

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on 24th May 2022**

In Attendance: Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Noel McCarthy, Deirdre O' Brien, Frank O' Flynn, William O' Leary, Frank Roche; Brendan O' Gorman SEE, Pauline Moriarty MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO.
Noel Sheridan Sen. Exec. Planner, Sharon O' Connell Exec. Planner

Apologies: Mary Hayes SEO

1. MINUTES

a. Minutes of Fermoy MD April 2022 Meeting held on 19th April 2022

The Minutes were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn.

2. STRATEGIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION

a. Proposed Strategic Housing Development at Coolcarron, Fermoy

Noel Sheridan Senior Executive Planner went through the information and details in relation to this proposed housing development at Coolcarron on the south side of Fermoy. He informed the elected Members that a previous planning on this site for over three hundred houses has expired; and also that there is a change to the zoning on approximately one-third of this site in the new County Development Plan but that this change will not effect this proposal. Today is the opportunity for the elected Members to voice their views on the proposal, which will be noted and included in the Chief Executive's Report to be submitted to An Bórd Pleanála. The elected Members observations and questions included the following:

- Cllr. Frank O' Flynn said he is unhappy with the duplex style of house proposed; that he hopes soft ramps will be the only traffic calming used; that cost effective heating such as 'air-to-water' systems and solar panels are used and that electric vehicle charging points will be incorporated into the build.
- Cllr. Noel McCarthy requested that adequate car parking spaces be provided for each house and for visitors.
- Cllr. William O' Leary said it is important to get the provision of car parking, traffic calming and recreational facilities right from the outset.
- Cllr. Kay Dawson asked if the concerns of An Bórd Pleanála outlined in their report, circulated to the elected Members, had been dealt with to which Noel responded yes, all have been resolved.
- Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien advised keeping the design simple for easy maintenance in the future and sought clarification on the forthcoming change to the zoning in the CDP (the effect of which Noel confirmed would be negligible).

Noel answered all the queries the Members had and said all their concerns had been noted for inclusion with the CE's report. He confirmed that all required building and ancillary standards will be met in the construction of this development. The elected Members wholeheartedly welcomed the proposal for this much needed housing, with Cllr. O' Leary stating it is a once in a generation opportunity to have a significant impact on housing provision in the area. Noel informed the Members that the ABP decision is due on 17th July 2022 and the elected Members will be notified accordingly at that time. The Members thanked Noel and Sharon for their attendance and the presentation.

3. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. REPORT : MDO May 2022 Report

and

b. UPDATE : Fermoy Weir Update

Pauline Moriarty MDO went through the contents of her report, uploaded and displayed onscreen for the Members information. Pauline sought the elected Members approval on two recommended budget allocations to come from the Town Development Fund remaining budget; the first, €280 to The Meadows Housing Estate for grass cutting equipment which was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn; and the second to Clancy Street Playground to replace the surfacing (total cost €7,262.19), this was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel

McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn. The Members thanked Pauline for the report and issues which were raised and discussed included:

- Pauline will check if the AGM can be held in July and will revert to Members.
- the elected Members congratulated Kilworth Community Council and Corrin Nature Reserve on their endeavours in 'Pride of Place'.
- Pauline undertook to confirm when the planning application for the Fermoy Weir works is submitted and inform the elected Members accordingly.
- the elected Members discussed the issue of flag raising in Fermoy and the Ukrainian flag which is currently in place and it was agreed that the Ukrainian flag would remain in situ; going forward Fermoy MD permission must be obtained by any group wishing to raise a flag in a public area within the MD and this permission will include the duration of time the flag will remain in place.
- in relation to the canopies, and particularly the one at Ashe Quay, Fermoy about which there are reports of anti-social behaviour, Pauline confirmed that there is no plan to remove them in the short term, they are to remain in place. She did undertake to make contact with Fermoy Gardai asking them to monitor the quay at night to deter undesirable behaviour at the canopy area.
- further to an enquiry in relation to outdoor street dining licences, Pauline informed the Members that all 2021 licence holders are to be contacted with a view to renewing their licences for 2022, it is not yet determined if there will be fees for these licences this year (waived last year).
- the elected Members requested an update on the RRDF for Fermoy and Pauline undertook to prepare same for the next meeting.
- the elected Members welcomed the installation of additional car parking in the three listed housing estates.

