayes

“To request that the Minister for Justice and Garda Commissioner significantly enhance the capability of An Garda Síochána, in association with international partners, to tackle cyber/phone/email/text crime”

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Members stated there is an increase in online fraudulent activity and is widespread across society. It is at pandemic levels and has impacted people's wellbeing.
- Said that elderly people are worried about being victims of scams. They no longer trust electronic communications as they are not sure whether they are legitimate correspondence or not.
- Members requested that the Government and An Garda Síochána increase resources for dealing with this issue.
- The vulnerable people in society are being targeted.
- They noted there is a dark side to online activity.
- Stated that Covid 19 has made matters worse, and that email threats have increased.
- Stated that people are afraid to answer '01' phone numbers and now will only answer numbers they know.
- Members also stated that the public cannot block these numbers and there can be high costs if they ring back the fraudulent number.
- Expertise is needed to handle this crime.
- Suggested that "Private Numbers" on mobile phones should be barred.
- Stated that this is a multi-billion industry. A call can be made from any part of the world. Facebook and Instagram target young people.
- Suggested a "Rebellion" should be organised through social media.
- Number of Gardia should be increased to handle this crime.
- Not all crimes are reported and investigated people are embarrassed to say they were scammed.

- Stated that this is not just the responsibility of the public sector, the private sector has also a massive role to play.
- The Mayor asked that the Data Commissioner also be written to.

“Members agreed to write to the Minister for Justice, Garda Commissioner and Data Commissioner requesting them to significantly enhance the capability of An Garda Síochána, in association with international partners, to tackle cyber/phone/email/text crime”

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

12/10-2

SUSPENSION OF THE CLOSURE PROCESS OF THE OWENACURRA CENTRE

Councillor Liam Quaide proposed, seconded by Councillor Michael Hegarty

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Members stated the Owenacurra Centre serves a number of Municipal Districts. It includes a day centre and other services. It was announced on the 28th June that the Centre would close on 31st October because of building defects.
- The ease of access to Middleton town is a key to the quality of life to the residents as it allows them to be active members of the local community.
- The Centre provides excellent service.
- Stated that the removal of the service from the East Cork town has left the families and clients distressed as no comparable options were put forward in it's place.
- To dislocate from the community will impact residents.
- Cllr. Quaide thanked the other 7 Councillors and 1 T.D. who previously wrote to the Oireachtas about this.
- Noted there were 3 centres in North Cork and would need double the size of Owenacurra to have similar capacity to the combined North Cork centres.
- The HSE officials have not met families or residents. The families feel that the answers received so far from the HSE are not answering their questions.
- Suggests that the families be allowed appoint their own structural engineer.
- Families are very concerned that alternative accommodations proposal are not suitable.
- There is a 50% proposed growth for East Cork in the Draft County Development Plan but this is stripping away one of East Cork Services.
- Members hope the Centre will be kept open and enhanced.
- Suggests writing to the Taoiseach, An Tanaiste, Leader of the Green Party and as well as Paul Reid, Chief Executive of the HSE and ask them to support and reconsider.
- The Day Service is also availed of by many.
- Middleton had a huge number of suicides among the younger generation. There would be a huge deficit if there was no day service.
- East Cork and Cobh Municipals are growing very quickly. Facilities like these should not be shut as people will be dependent on social or private renting. People need ongoing care.
- The funding is small for the overall important service.
- Mental Health is the Cinderella of Health Services. Many residents have lived there long term and now they are been uprooted from the community.

“Members agreed to write to the An Taoiseach, An Tanaiste, Leader of Green Party and Paul Reid, Chief Executive of HSE to request the following:

1) That families of Owenacurra Centre residents be allowed to appoint an independent structural engineer to assess the feasibility of renovations on the premises, and that the transfer of residents and staff be suspended while this is completed, and while the Public Accounts Committee examines documents relating to the closure rationale and the conditions of alternative premises.

2) That a local, community-based service plan for 24 hour staffed residential services be costed and time-lined for the broader client group of people with severe and enduring mental illness in East Cork as a matter of urgency, and that this would bring East Cork into line with 24 hour staffed residential provision per population in North Cork and West Cork.

3) That the Day Centre previously based in the Oweancurra Centre for Adult Mental Health service-users of the Midleton/Youghal Adult Mental Health Team be restored as a matter of urgency.
suspension of the closure process of the Owenacurra Centre Mental Health Facility, Midleton, including the transfer of resident, until such time as the Public Accounts Committee has fully considered documents relating to the rationale for closure and suitability of alternative facilities, and until an independent structural engineer, appointed by families of residents, has assessed the feasibility of essential renovations on the Owenacurra Centre”

13/10-2

DUNMANWAY POOL

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Members stated the current closure/partial closure of Dunmanway pool had been raised at both Municipal District and Divisional level.
- They stated it was a state of art 25m pool.
- Currently it cannot facilitate regular groups or provide children’s lessons due to the reduced opening hours.
- It was noted that the pools in Fermoy and Mallow are fully operative.
- A petition was made with 1000 signatures asking that a plan be formulated to reopen it on a full time basis.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

The Chief Executive stated he had full confidence in the Western Divisional Manager and Municipal Officer to resolve the matter. He said a full briefing was given to the Divisional Committee last Monday. He stated this was the first item on the agenda for his meeting with his Divisional Managers. The main objective here is to restore full capacity but presently cannot give a timeline.

- West Cork Members are constantly receiving queries regarding the reopening of the pool.
- Stated that it is outrageous and unfair for West Cork that this pool is being left behind. People want it re-instated as soon as possible. It is important for people’s health.
- Stated there are 2 hotels in Bantry with pools. €3.5m Government funding was used for both the pool and state of art gym. Parents will want to use it over the mid-term.
- It is a fantastic facility that is serving a huge area from Bandon West to peninsulas. It is a shame to see it under utilised.
- A solution must be a priority.
- People are concerned and annoyed that it is closed.
- Thanked the Executive for the report that outlined the reasons for closure and welcomed the Chief Executive’s commitment to finding a solution.

- Understand that it will take time to solve and request that recruitment proceed.

The Mayor said presently there are huge challenges in leisure management recruitment.

The Chief Executive stated a detailed report was given to the Divisional Committee on the matter.

[K] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

14/10-2

TO: Kinsale golfer John Murphy for his recent success at the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship
John Murphy for his achievement in Golf

TO: Mounreabbey Ladies Football team on winning the Cork LGFA Under 16 A County Champions

TO: Fr. O'Neill's GAA Club on their recent win in the Junior East Cork League.

TO: Fr. O'Neill's Camogie Club on their recent win in the Junior Inter County Camogie

TO: Kieran O'Connor on the publication of his book 'Lockdown Ireland'.

TO: Passage West Hurlers on winning the Junior A Hurling Championship.

TO: Kinsale U16 Ladies Camogie Team on their recent County Championship win.

[I] ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15/10-2

RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR LIAM O'CONNOR:

The Mayor paid tribute to Councillor Liam O'Connor as this was his last meeting of Council.

During this discussion the members made the following points:

- Members acknowledged the demands of being a Councillor had increased in recent years and a challenge to balance with family and business life
- Members wished him all the best for the future.
- Tribute was paid to the contribution he gave to the Carrigaline Municipal District and the local Tidy Towns Committee.
- Described him as an asset to Fine Gael
- Good wishes were given by all parties/groups.
- Acknowledged the huge contribution he gave as a community worker.

The Chief Executive thanked Cllr O'Connor on behalf of the management and staff for his significant contribution to the Carrigaline Municipal and communities in the area. He wished him all the best in his future endeavours. Cllr. O'Connor said he would be finishing on the 31st October and thanked all for the good wishes and said he had enjoyed working with the Members and staff of Cork County

Council. He said it was an honour and privilege representing the Carrigaline area. He said he looks forward to continuing with community, party and tidy town work.

~ THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING ~