



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council

Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held by Microsoft Teams on 24th January 2022 at 11am.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir Gillian Uí Chochláin, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri: Uí Chochláin G, Ó Colmáin, Ó Murchú C, Ó Suilleabháin S, Uí Shuilleabháin M, Ó Donnabháin,, Ó Murchú PG, Ó Conaill, Mac Craith, Uí Daltún, Ó Muirheartaigh, Uí Bhuachalla, De Faoite S, 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, Ó Muineacháin B, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Sé SP, Ó Murchú G, Críod, Ní Mhuineacháin G, Ó Luanaigh, Ó, Ó Cochláin M, Uí Loinsigh, Ó Luasa, Ó Haodha Padraig, Ó Murchú Gearóid, Ó Cinnéide, Ó Madaoin, Ó Sé T, Léineacháin Uí Foghlú, Ó Héigheartaigh, Ní Heachthigheirn, Uí Thuama, MacCarthaigh S, Mac Uaid, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Muirthile, Uí Chaochlaioich, Ó Haodha Pól

PRESENT

Councillor Gillian Coughlan, County Mayor, presided.

Councillor: Coughlan, Coleman, Murphy K, O'Sullivan J, O'Sullivan M, O' Donovan, Murphy PG, O' Connell, McGrath, D'Alton, Murtagh, Buckley A, White J, Dalton – O' Sullivan, O' Callaghan, Barry , Sheppard, Rasmussen, O' Connor S, O'Connor A, McCarthy N, O'Flynn, O'Brien, O'Leary, Dawson, Roche, Moynihan B, Doyle, O'Shea JP, Murphy G, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Coughlan M, M, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, Kennedy, Madden, O'Shea T, Linehan – Foley, Hegarty M, Ahern, Twomey, McCarthy S, Quaide, Kelly, Hurley, Coakley, Hayes Paul

Chief Executive, Mr. Padraig Barrett, Director of Services, Roads & Transportation, Senior Executive Officer

[a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/1-2

Proposed by Cllr. Alan Coleman

Seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 10th January, 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/1-2

TO: Ms. Susan Leonard on the death of her father Johnny Dunleavy.

TO: Mr. Derek Connolly on the death of his mother Mary Connolly.

TO: Mr. Paul O'Driscoll on the death of his sister Kitty Fleming.

TO: Ms. Susan Murphy on the death of her mother in law Bernadette McGrath.

TO: Ms. Catherine Swayne on the death of her mother Anna-May O'Brien.

TO: Marian O'Donovan on the death of her husband Michael O'Donovan.

TO: Claire Levis on the death of her father Fred Levis.

TO: Raymond and Kathleen Murphy on the death of their daughter Ashling Murphy.

[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS

3/1-2

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY:

SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001:

Members noted the following disposals: _

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF WEST CORK

Grant of Right of Way over non-public road at Castlefreke, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

3(a)/1-2

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 14th January, 2022.

Situation: Grant of Right of Way over non-public road at Castlefreke, Clonakilty, Co Cork.

Area: C. 55m²

Consideration: €1

Grant of Wayleave at Knockroe, Ballydehob, Co. Cork.

3(b)/1-2

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 14th January, 2022.

Situation: Grant of Wayleave at Knockroe, Ballydehob, Co. Cork.

Area: 13m x 10m wide.

Consideration: €1

[e] **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES**
TÚAIRISCÍ AGUS MOLTAÍ Ó CHOISTÍ

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

4/1-2

4(a)/1-2

Approval of attendance by Members at conferences on the Conference list for February 2022

Proposed by Councillor Alan Coleman

Seconded by Councillor Kevin Murphy

4(b)/1-2

Local Government Act 2001 Section 142-Approval of Members' training-

Proposed by Councillor Gillian Coughlan

Seconded by Councillor Gerard Murphy

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL:

5/1-2

Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism Directorate

5(a)/1-2

Quarterly report of the Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism Directorate for the 6 – month period up to January 2022

Members noted the Economic Development Directorate Quarterly Report.

Proposed by Councillor Frank O'Flynn

Seconded by Councillor Alan Coleman

During the discussion, the Members made the following points:

- Members complimented the Director and Staff on work done to date.
- Members acknowledged that the Economic Development Department was exceptionally adaptable during Covid.

- Members noted how active the Department was with supports to businesses during Covid and acknowledged that €34 million was approved in Restart Grant Schemes.
- Members recognised the Department’s huge amount of work in the Tourism Sector in conjunction with the Stakeholders.
- Stated that Staycations were showing the county has a lot of offer and this is very positive.
- These initiatives helped to sustain jobs during the pandemic and ensure they will be retained.
- Acknowledged that remote working will continue.
- Stated that Hubs in rural areas should be supported.
- Suggested that Libraries should be used for students and remote learning.
- Recommended that remote working and remote learning could co-exist in the same premises.
- Noted that many businesses are looking to expand incubator units as there are strong occupancy levels. The unit needs to assist new businesses by providing more units. Infrastructure needed for entrepreneurs.
- Members mentioned that some homes have poor broadband and is not able to cope with multiple users. Mobile phone coverage is also an issue in parts of the county.
- Acknowledged that the LCDCs were also doing great work.
- Stated that Business Hubs were needed in Kinsale.
- Noted that the ‘Teen Talk’ event is well received by schools.
- Suggested the need to emphasis use of EU funding for EU co-funded projects.
- Stated that UCC was running ‘Bystander Intervention training’ and asked if ‘Teen Talk’ could incorporate this.

The Mayor stated that the ‘Teen Talk’ event is well received by schools. She suggested the need to emphasis use of EU funding for EU co-funded projects

The Chief Executive thanked Members for their comments. He stated during Covid that there was a significant level of Council support for businesses. This resulted in a stronger relationship with the sector. Funding has been distributed to approximately 3,500 businesses.

With regard to the shortage of business units and hubs, he said there were multi-faceted challenges – there is restricted lending and a lack of investors. He will revert in April with an extensive report. He said also that a strategy is being worked on for the activation of vacant properties.

Corporate Services

5(b)/1-2

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

Members noted the Corporate Services Quarterly Report.

Proposed by Councillor Frank O’Flynn

Seconded by Councillor Ian Doyle

Library Services

5

(c)/1-2

Quarterly report of the Library Services for the 3-month period up to September 2021.

Members noted the Library Services Quarterly Report.

Proposed by Councillor Gerard Murphy

Seconded by Councillor Ian Doyle

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- The Members thanked the Director for the report.
- Members stated there is an opportunity for remote hubs to be in libraries and asked that this be considered.
- Commended the Chief Executive on the Community Call initiative that was set up 22 months ago for Covid.
- Members recognised that all services provided by the Council are more visible to the public and especially to businesses.
- Complimented the Council on the opening of the library in Bandon. This huge facility is very welcomed in the town.
- Acknowledged the way libraries adopted their services to meet the public's needs during the pandemic.

The Mayor also acknowledged the opening of the new Bandon library. She stated it was a great hope of renewal. She also welcomed the outreach work from libraries.

The Chief Executive said the Library Services provided huge community support to the public during Covid. He stated that there was phenomenal movement since Quarter 3 in the service and outlined the position.

- Bandon library opened on the 12th January.
- Kanturk library is nearly ready and will be opening in February.
- There are currently 4 mobile libraries in operation.
- Construction has started on the Briary Gap library.
- Youghal library is progressing.
- Fermoy library opened in December.

ROADS GRANTS ALLOCATIONS FROM TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IRELAND 2022:

5(d)/1-2

Report to Cork County Council on TII Road Grant Allocations 2022

Mr. Pdraig Barrett, Director of Services stated the Department of Transport notified Transport Infrastructure Ireland that approximately €2.4bn is allocated to TII over the **period 2021 – 2025**.

- Protection & Renewal has been allocated €1.3m.
- New roads allocated €1.1bn

He stated that the Department of Transport notified Transport Infrastructure Ireland that approximately €5.6bn is intended to be allocated to TII over the **period 2026 - 2030**.

- Protection & Renewal has been allocated €1.6m.
- New roads allocated €4bn.

In 2022 he outlined that there is a capital allocation of €581m, greenway allocation of €60m and maintenance allocation of €34.85m.

He stated the Funding Priorities were:

- Protection & Renewal
Maximise allocation of funding resources, as close to adequate levels as possible. This category of expenditure includes road safety and bus priority measures.
- Major Projects in/near construction
Allocate sufficient resources to major projects in construction or commencing construction to meet contractual obligations.
- N/M20 Cork to Limerick Motorway
Allocate sufficient funding to continue planning and design.
- Connection to Ports – Roads with Planning consent
N28 Cork to Ringakiddy, N2/N69 Limerick to Adare/Foynes. Both projects expected to commence in the 2026 – 2030 period of the NDP.
- Connectivity to Ports – Roads in Planning
N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare
- Bypasses with planning consent:
N6 Galway Ring Road
- Bypasses in Planning
To continue planning and design of projects that provide town or village bypasses with a view to supporting compact growth and town centre first objectives.
- Other Major projects in planning
Allocate funding to other named projects on the NDP list (chapter 7 page 64)

Mr. Barrett outlined the funding for the **National Primary routes:**

PRS Type	Scheme Name	Routes no	2022 Allocation	2021 Allocation	Comment
HD15 and HD17 Minor Works - Nat	N20CK Charleville	N20	€20,000		Design and construction funding may increase – 2 sites
	N20CK_013 Waterloo Junction	N20	€10,000	€50,000	Substantially complete
	N22CK Ballyvourney Ped Crossing	N22	€50,000		Upgrade
	N22CK Macroom Ped Crossing	N22	€50,000		Upgrade
	N22/R585 Castlemore junction	N22	€0		Design and Part 8
	N22CK_Pfizer Roundabout RSIS	N28	€3,000	€100,000	Substantially complete
Major Scheme – Nat	Ballyvourney to Macroom (Bypasses Macroom)	N22	€60,700,000	€98,463,543	60% complete (2021 initial allocation €69 million)
	Dunkettle interchange	N40	€2,000,000	€2,000,000	TII is the Contracting Authority for the DKI Project
	N25 Midleton to Youghal	N25	€100,000		Strategic Assessment Report to be progressed in 2022
	Carrigtwohill to Midleton	N25	€0	€1,250,000	No funding for 2022
	Ringaskiddy/Cork	N28	€13,000,000	€2,500,000	

Minor Scheme – Nat	AT – N8 Cycleway from Tivoli to Dunkettle Roundabout	N8	€50,000		
Pavement – Nat	N20 Ashgrove to Ballydaniel	N20	€1,000,000		New Scheme
	N28 Carrs Hill	N28	€910,000		Within the Cork City boundary
	N22 Coolcour	N22		€430,400	Substantially complete
	N28 Shanbally	N28	€700,000		No comment

He then outlined the funding for the **Secondary routes:**

PRS Type	Scheme Name	Routes no	2022 Allocation	2021 Allocation	Comment
HD15 and HD17 Minor Works - Nat	N72CC Ballymaquirke	N72	€3,000	€200,000	ABP decision pending
	N72CK Fermoy Christchurch junction	N72	€50,000	€300,000	2022 allocation may be increased
	N72CK Grange, Fermoy	N72	€30,000		Splitter Island Upgrade
	N72CK Park Rd, Mallow	N72	€40,000		Ped crossing
	N72CK RSI Implementation	N72	€35,000		
	N72CK RSI Implementation	N73	€40,000		
	Sfty – N72CC RSE Implementation	N72	€5,000		
Major Scheme – Nat	N72/N72 Mallow Relief Road	N72	€900,000	€8,000,000	Phase 3 – design & env evaluation
Minor Scheme – Nat	AT – N71 Glenfarriff to National Park Cycle/Walkway	N71	€150,000	€100,000	Phase 2 – options selection underway
	N71 Bandon Bypass Extension	N71	€50,000	€100,000	Phase 2 – options selection underway
	N71 Newmills/Owenachincha	N71	€50,000	€100,000	Phase 2 – options selection underway
	N72 Annakisha South Improvement Scheme	N73	€100,000	€300,000	Tenders docs to be finalised
	N73 Clogher Cross – Waterdyke Realignment Scheme	N73	€800,000	€1,500,000	2022 land acquisition
Pavement Nat	N71 Glengarriff	N71	€700,000		PARR Scheme (NRO estimate is €2,200,000)
	N71 Seafield to Knockroe Pavement Repairs (previously Parkana to Knockroe extended. -Now Seafield to Knockroe Phase 3	N71	€2,500,000		PARR Scheme (NRO estimate is €2,500,000)
	N72 Annabella to Lacknamona Pavement Strengthening – Phase 0	N72	€1,000,000		PARR Scheme
	N71 Glasslinn Road Bandon	N71		€3,557,672	At construction (initial 2021 allocation €800,000)

N71 Bantry to Dunnamark	N7		€4,405,000	At construction (initial 2021 allocation - €2,000,000)
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Mr. Barrett outlined Cork County's allocation of €94,485,093 under the following headings:

- National Primary €78,593,000
- National Secondary €6,453,000
- Project Management €2,999,000
- Maintenance €1,290,093
- Greenways €5,150,000

He stated Greenways are now part of the TII portfolio and outlined the funding allocation as follows:

- Charleville to Cork €100,000
- Lee to Sea (Macroom – Dripsey – Farran) €100,000
- Mallow to Dungaran €250,000
- Midleton to Youghal €4,500,000
- Cork to Kinsale €100,000
- Cork to Schull €100,000

The Mayor stated the extension of the Bandon Bypass project is very slow. She said the infrastructure needs to be expedited as a new school is being built in the area.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Members were satisfied with the overall allocation of €94.4m which had increased in 10% on 2021.
- Members noted the proposed Mallow/Dungarvan Greenway and Mallow Relief Road and welcomed the funding for them.
- Members were disappointed with N73 Mitchelstown – Mallow – Killarney road project. Originally, they were told work would commence in October and then that the work was not going ahead. It is now going ahead again but with reduced funding. Stated the allocation for Clogher Cross had been reduced. This road provides links for daily lives and for agriculture / business and public transport in rural Ireland.
- Stated that there will be an increase in business and tourism activity after Covid so it is very important to upgrade the N73.
- Proposed writing to the Minister of Transport to request funding for this section of the road.
- Members were satisfied with the progress on the N71 Bantry to Dunnamark road.
- Asked if there was anything concrete proposed for the Castlemartyr – Killeagh area. Enquired what the timeline was and what would be done with funding allocated.
- Members asked how much was spent in the Carrigtowhill to Midleton road already. If Cork is to be counterweight to Dublin, the infrastructure to bring the development is needed. The suspension of the upgrade of the N25 Carrigtowhill to Midleton road has caused a huge impact.
- Stated that a proper road access is needed for the Old Ballyadam IDA site which has a great location but no access.

Mr. Barrett updated the Members as follows:

- Bandon Bypass:
Said he had spoken to TII regarding the allocation. The Council is looking to complete Phase 2.
- Clogher Cross to Waterdyke
This project is a priority project for the Council. TII are aware of the need of the

- scheme. It is expected to be approved to go to tender in 2022.
- Cork to Limerick Motorway
Not included in the Cork allocation. There is significant funding for 2022 for this project.
- Welcomed the Bartney and Glengarriff projects.
- There is funding of €100,000 for Castlemartyr to Middleton to Youghal. The next stage is the Strategic Assessment Report. Consultants will be procured to review what is needed for the Middleton to Youghal road. The Strategic Assessment 2022 will inform the future phases of what is needed. The Carrigtwohill to Middleton road is at phase 2 (route selection stage). €1.3m has been spent to date. Mr. Barrett acknowledges the concerns raised by Members. An interchange is needed at Carrigtwohill. Safety and noise concerns need to be addressed independently to the scheme.

Members continued the discussion by making the following points:

- Asked what is the status of funding for Ballymaquirke.
- Clonbanin Cross is a dangerous junction that also needs to work done on it.
- Stated that allocation of €1.2m is very little for the maintenance of national and secondary roads.
- Stated that the funding of €50,000 is very small for the Bandon Bypass.
- Welcomed the funding for Greenways but stated there are other more strategic funding requirements.
- Members believed the route for the Bandon Bypass was already decided.
- Noted the funding was increasing every year.
- Asked if the allocation of funding for Shanbally could be used for a crossing in the village.
- Asked if a Harbour Greenway was included in the funding for Greenways.
- Requested an update on the Cork to Kinsale and Cork to Schull routes.
- Asked that the speed limit could be reviewed for the Shannonpark on the city boundary.
- Enquired if it was feasible to start the Mallow Bypass before the Cork to Limerick motorway.
- Requested timeline for Mallow Relief Road.
- Asked if funding was withdrawn after being allocated for the N73 road.
- Said the Department of Transport should shorten the number of stages in road projects.

Mr. Barrett responded as follows:

- The Council is waiting for the An Bord Pleanála decision for Ballymaquirke. There is an allocation of €3,000 presently for it.
- The Council is looking at the safety works for Clonbanin Cross and will revert to TII.
- He stated that funding for National, Primary and Secondary routes for 2022 of €1.29 is the same of 2021. The Council gets additional money for specific pavement repairs up to €200K that arise. €1.29m covers Winter maintenance.
- He confirmed that Bandon Bypass route is not selected. It is selected by picking the best option for the community and impact on finance and environment.
- Said the information is already available for the Cork to Kinsale Greenway and confirmed this will be very useful for the project implementation.
- He confirmed that the funding has been increasing since 2018 and this is a result of a large number of projects being in construction including the Macroom Bypass.
- He recognised that a pedestrian crossing is needed at Shanbally and will at this under the Active Travel programme
- Stated that the Mallow Relief is completely separate to the Cork to Limerick

motorway.

- He said the €1.5 allocated to the N73 in 2021 was not spent as the project did not go out to tender.

Members continued the discussion by making the following points:

- Acknowledged the work done by the Director of Services, Roads and his team
- Disappointed with update for N73. Stated that funding of €9m had been mentioned and now it is not available. This is a false sense of security. Requested that pressure should be put on TDs to pursue this.
- Sought clarification on the ownership of old railway lines that are being used for Greenways.
- Stated French Interconnector will be needed for huge connection and for offshore Wind Turbine. Close cooperation between the ESB and broadband providers is needed.
- Said Greenways must be of use for the community. It must be safe and secure for people to use -for walkers and cyclists.
- Members agreed that work is needed on the N25 and particularly Carrigwohill.
- Stated that the National Programme for Road Building is a mistake. Locked in “car first” transport with range of problems. Acknowledged other approaches were a possibility. Stated in defence of Greenway cycle ways that a different type of road is used. Said that 1 in 5 journeys are under 2 hours but 50% of the commuters use a car. Roads are expensive to build maintain. Greenways are cost effective and a low carbon cost.
- Asked if the previous Feasibility Study for Castlemartyr to Killeagh can be used. Members also stated that this stretch of road was also important. This is a link road between Cork and Rosslare.
- Noted that majority of county residents live in rural area and need cars to commute.
- Stated that a meeting was requested with the Minister and looked for update.
- Recognised that regular motorists in East Cork endure poor road infrastructure on a daily basis. Return to work will make problems worse.
- Worrying that lack of improvement in road network for Amgen site will put off investors.
- Suggested that the main route to the Port needs upgrading at Shanbally.
- Funding for the Greenway is very welcome. The Greenway funding helps connect Monkstown to Carrigaline and to Crosshaven.

Mr. Barrett responded as follows:

- There is a high level of funding required for the Clogher Cross to Waterdyke upgrade. It is estimated to be in excess of €9m.
- The ownership of the railway lines is often still with the landowners and not with the state or Local Authority. The ownership of the line is looked at the feasibility stage. Funding for 4 projects is at the feasibility stage.
- Cabling Greenways for the future is being looked at. Some ducts are currently being installed during construction.
- Safety of the road network is a key consideration
- He confirmed that a letter has been issued to the Minister from the Mayor’s office seeking a meeting and hopes this meeting will take place in the coming weeks.
- He said there is a 30km stretch between Midleton and Youghal but suggested it maybe upgraded in sections.
- It is too early to pre-empt work already done. It is not wasted and is of a significant value.
- Greenways need to be safe and secure. Lighting is a key aspect.
- He stated 8 projects has been suspended. Midleton to Carrigwohill is one of these projects. 30,000 vehicles travel this road daily.

The Mayor thanks Mr. Barrett. She expressed the urgency in meeting the Minister. She also stated that a good road network was key for the development and planning of the county.

[h] NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The Mayor sought approval for agenda items 6 and 7 to be considered together as both dealt with the fire service - Councillor Twomey and Councillor Madden agreed to this.

6/1-2

FIRE SERVICE MEMBERS TO ASSIST THE NATIONAL AMBULANCE SERVICES:

Councillor Danielle Twomey proposed, seconded by Councillor Susan McCarthy

“That this council will progress policy regarding our retained fire service members, that they be able to assist the National Ambulance services as first responders and to be deployed in cardiac arrest calls to help alleviate the pressures on the NAS. That sufficient adequate training be provided to our firefighters so as they can safely provide this service. And that permission be sought from the HSE National Ambulance service to be able to assist them and provide this service, and that immediate engagement commence to allow this service to be up and running as soon as possible”.

7/1-2

NAS/FIRE SERVICE CO-RESPONDER SCHEME ROLL OUT ACROSS THE COUNTY:

Councillor Liam Madden proposed, seconded by Councillor Michael Paul Murtagh

“That Cork County Council like others throughout the Country would back the proposed NAS/Fire Service Co-Responder Scheme roll out across the County to assist the ambulance service to respond to 999 emergency calls as quickly as possible. NAS is (National Ambulance Service)”.

RESPONSE:

Responsibility for the provision of emergency medical services rests with the Health Service Executive which operates the National Ambulance Service in accordance with health sector legislation whereas Cork County Council has responsibility for the provision of fire services under the Fire Services Acts. Ensuring we meet our statutory obligations in respect of our principal role under the Fire Services Acts must be our primary concern. Nonetheless, several firefighters in each of our fire stations are trained to Emergency Medical First Responder level and Cork County Council Fire Service already helps the National Ambulance Service through responding to ambulance assist callouts in accordance with protocols operated within the Munster Regional Communications Centre.

Provision of a formal response service in support of the National Ambulance Service in responding to cardiac arrest calls is the subject of ongoing discussions at national level. The potential of fire services to assist the National Ambulance Service as cardiac first responders is recognised. However, any proposal for such assistance must be subject to appropriate governance arrangements and must be developed in the context of a service level agreement dealing with the scope of assistance to be provided, mobilisation arrangements, equipment, training, patient handover to ambulance service personnel, recoupment of costs, etc, and which will not impact on, or adversely affect, the fire services ability to fulfil its statutory functions under the Fire Services Acts.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Members stated that 5 – 6 medics are trained as First Responders in each unit.