**c. PROGRESS REPORT : 2022 RI Programme
and**

d. PROGRESS REPORT : 2022 RM Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE updated the elected Members in relation to these works programmes, the progress report for which was uploaded and displayed onscreen for the Members information. The RM (Surface dressing) programme will commence on 13th June, first two weeks in Mitchelstown and then two weeks in Fermoy. There are seven roads completed to date on the blacktop contract to which Lagans Contractors have been appointed. Further to a query from Cllr. William O' Leary, Brendan confirmed that work on the R639 Rathcormac will continue this year from where it ceased last year. The 2022 budget for this work is €485K. In Rathcormac VES project, work is temporarily paused awaiting the IW sewer connection through the junction which is pending to the housing development there.

e. PROGRESS REPORT : 2022 CIS Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the elected Members there are six schemes approved for this year, with four paid and two to pay. It is planned to commence these works in Q3 2022.

f. PROGRESS REPORT : 2022 LIS Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the elected Members there are two LIS schemes approved for this year; South Cregg, Fermoy and Ballygiblin, Mitchelstown. Works to commence in Q3 2022.

g. PROGRESS REPORT : 2022 Footpaths Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the elected Members the footpath contractor is working in Coolagown and Doneraile, and will move on to Glenville in due course, and continue to work through the programme as planned.

h. PROGRESS REPORT : Active Travel Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the elected Members that cycle stands, as planned under this programme carried forward from 2021, have all been installed now.

i. PROGRESS REPORT : Climate Adaptation & Resilience Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE confirmed to the elected Members that works such as flood prevention measures and drainage works, planned under this programme and being carried out by a combination of Council outdoor staff and external contract, have commenced and are progressing. Other planned works to be carried out under contract are at procurement and tendering process stage.

j. PROGRESS REPORT : Safety Improvement Scheme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the elected Members that there are two projects planned under this scheme this year. The first, at O'Leary's Cross, is at design stage, the relevant landowners have been contacted and works will commence with Phase 1 planned for Q3 2022 and Phase 2 to proceed in 2023/2024 subject to land purchase. The second project is the R639 old loop road junction improvement on the old N8 at Kiltrislane, Mitchelstown. This is currently at design stage and will be presented to the elected Members in due course for their consideration.

k. RECOMMENDATION : Removal of dead tree at Corrin View Estate, Fermoy

Brendan O' Gorman SEE sought the elected Members approval on his recommendation to remove a dead tree from near the entrance to Corrin View Estate, and to replant a new tree in its stead. This was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

4. LOADING BAY, FERMOY

a. 'Loading Bay 'Fitzgerald Place and O' Neill Crowley Quay'.

Referring to the map uploaded and displayed for the Member's information, Brendan O' Gorman SEE explained that a number of business owners had made contact in relation to the difficulties they have operating in this area due to the space being constantly occupied by parked cars. Accordingly, Brendan is now recommending the installation of two loading bays and sought the Members approval for same. This recommendation was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien. Brendan added that the bays will be painted and signed, and it is hoped there will be general compliance and goodwill around their operation as there is currently no by-law in place for their provision.

5. NOTICES OF MOTION

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

1. "that Cork County Council Would call on the OPW to put in place signage indicating Annes Grove House and Gardens, Castletownroche on all approach roads, to promote the historic facility and to highlight the location to visiting tourists".

We will write to them advising of same but any new signage here will be subject to appropriate licences applications to the Planning Department. (BO'G)

This motion was supported by all the elected Members, who stated that Annes Grove is a wonderful public amenity within the MD.

JOINT MOTION - Cllr. Noel McCarthy and Cllr. Kay Dawson

2. "that this Committee would write to Pdraig Barrett, Director of Roads for Cork County Council, to seek funding for a Fermoy central interchange junction on the M8 Rathcormac-Fermoy Bypass. Also, we should get a full report on why An Bórd Pleanála refused this junction in 2002".

Reply from Sean Callery, NRO:

"The M8 Rathcormac/Fermoy Bypass was developed through a number of iterations during the route options and planning phases of its project lifecycle. Public Private Partnerships (PPP) were introduced by the Irish Government in 2000 and the Rathcormac Fermoy scheme was one of a number of schemes selected by the National Roads authority (now TII) as being suitable as a PPP scheme. The decision was taken to deliver the scheme as a PPP tolled road and to also upgrade the route to a Motorway. The scheme submitted for planning did not include an N72 Tallow Road junction. Subsequent to the oral hearing held by An Bórd Pleanála in 2001, additional information was requested and provided at oral hearing in relation to the possibility of including a junction on the N72 (Tallow Road). An Bórd Pleanála subsequently confirmed the scheme in 2002 without the inclusion of an N72 (Tallow Road) junction."

