

## **Minutes of the Macroom Municipal District Meeting held virtually on MS Teams on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Present/I láthair:** Cllrs. Eileen Lynch (Cathaoirleach), Michael Creed, Michael Looney, Ted Lucey, Gobnait Moynihan (for a shorter period, due to technical difficulties) & Martin Coughlan

**Attendance/Tinreamh:** Ms. Nicola Radley, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Marie O'Leary, Municipal District Officer  
Mr. Pat O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer  
Mr. Denis O'Shea, Assistant Staff Officer

### **1. DEIMHNIÚ MIONTUAIRISCÍ CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ted Lucey and seconded by Cllr. Michael Looney the Minutes of the proceedings of the Macroom Municipal District Meeting held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach and the Municipal District Officer.

### **2. NITHE AG ÉIRÍ AS NA MIONTUAIRISCÍ MATTERS ARISING**

**Councillor Ted Lucey**

**Cllr. T. Lucey asked that all his Macroom related requests remain on the agenda for the next meeting.**

- (a) Briery Gap – Update – Marie O'Leary MDO said that the brick work was going ahead and that the Christmas shutdown would see work stood down for a couple of weeks.
- (b) Castleview Cross
- (c) Macroom Development Project  
Cllr Lucey complimented the work to date and enquired as to the progress regarding Tranche 2. Marie O'Leary, MDO said it will take 12 to 18 months to plan, with the multi-disciplinary Project Team scheduled to meet in the new year. Nicola Radley SEO took the opportunity to thank the Members, along with the local TDs for their help in securing close to €8 million in funding from the Department for what will be a transformative project for Macroom. Cllr. Lucey extended his thanks to the team behind the project including Marie O'Leary MDO and Nicola Radley SEO.
- (d) Bus Stop on the Killarney Road, Macroom
- (e) Bus Depot, Macroom
- (f) Macroom – Water pooling – TII were preparing a tender
- (f) Lights by the Roundabout at Fitzgerald's Corner – very dull
- (g) Street Cleaning in Macroom Town
- (h) Pedestrian Crossing Masseytown - Speed Down the Hill

- (i) Install a crossing point at the roundabout at Kilnagurteen
- (j) Town Development Fund/General Municipal Allocation – Funding Granted to Macroom MD
- (k) Proposed Pedestrian Crossing near the Boys School, Macroom
- (l) Bypass at Killumney – Link Road to EMC roundabout – 3 lights missing  
J. Dwyer, SEE said this has been referred to the Public Lighting Section
- (o) Debris at St. Colmans Graveyard, Macroom
- (p) Potential Bicycle Lane from 2 to 4 Mile Bridge Macroom
- (q) Car Park Opposite Dunnes Stores, Macroom – Stop Sign request.

### **Councillor Michael Creed**

- (a) Macroom Development Project  
Agreed with all of what Cllr Lucey said and extended his thanks to Cork County Council's team including Marie O'Leary MDO and Nicola Radley SEO, whose work on this project, along with the By-Pass, will lead to Macroom becoming a boom town.
- (b) Maulnahorna to Cusloura Road works update  
P. O'Sullivan, EE said a Council crew were in attendance here during the week, and he will check to see how they got on.

### **Councillor Michael Looney**

- (a) Macroom Development Project  
Cllr Looney expressed great satisfaction at seeing the near €8 million worth of funding in place and how it will boost the prospect of Macroom becoming a significant tourist destination. He enquired as to what parking provisions will be in place for attracting buses from the Liners coming in to Bantry Bay. Marie O'Leary MDO said that bus parking will be one of the main priorities once the By-Pass is opened and that contact has been made with the company operating the tourist buses attached to the Liners.

### **Councillor Martin Coughlan**

- (a) Macroom Development Project  
Cllr Coughlan expressed his gratitude to Council staff, including Marie O'Leary MDO and Nicola Radley SEO, along with his fellow Councillors and local area TDs for their hard work in securing funding for this project, which he said will make a great difference to the area around the Church of Ireland and Masseytown.
- (a) Bridge in Macroom – loose cobblestones on both sides.

### **Councillor Eileen Lynch**

- (a) Macroom Development Project  
Agreed with her fellow Councillors and extended her thanks to Cork County Council's team including Marie O'Leary MDO and Nicola Radley SEO for the high standard of the funding application.

- (b) Coachford Flood Study  
P. O'Sullivan, EE said he hasn't heard back from the County Engineer, but will follow up.
- (c) Coachford Footpath and Pedestrian Crossing Design  
P. O'Sullivan, EE said there has been a successful meeting with the landowner of the area at the grotto – but some ownership issues still need to be teased out. The detailed design will begin in January, all going to plan.

Cllr. Lynch asked to see if the pedestrian crossing design is finalised. P. O'Sullivan, EE said that the preliminary location has been located at the bottom of the junction of the Glebe road. Once the detailed design is in place, the Council will go for a Part 8 Planning or a Section 38.

- (d) Bawnmore to Ardoyne Cross  
P. O'Sullivan, EE said that he has looked at this, and established where the dip is.
- (e) Macroom EV Charging Points  
Marie O'Leary MDO said that the locations haven't been finalised yet but that she will follow up on this.

Cllr Lynch asked that the Macroom related matters remain on the agenda for the next time:

- (f) Culbáin Estate, Knockmore, Ovens – lights out of order
- (g) Terelton National School – pedestrian crossing  
No Update
- (h) Crookstown – Cliffords Bar to Béal na Bláth – Flooding Works  
No update
- (i) Toonsbridge - Safety works – Money Allocated
- (j) Toons Bridge – Pedestrian Footpath

### **3. BREITHNIÚCHÁIN AR THUAIRISCÍ AGUS MOLTAÍ CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **(a) Municipal District Officers Report**

Members noted the Report.

M. O'Leary, MDO gave the Members an overview of the report.

- General Municipal Allocation

The report highlights the monetary value of claims submitted in relation to Amenity, Capital and Community Contract allocations under the GMA in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

- Town Development Fund

The report also highlights the value of claims submitted in relation to the Town Development Fund under the GMA over 2019, 2022 and 2021.

Some photos of completed projects such as works undertaken by the Donoughmore Writers & Historical Group at the old graveyard in Donoughmore, funded with assistance from the Community Fund, are included.

- RRDF Category 1 Announcement from DRCD

Overview of the project and what it entails is included. The 6 areas of the town benefitting from the project are outlined on a map and some artists impressions of the finished project are included in a series of images.

Marie O'Leary MDO said that with the scale of the funding, the project will be transformative for the town and she expressed her gratitude to the elected members for their assistance.

- 2022 Christmas Market

The Christmas Market will be opened at 9 AM on Tuesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of December Cllr. Eileen Lynch as Cathaoirleach. The By-Pass will have been opened at that stage. A marquee will be in place and the upstairs of the Town Hall will be opened to facilitate the Market. This year will see a big contribution from the local schools, who will use it as an opportunity to showcase the work done by Transition Year students. Macroom School of Art will showcase a free exhibition.

- Historic Towns Initiative 2022 – Update on St. Colmans Church

Preservation work on St Colemans Church tower was finished on schedule and within budget last week. The report details the work that had been undertaken (including photos, both before and after completion of works), which will have the effect of preserving the building.

Macroom Library & Briery Gap Project Update

Brickwork currently underway, with a Christmas closedown period between 22<sup>nd</sup> of December and 2<sup>nd</sup> of January scheduled.

- Christmas Parking Arrangements in Macroom

The first 2 hours of parking will be free between the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2022 and the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023.

- Christmas Lights 2022

The Christmas Lights in **Macroom** will be turned on by Cllr. Eileen Lynch at 7 pm on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. Lee Valley Enterprise Board are marking the occasion with a festive Christmas Market between 5 pm and 8 pm that evening.

The Christmas Lights in **Millstreet** will be turned on at 6 pm on Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of December. This event is organised by the Millstreet Christmas Lights Committee and will include a display of vintage cars by Millstreet Vintage Club.

All of the Members expressed gratitude to Marie O' Leary MDO for the comprehensive nature of the report, and for the very positive news.

**(b) Discretionary Fund Applications**

<b>Group/Organisation</b>	<b>Brief Description of Request</b>
Millstreet Pitch & Putt Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Purchase of prizes €300</li></ul>
Coiste Phobail ChÍll na Martra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publication &amp; Distribution of Local Newsletter €300</li></ul>
<b>Total</b>	<b>€600</b>

Proposed/ Ar Moladh: Cllr. E. Lynch

Seconded/ Cuidithe: Cllr. M. Creed

Cllr. Eileen Lynch asked what was left in the Fund.

Marie O'Leary MDO said that the members had almost €4,800 of the 2022 Fund to decide how to allocate.

**4. VÓTA COMHGHAIRDEAS**  
VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

- Cllr Creed, Cllr Lynch, Cllr Lucey, Cllr. Looney and Cllr Coughlan all congratulated Kilmurry on winning the Junior A Football County Championship and wished them well in the Munster Championship.
- Cllr Looney paid tribute to Innsicarra's Premier Intermediate Hurlers for winning the County for the first time in 47 years.
- Cllr Creed congratulated Baile Mhuirne Ladies Football team on winning the recent Munster Final.

**5. VÓTA COMBHRