

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Proceedings of Ordinary Meeting of Ballincollig/Carrigaline Municipal District held in Council Chamber, Floor 2, County Hall, on Monday, 18th February, 2019 at 2.00 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor John A. Collins, Derry Canty

IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin O' Regan, Municipal District Officer, Madeleine Healy, Senior Executive Engineer, Jim Molly, Senior Executive Officer, Alan O'Callaghan, Clerical Officer, Eddie Murphy, S/Senior Executive Engineer, National Roads Office Cork.

1: MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. Desmond and seconded by Cllr. Jeffers, the minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st January 2019, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2: MATTERS ARISING

Cllr McGrath

- i. Update on letter sent to Garda Chief Superintendent on Garda numbers. Especially given the serious incident in Carrigaline over the weekend.
- ii. For the Area Engineer to keep in mind the request for a Pedestrian Crossing by the church in Carrigaline.
- iii. For the Area Engineer to keep in mind the request for removal of bollards on the N71 in Raffeen.

In response Kevin O' Regan advised that there has of yet been no response to our letter to the Chief Superintendent on Garda numbers.

Madeline Healy advised that she is still working on the requests for Carrigaline and Raffeen.

Cllr D'Alton

- i. Update on whether funding was previously allocated for bus corridor in Douglas.
- ii. Update on proposal for pedestrian crossing by Douglas Community Park, issue with foot path on private land.

In response Madeline Healy advised that she was still waiting on updates for both matters from Traffic and Transportation and should have an update for the March meeting.

Cllr Forde

- i. Is there an update on the bus shelter at Maryborough Hill and why was one not put in as part of original works?

In response Madeline Healy advised that Traffic and Transportation are still looking at sourcing a suitable shelter and funding for the project. As to why it wasn't included originally could be done to a number of factors such as suitability of land, usage, etc but as Madeline wasn't involved at this stage it hard to know exactly the reasons why.

3. REPORT FROM NATIONAL ROADS OFFICE CORK ON CASTLEWHITE JUNCTION AND MAHERS LANE.

Eddie Murphy from the National Roads Office Cork presented the following report to Members.

“A report following on from the presentation by the Castlewhite Road Safety Committee at the Ballincollig/Carrigaline Municipal District meeting on the 17th December 2018.

Sightlines at Castlewhite Junction

It is my understanding that the grass triangle which was obstructing the sight distance to the south of the Castlewhite junction has been removed by the MMarC Contactor as part of their works on the nearby dual carriageway.

Road Markings

TII are proposing to renew the road markings on that section of the N71 during the coming year. While an exact date isn't available as yet, it is thought that this work will be carried out in the coming summer period. Any changes requested to the road markings would have to be in accordance with TII Standards.

Road Signs

The road signage in the area is considered to be sufficient and has not been identified as being substandard for the location where it is being used. Any changes to the signage to the area would have to be done in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual.

Speed Limits

The speed limit changes which were carried out on the N71 were carried out on the basis of requirements set out in the speed limit document published by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, 'Guidelines for setting and managing speed limits in Ireland'. These changes to the speed limits can only be carried out by the Competent Authority and these are reviewed on a regular basis. The purpose of this review is to *“The primary purpose of any such intervention should be to better match the maximum speed allowed to the road conditions, and to improve road safety”*.

Speed Checks

The requirements for checking speed on the road come under the authority of An Garda Siochana. This is not a matter for which Cork County Council is competent.

Future Developments

Previously, in and around 2007-2008, there was a plan to construct a roundabout at the Maher Lane location. This was to be funded by Castlelands Construction as part of their proposal to construct a housing development in the vicinity. This would have allowed for the traffic coming from the

Castlewhite to travel along a road parallel to the existing N71 and would have come out to join the N71 at the roundabout. Subsequent events have meant that the funding for this scheme is no longer available.

Longer term plans for the N71 include for the extension of the dual carriageway to the roundabout on the N40. There are presently no plans in place for the further development of this scheme and there is no funding in place to allow for the planning of the scheme.”

Members thanked Eddie for the report raised the following points in response:

- All were very critical of the report.
- Were of the view that none of the points made by the residents were adequately responded to.
- Will do nothing to allay the genuine safety concerns on these stretches of roads.
- Whether sightlines were cut back or not could not be confirmed.
- Disappointed that there is no planned review of speed limits in area.
- As junctions affect residential, commercial and building of public use the issues are very serious and need to be corrected.
- Felt that the Deputation should have been able to present report directly to TII.
- Were disappointed that it was a Cork County Council employee and not a TII employee who appeared before meeting.
- No mention of driver feedback signs which residents requested.
- TII need to be made more accountable to Members and the public.
- Asked if a Safety Audit was ever carried out at either junction and if not what has to happen for one to take place.
- Asked about the frequency of speed reviews and if it were possible to have one conducted outside these timeframes.
- Asked how it was identified that remedial safety works were needed at nearby Crows Cross i.e. what were the triggers for these works?
- Asked if local residents commissioned a report themselves would TII or the NRDO be obliged to carry out any works based on the findings of such a report.
- Members feared that action will only be taken after a fatal accident takes place and this is totally unacceptable.
- Members agreed to send the matter to Full Council for discussion.
- Members asked that the Director of Roads also be present at this meeting.

In response Eddie Murphy advised that:

- No road safety review has ever been taken at Castlewhite Junction or Mahers Lane. They have never been regarded as high risk as there is no record of any incidents at these locations.
- Safety Audits are only done on new schemes or on remedial works so one would not be carried out here.
- TII have started Road Safety Inspections in some locations and this may be more appropriate in this case.
- Speed limit reviews are carried out every 3 to 4 years. Not sure if one is possible midterm.
- Expressed the opinion that as located has not been flagged as high risk a Driver Feedback sign would not have been considered there, which may be why it was not directly referred to in the report.
- Regarding Crows Cross, unaware of how works here can about.
- In regard to an independent report by residents. Eddie responded that he could not advise against such a report but was unaware of how bound TII or NRDO would be to act on any conclusions from such a report.

Jim Molloy noted that he felt the report was lacking in information based on the questions raised by the Members. That in referring to Full Council we will be requesting a full and proper report for Members.

Kevin O' Regan advised that we will forward a motion to corporate affairs to have the matter dealt with at Full Council.

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. Housing Report for Ballincollig/Carrigaline Municipal District

Members noted this report.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. Pride Of Place 2019

Members noted this information.

- ii. Information from Cork County Council Environment Department and The National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Culture; Heritage and the Gaeltacht on Japanese Knotweed.

Members welcomed the report from Cork County Council Environment Department.

Members felt that the response from the Government Dept was unacceptable and that they feel that the Department is unaware of the scale of the problem in urban areas.

Kevin O' Regan advised that we are still awaiting a proper response from the Department regarding prosecutions and enforcement of Japanese Knotweed issues.

6. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

- Disposal of Freehold Interest on 50 St Josephs Terrace, Rockenham, Co Cork.

This was proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Desmond.

Members agreed to forward to Full Council for disposal.

- Grant of Wayleave at Lehenaghmore, Co Cork.

This was proposed by Cllr Desmond and seconded by Cllr McGrath.

Members agreed to forward to Full Council for disposal.

7. GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION 2019/TOWN DEVELOPMENT FUND 2019

- i. Proposed Festival Lights Allocation 2019

Kevin O' Regan advised that the allocation shows the Municipal District proactive approach in supporting our communities and towns. The timing of the proposed allocation is brought forward this year so that areas affected by the new boundary can still be included.

Members welcomed the allocation and made the following points

- Why are amounts different for each allocation
- Can there be some flexibility around the use? New lights are not always required.
- Some areas may have planned works which are quite expensive. Can allocation be increased in certain cases?

In response Kevin O' Regan advised.

- That the allocated amounts have always been different and that this proposal was in line with the historical figures.
- Fund is specifically for new lights and while groups may not always want to purchase extra lights, most are now using allocation to switch to energy efficient bulbs to help with running costs.
- If any group has a specific project it will put before Members for consideration.

Members agreed to support the proposed allocation.

ii. Streetscape Painting and Signage Scheme 2019

Kevin O' Regan advised the Members that the scheme will start earlier this year and will be open to the entire Municipal District. It is hoped that there will be a higher uptake in 2019 than last year. And if there is a particularly high demand will we ask Members to supplement fund.

Members welcomed the scheme and asked that they would be furnished with a hard and soft copy of the guidelines and application.

8. TO CONSIDER THE NOTICES OF MOTIONS IN THE NAME OF

Cllr Michael Murphy

- i. That trees are cut back by wooded area near Raffeen Village.