The introduction of a Fermoy central interchange junction on the M8 Rathcormac-Fermoy Bypass is not really possible during the lifetime of the PPP with Direct Route which I understand will exist for many years to come at this juncture.

Cllr. McCarthy explained this motion arises further to the article on The Examiner on 23rd April 2022 in relation to the required third M8 access junction for Fermoy. Cllr. Dawson said the background story to the An Bórd Pleanála rejection of the third Fermoy junction had come as a 'bolt from the blue' and a full report is now requested. All the elected Members supported this motion, saying that with the opening of the Primary Healthcare facility on Mill Island and the advent of the Tesco development, traffic in Fermoy will be more congested than ever. Brendan O' Gorman SEE responded that streetscape design and traffic management plans (utilising future RRDF funding) will be formulated to deter HGV traffic on the north/south route through Fermoy which should ease congestion on the east/west route. He added that future serious consideration and difficult decisions will be required by the elected Members to deal with the issue of traffic flow and management in the town. Cllrs. McCarthy and Dawson thanked the other elected Members for their support.

Cllr. William O' Leary

3. "that this Council would provide an up to date position with respect to the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing in Glenville".

Owing to the very low traffic volumes going through the village, there would not be a warrant. Saying that the main route through the village is too wide so we will endeavour to narrow down and build out some uncontrolled crossings point near the Church when we are resurfacing in the village under a scheduled RI scheme in 2023. (BO'G)

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

4. "that this Council erect fence on the boundary wall between Ard Mhuilleann and Luí na Gréine in the interest of safety and risk of anti-social behaviour".

The Council is aware of anti-social behaviour in this area including the basketball court and is currently investigating this matter in consultation with the Housing Department and the Gardaí. The outcome of our investigations will be brought to Members in due course. (PM)
This motion was supported by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

5. "that Cork County Council would put in place traffic calming measures to slow down traffic on the Doneraile Road entrance to Castletownroche, in the interest of road safety".

There are no budgets for traffic calming in the district but the request will be kept on file in the event that future funding is made available. (BO'G)

6. "that Cork County Council would extend the footpath from Curtin's Farm, Moorepark on the old N8 road to Downing Bridge, Kilworth, in the interest of health and safety and to provide safe pedestrian an cycling connectivity between Kilworth and Fermoy".

There are no funds currently available to undertake the requested works. I agree it is warranted. A further complication is that the proposed footpath across the motorway interchange is on lands under the control of a PPP and service and maintenance contracts would have to be re-negotiated on behalf of the TII with Direct Route. We will continue to seek Active Travel funds to complete the dedicated cycling infrastructure and lanes but we were unsuccessful in this endeavour in 2022. (BO'G)

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

7. "that this Committee would receive an Engineer's report on the possibility of ramps being put in place on Walker's Hill, Fermoy to reduce speed".

There are no budgets for traffic calming in the district but the request will be kept on file in the event that future funding is made available. Ramps are not suitable for the sharpest gradient here but a raised table across the St. Mary's junction would be supported when we are resurfacing the hill under a scheduled RI project in 2023. (BO'G)

Cllr. McCarthy explained this motion arises from damage to parked vehicles caused by traffic passing here. Brendan O' Gorman SEE undertook to investigate the option of additional road marking being installed here with a view to 'guiding' passing traffic away from parked vehicles.

8. "that this Committee would carry out works to widen the road on Lisheen Hill, Ballyhooly as this area is very narrow in sections".

We are not in a position from a budgetary point of view to widen sections of road on our local road network. Warning signage is already in place. (BO'G)

Cllr. William O' Leary

9. "that this Council would seek an update from the TII with respect to the commencement of planned traffic calming upgrades in Kildorrery".

Cork County Council is not currently progressing traffic calming upgrades in Kildorrery, however, in terms of safety schemes Cork National Roads Office on behalf of Cork County Council is preparing a Feasibility & Options Report for the upgrade of the N73 Kildorrery Pedestrian Crossing at the main street junction. The collection of relevant survey data is ongoing to assist in submitting the proposed design for TII approval by the end of Q2 2022. (Denise McCarthy SEE, NRDO)

This motion was supported by Cllr. Kay Dawson. Cllr. O' Leary asked if works will be done as a result of this feasibility study being completed, to which Brendan replied options will be presented in due course but funding will need to be secured before the commencement of any work. He confirmed there is a commitment to an upgrade here but it is not over the line yet.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

10. "that this Council would replace matting and replace/upgrade old dangerous equipment at Mitchelstown Community Playground, also replace waste bins that would deter crows and other predators".

The Council is currently preparing a tender for repairs to equipment/surfacing in the Mitchelstown area, including the Mitchelstown Community Playground. A list of equipment/surfacing for repair/replacement is currently being compiled after which we will seek quotations. It should be noted that there is no dangerous equipment in the playground currently as any defective equipment is either decommissioned or cordoned off. In relation to the waste bins, there are two in place, one of which can be replaced as it has a larger opening. The issue is that people are putting pizza boxes in the bins and blocking the bins so rubbish cannot fit. The bins are serviced regularly. (PM)

11. "that this Council repair large crack on footpath/ramp on Clonmel Road, outside Dairygold old offices".

Repairs will be carried out here in about two weeks. Could be argued that it is not Council property but as it is a public thoroughfare, we will deal with it. (BO'G)

Brendan confirmed at the meeting that this work has been completed.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Cork County Council - FLAG POLICY

Noted. This was discussed with the MDO report.

7. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. RE: AOB 9(1) - Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Damaged ramp at Bishop Murphy School, Fermoy
Brendan O' Gorman SEE confirmed that repair works have already been carried out at this location.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Street sweeper for streets in Mitchelstown once a week

Cllr. O' Brien requested this service as weeds are growing in accumulated soil and debris at the kerbsides. This request was supported by Cllrs. McCarthy, O' Flynn and Dawson. Pauline informed the Members that it is the Roads Operations sweeper from Fleet Management which carries out this work in Mitchelstown and it is not always available. She recommended that local community groups become more involved and active in the removal of litter and weeds from the streets of

Mitchelstown. Brendan O' Gorman SEE recommended the elected Members consider utilising future Town Development Funding towards the procurement of a dedicated road sweeping machine for Mitchelstown.

(b) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Lawn cutting in public areas, grass not cut at edges and headlands.
Cllr. O' Brien requested the contractor be asked to do edging and strimming work when carrying out grass cutting to improve the finished appearance in public areas such as Roche's Heights.

(c) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Traffic calming on Fermoy Road, (Scart) Kildorrery
Cllr. O' Brien requested traffic calming be installed here further to the recent accident which had occurred at this location. Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that without a dedicated traffic calming budget or alternative funding stream, that ramps are put in place only when road resurfacing works are being carried out and there is a speeding issue observed. He confirmed he will keep this request in mind and will again seek funding to carry out such work here, possibly a Safety Improvement Scheme working in conjunction with the national school, saying previous applications for this funding have been unsuccessful to date. He added that there is no measure to provide for and prevent dangerous driving other than Garda enforcement of Road Traffic Laws.

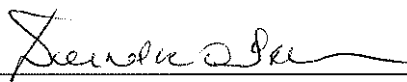
(d) Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - Issue with vehicles parking at Turnpike Cross, Doneraile.
Cllr. O' Flynn said there is an issue at this location with residents being blocked into their properties by vehicles parking on the road attending the adjacent funeral home and removals and he is requesting something be done to prevent this. Brendan O' Gorman SEE said he had requested the assistance of An Garda Síochána Superintendent, Mallow on this traffic control issue and he undertook to arrange the installation of additional double-yellow lining here to prevent this situation going forward.

(e) Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - White weed on roadside verges
Further to an enquiry, Brendan confirmed that the cutting of roadside verges has commenced and will be continued at high impact locations in the district.

(f) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Request for update on pedestrian crossing at Springfield Estate
Brendan O' Gorman SEE confirmed this work is about to go to tender and work should commence in Q3 or Q4 of 2022.

(g) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Query re: timeframe for bus shelter installation, Fermoy
Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to contact the relevant personnel and revert to the elected Members with this information.

Signed



Date

22/6/2022