- Members said that response to 999 emergency calls as fast as possible is what is needed.
- Noted that 70% of cardiac deaths occur outside the home.
- Members acknowledged that Community Responders are not trained to the level of Fire Service personnel but recognised the amount of medical emergencies they attend. They recognised that this is a role to explore further.
- Members request that this service is formalised in the Council. Laois and Kildare Local Authorities already do this.
- Stated that the aim is save lives.
- Recognised that there was a large network of Fire Service Stations across the county.
- Fire service who are locally based, do tremendous work responding to emergencies.
- Stated it is necessary to bring relevant stakeholders on board.
- Noted that the full time Fire Service has different roles to the retained Fire Fighter Service.
- Acknowledged that 250 cardiac calls in the city are responded to by the City Fire Department Cardiac Unit.
- The major issue is that there is not enough ambulance staff on the ground.
- It was noted that emergency First Responders can perform First Aid but only doctors and paramedics can administrate drugs when needed.
- Acknowledged the great work the Fire Service does. However, co-ordination between the ambulance and fire service would be an additional help.
- Stated the Air Ambulance in Rathcoole is now recognised in the County Development Plan. This great service is funded locally. The air ground is being upgraded to facilitate aeroplanes as well as helicopters.
- Suggested that the Notices of Motion be carried forward to the next meeting of the HSE Forum.
- Asked if the Fire Service could check Automated External Defibrillators.

The Chief Executive said the Fire Service is a retained service and it is fully utilised for this purpose. He said the proposals would challenge the Fire Service and costs would be an issue. He stated the National Ambulance Service is a national issue and this is a matter for the HSE.

Extension of Time

Proposed by Councillor Kevin Murphy

Seconded by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley

8/1-2

SPECIAL PARKING SPACES AT SCHOOLS FOR PERSONS WITH/ HIDDEN DISABILITIES :

Councillor Mary Linehan Foley proposed, seconded by Councillor Ben Dalton O’Sullivan

“Can I request Cork County Council to provide special parking spaces at schools in the county for persons with hidden disabilities, similar to existing disability parking spaces. These spaces would be clearly marked with a sunflower and lining. These would be courtesy spaces, at the discretion of the public to leave them for use by those with a sensory disability.”

RESPONSE:

Car parking at schools involves a mix of public parking and school’s car parks depending on the location. The priority is that parking is effectively managed.

We have not had any approaches from school boards of management to date for such designated parking spaces. In order to consider this matter further we need more information, and we will research the concept to see how it is operating in other areas.

The proposal to provide courtesy parking spaces, similar to the Age Friendly Parking Spaces, is not covered by Road Traffic legislation. It is a matter that may require national or legislative guidance but could be investigated by Roads & Transportation SPC as well as the Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC.

Proposal for the creation of these courtesy spaces, could form part of schemes such as the School Streets initiative which was piloted in 2 areas in the county and also could be looked at under Active Travel proposals for areas around the County, in tandem with Board's of Management of schools and provided on an agreed and needs basis.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Members thanked the Director of Services for Municipal District Operations & Rural Development and Director of Services for Roads & Transportation for their responses.
- Stated that parents of children with sensory issues do not qualify for disability parking as their disabilities are hidden.
- Noted it can be very distressing for both children and parents in larger towns as it is not possible to park outside the school and the children with anxiety and sensory issues must be carried there.
- Said that Waterford has some of these areas in place already and are working very well.
- Acknowledged that only some schools will need these spaces.
- Will forward details to the Director of Services, Municipal District Operations & Rural Development and will also contact the Board of Management of schools regarding this.
- Requested that this item be kept on the agenda and would ask the Council to look further into it.
- Said that Cork County Council is leading the way on Age Friendly initiatives and would like to replicate it for people with hidden disabilities.
- Outlined the Sunflower Lanyard scheme and suggested writing to the HSE to seek funding.
- Acknowledged that hidden disabilities are not always recognised as a disability.
- Proposed writing to each Local Authority to suggest rolling it out as a national initiative.
- Recommended that these parking spaces should be mandatory in new schools and extensions. They should also be provided at community halls and similar facilities.

The Mayor stated that provision must be made for hidden disabilities and more recognition is needed for people with hidden issues. She recommended that national funding should be sought to improve safety outside school.