Cllr Murphy advised that trees are causing an issue with Bus Eireann using a double decker bus on this route.

Madeline Healy advised that Bus Eireann would have to contact her if they are planning to use a double decker bus on this route and then action may be taken.

Cllr D'Alton supported the motion and noted that the road can be difficult to drive in bad weather and that there was recently a tree fell on this road. Asked if we can liaise with land owner regarding this.

Madeline Healy responded that the Gardening Dept carried out a survey in the area a number of years ago and that the land owner complied with recommendations to a certain degree. She noted that there is always the potential for trees to fall. The Council will also be contacting land owners again in relation to their obligations.

Cllr McGrath supported the motion and noted that there are also similar issues on Monastery Road.

- ii. That Bus Eireann are asked to provide a Double Decker bus on morning and evening peak times for routes 220 and 220x.

There was no discussion on this motion

Cllr Daithí O'Donnabháin

- i. That this meeting be furnished with an update on the introduction of Bye Laws to deal with the control of Dogs.

Cllr O'Donnabháin advised that meeting there are currently serious issues regarding dogs in the Regional Park, Ballincollig. There are dogs constantly off leads and they are causing a nuisance to many park users, especially to more vulnerable park users. Council is currently hamstrung by the failure of legislators in trying to progress making these bye laws. He noted that the Council has been attempting for over a year to get the matter resolved. As it stands an offender cannot be issued a fixed charge notice. If a person was, and appealed the matter to the Courts then it would be struck out of court leaving the Council possibly exposed to legal costs being awarded. Cllr O'Donnabháin

stressed the seriousness of this issue to Members and asked for their support in writing to the Minister for Rural and Community Development to express our disappointment that this matter is still not resolved.

This motion was supported by Cllr Harris and Members agreed to write to Minister Ring to express their disappointment on the issue.

Kevin O' Regan advised a letter will issue as requested.

Cllr Marcia D'Alton and Cllr Seamus McGrath

- i. That representatives of the Port of Cork would meet with the Members of this Municipal District to discuss with them their plans for Marino Point.

Cllr D'Alton pointed out to the meeting that Marino point lies only 600 metres from Passage West and obviously residents there are anxious to be kept up to date on any planned developments there. Therefore it would be appropriate for Members of this Municipal District to sit in on any planned meeting the Port of Cork may have with the Cobh Municipal District. This would enable the Port of Cork to hear directly any concerns the residents of Passage West may have regarding the development of the site at Marino Point.

Cllr McGrath noted that he would not like to see any development in Marino Point that could impact negatively on any future developments for Passage West. Cllr McGrath also raised the following points.

- What type of planning and development is proposed.
- How can Members of the Municipal District input into this process.
- How can we ensure that the Port of Cork is aware of the concerns raised at our Municipal District meetings.
- Noted that the old Passage Town Council has previously met with the Port of Cork regarding Marino Point.
- Marino Point is also mentioned in the Passage West Development Plan.

Given all those points it is of vital importance that this Municipal District is part of the ongoing development process for Marino Point.

Cllr Murphy supported the motion and also reiterated the need for the community in Passage West to be kept up to date on developments.

Cllr D'Alton noted the need for Members of the Ballincollig/Carrigaline Municipal District to be able to give input to the Master Plan which is currently being developed.

Kevin O' Regan advised that we will write to the Port of Cork requesting that this Municipal District, along with the Cobh Municipal District, is part of any discussion in the formulation of a Master plan which the Port of Cork intends to submit to Cork County Council.

Cllr McGrath

- i. To request that public lighting be installed at the junction of the L6477 / N28 (Hilltown).

Cllr McGrath advised the meeting that the junction in question is very busy and the installation of lighting would improve safety immensely.

In response Madeline Healy advised that she would request TII to look at the junction and try to secure funding. Madeline also advised that she would bring the Cork County Council Road Safety and Lighting Department to also inspect the junction.

Cllr McGrath also brought the issue of the lights at the Bloomfield Interchange which have been out of action for some time. Cllr McGrath requested that TII be contacted regarding these lights. Cllr McGrath noted that Airtricity are not good at repairs that are in anyway complex.

Cllr D'Alton advised the meeting that this matter was also brought up at the Southern Committee meeting and that there are also other areas nearby with the same problems and it is really serious issue.

Madeline advised that she will speak to Airtricity and all other relevant bodies concerned to try and remedy the matter. However a lot of the roads in question are in the city area.

Jim Molloy advised that the Deputy Chief Executive of the Council is currently looking at the Service Level Agreements with Airtricity and this will hopefully help.

- ii. To request that Traffic Calming measures be put in place at Riverview Terrace / Canning Place in Passage West.

Cllr McGrath advised the meeting that the residents would like permanent traffic measures installed. The lane is very narrow and cars travel at speed past a large number of houses.

Cllr Murphy supported this motion.

Cllr D'Alton also supported this motion and advised that the residents are concerned about the speed of cars passing there as there are no foot paths.

Madeline Healy advised that there would be no issue installing speed ramps as long as residents were happy with this. Issue with speed ramps is they can make it quite noisy as cars pass over them.

Cllr McGrath advised that he will get a consensus from residents and revert back to Madeline Healy.

Cllr Jeffers

- i. That we write as a Municipal District to TII to carry out improvements to the Airport Road.

Cllr Jeffers advised that we write to TII as a Municipal District and ask for resurfacing of the cycle lane on the hill and for the installation of public lighting southbound on the hill.

Madeline Healy advised that she has already spoken to TII about the cycle lane and is awaiting a response. Madeline advised that once she receives a response she will then look for funding. This is unlikely to be before area transfers to city though.

Madeline also advised that TII are aware of the lighting issue on the hill due a recent fatal accident there.

- ii. That the roadside ditches would be trimmed back on Lehenaghmore Hill.

Cllr Jeffers advised that the residents in the area feel a lot safer when the ditches are cut back.

In response Madeline Healy advised that the ditches are cut back every year and will be again this year.

- iii. Request the engineers to consider putting traffic calming measures into Dunvale Estate.

Cllr Jeffers asked Madeline Healy if there was any update. Cllr Jeffers also enquired if there was road markings in Dunvale Estate and if not, could they be put in place?

In response Madeline Healy advised that currently this is not a high priority as we recently installed a lot of signage in that area and we will need to see what affect this is having. Regarding the road markings in the estate Madeline Healy advised that she will look into this.

Cllr D'Alton

- i. That this Municipal District would revisit repaving/relandscaping in Fr. O'Flynn Park, Passage West, subsequent to several years of Irish Water works.

Cllr D'Alton noted the report from Kevin O' Regan which advised

"As Members are aware Fr O'Flynn Park was repaved in 2016. We are looking at making minor amendments to the entrance to the park near the library to see if we can reduce the slope as part of the proposal to connect the Public Toilet/Shower to the pontoon.

The initial Irish Water works that affected the park were undertaken prior to the resurfacing that took place. The finish that was installed was proposed by the Council's Architects Department. The subsequent works by Irish Water did not have any material impact on the works undertaken in the redevelopment of the park."

Cllr D'Alton advised that the Irish Water works there did have an affect and that tarmac was used to patch the surface. The local Tidy Towns group is doing what they can but works needed beyond the scope of their abilities.

Madeline Healy advised that she will speak to Irish Water about the use of tarmac for resurfacing work.

Kevin O' Regan advised that he will speak to the Architects Department about the works carried out.

- ii. That the capping on the block wall of St. Mary's Cemetery, Passage West, would be addressed with a view to making it secure, watertight and vandal-proof.

Cllr D'Alton advised the meeting that the Capping Stone on the wall is falling off. Also youngsters are climbing up on the wall and causing a disturbance for cemetery users. Request that it is capped in some way to prevent anyone climbing on the wall.

Cllr McGrath supported the motion and also noted that the Capping is in poor condition and could possibly lead to a serious accident.

Cllr Murphy offered his support for the motion.

Madeline Healy advised that she will look into placing a capping on the wall to prevent anyone climbing on it.

Kevin O' Regan advised that we will look to fund this from the GMA 2019.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

Cllr D'Alton proposed the following Votes of Congratulations

- i. Cantate choir for retaining the Lynch Memorial Perpetual Trophy at Feis Maitiu on 3rd February 2019.
- ii. Joey Shaw on winning the 2018/2019 Cork Martial Arts Promotions Junior Boy Competitor of the Year Award.
- iii. Sinead O'Flynn on winning the 2018/2018 Cork Martial Arts Promotions Junior Female Competitor of the Year Award.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr McGrath

- i. Cllr McGrath requested that short term short term traffic control measures, such as Road Markings and Road Signage be introduced by Ballinrea Cross during the construction of the Education Campus there. Noted that there has already been an accident in the area recently.

Madeline Healy advised that she would look into this.

- ii. Can we ensure that the cross at Lackarue and Laurel Hill is returned to its original condition after works by Irish Water there. Irish Water indicated they would be finished in six months, can we make sure they keep to this timescale.

Cllr D'Alton queried whether Irish Water are indeed contracted to resurface this junction.

Madeline advised that Irish Water will carry out temporary repairs as they go and will resurface road at completion of works. Madeline will consult with Cllr McGrath and Cllr D'Alton to ensure right road is being discussed.

- iii. Is there a possibility of installing lighting at Warren's Court in Ringaskiddy.

Madeline Healy advised that she would look and see if it was possible.

- iv. Cllr McGrath requested an Advance Warning sign for pedestrian crossing by Cogan's Corner in Carrigaline. This would help keep the yellow box there clear.

Madeline Healy advised that this will be done.

Cllr Murphy

- i. Cllr Murphy enquired about the procedure of dealing with abandoned cars.

Madeline Healy advised that they should contact the local area office and they are administered by the Parking Fines Section of the Municipal District

- ii. Cllr Murphy enquired if there was any update regarding the purchase of the dockyard in Passage West.

Jim Molloy advised the Members that the owners of the site, Doyle Shipping, have indicated that the site is not currently on the market. They advised that because of the implications of Brexit, which may lead to increased traffic in Irish Ports, and the new developments at Marino Point they are currently not proposing to sell the site. As the grant was specifically for the purchase of the dockyard it would not be possible to use this money on any other project. The funds can also not be used to acquire lands adjacent to a working dockyard so this will have to be factored into any future projects.

Cllr Murphy expressed his disappointed at this news and also noted that residents will in the area will be very upset both with the County Council and the Members of the this Municipal District.

Cllr McGrath also noted his disappointment and expressed his hope that this may only be a temporary measure and enquired about the possibility that the site may come back onto the market. Cllr McGrath also stressed the need not to dash all public hope for development in Passage West.

Cllr D'Alton enquired as to what will now happen to the €1.9m allocation and what adjacent to a working dockyard means in real terms.

Jim Molloy advised that it is entirely up to Doyle Shipping to decide to put the site back on the market or not. They have advised the Council they are going to wait and see what happens with Brexit and the Port of Cork development at Marino Point. Adjacent would mean directly beside a working dockyard so there may be a possibility of development slightly further up the dock. Council will discuss with the relevant Government Department regarding how long funds for the purchase can be kept available and will revert back to Members.

Cllrs McGrath, Murphy and D'Alton enquired why the proposed developments by the Port of Cork have impacted on the dockyard being taken off the market.

Jim Molloy advised that this is the message coming from Doyle Shipping and they are under no obligation to explain their reasons to us.

Kevin O' Regan also noted that as Doyle Shipping is a private company it is entirely up to them what they choose to do with their property. If they are waiting to see what happens with the Port of Cork development then that is their prerogative.

- iii. Could the Passage West Ladies U18 soccer team be awarded a Civic Reception by the Municipal District for their achievements in winning the Cork and Munster Championships and in reaching the All Ireland Final.

Kevin O' Regan advised that it is up to the Members to decide on the awarding of Civic Receptions and we will facilitate if the Members agree.

Members agreed that the Passage Ladies team is worthy of a Civic Reception as they have had some wonderful results.

Kevin O' Regan asked the Members to decide on where and when they would like the reception to take place and to revert back to him.

Cllr D'Alton

- i. Cllr D'Alton asked whether any contact had been made with landowners on Coach Hill regarding the condition of trees on their land. Especially in light of two recent tree fallings on the hill.

Madeline Healy advised that she will look into this.

- ii. Advised that lights have been out in Marmullane Park for the past two months.

Madeline Healy advised that she will look into this.

- iii. Enquired about a letter from residents to the Area Office regarding the resurfaced road surface on Raffeen Hill, possibility of reducing the Speed Limit, Road Markings not replaced and the possibility of increased Road Signage.

Madeline Healy advised that she has responded to the letter and that Road Markings on the road will be replaced and she will look at Road Signage on the hill. Madeline indicated that the Speed Limit would not be changed as 80kph would be standard for a road of this type.

Signed: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

Date: 19/3/2019