Members agreed to write to the HSE to provide special parking spaces at schools for persons with hidden disabilities, similar to existing parking spaces. It was agreed to circulate a copy of the Motion to all Local Authorities.

9/1-2

CROSS COUNTY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON GENDER VIOLENCE:

Councillor Eileen Lynch Foley proposed, seconded by Councillor Gillian Coughlan

“That Cork County Council would hold a cross county awareness campaign on gender violence”.

RESPONSE:

The matter under debate is one of a national nature as has been evidenced most recently through the national conversation and extensive media coverage on this issue. It is a matter that requires a ‘whole of government’ approach and crosses many aspects of the business of many state agencies including but not limited to the education, health, policing, justice, and other sectors. Government has indicated that a national strategy on the matter is expected and that the publication of such a strategy is imminent. Cork County Council should await the publication by government of that strategy. It would be appropriate for Council, perhaps through consideration of this motion, to confirm its full support to playing its part in whatever role national government sees for local government in a comprehensive national strategy.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Members referred to the national outpouring of grief and fear over the recent tragic death of Ashling Murphy.
- Members stated that there were 244 women murdered in Ireland since 1996. 87% were killed by a man known to them. 1 in 3 women will suffer abuse in their lifetime. Society does not support in accessing refuge from abuse.
- Members acknowledged that there has been a massive increase in domestic abuse during Covid.
- They said their duty was to open dialogue on issue of gender based abuse and violence towards women.
- Stated that Members need to highlight the issue and work to change this narrative.
- Said that women Members receive negative commentary that male colleagues do not receive.
- Noted that all female Members have experienced gender based abuse of some kind.
- Acknowledged that legislative review of sentences is a matter for the Dáil.
- Minister McEntee will be issuing a statement in the coming weeks. Members must work in the local community.
- Members requested that this item would appear again on the agenda once the National Strategy is published and recommended that the Council would act on it.
- Acknowledged that the fundamentals needed are education and respect.
- Said sexism was always unacceptable
- Members must do all they can to work together for a safer environment. Men and women must work together in a proactive role.
- Recommended this topic be addressed so a fair society can be achieved.
- Said UCC is running By Standers Intervention training and the aim is to change Attitudes.

The Mayor suggested that a county wide media campaign could pre-empt the national campaign and stated it will be addressed through the Women’s Caucus. She said that Members fight for fairness in other areas in society so must fight for this as well. She also recommended this topic be put before the Joint Policing Committee. She agreed that the Council must work within the National Framework.

The Chief Executive said that proposals must be cognisant of the forthcoming government strategy and acknowledged the key role of the office of the Mayor in the matter.

[K] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

10/1-1

TO: Loreto Secondary School, Fermoy, on winning the Cork County Colleges 2022 Senior

Camogie

TO: Ballygiblin GAA on winning the All Ireland Junior A Hurling Club Championship Semi Final

TO: Conor Coughlan (MVP), trainer Alan Cronin and all the rebel wheelers on picking up yet another title at the IWA National Cup Finals.

TO: Jack Brierley on his retirement from Hayfield Manor in his 90th year.

TO: Rebel Wheelers on picking up another title at the IWA National Cup Finals.

TO: Organisers of the Danny Crowley Memorial Swim on raising €450,000 in 9 years and €22,000 this Year for the Mercy Hospital.

TO: Mournabbey Ladies Football on qualifying for the All Ireland Senior Final.

TO: Mark Scannell & Glanmire Ladies Basketball

TO: Senior Camogie Team, Mitchelstown Presentation Convent Secondary School on winning the County Final.

[I] ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Members are concerned about the impact of the planned explosions off the Irish coast by Russia on the marine life and said the matter should be brought to the attention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

2. The Senior Executive Officer brought to the attention of Members that a Notice had been issued to each Member on 12th January 2022 informing them of the requirement imposed on them by section 171 of the Local Government Act 2001 to prepare and furnish an Annual Declaration to the Ethics Registrar and this must be submitted by 28th February 2021.

~ THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING ~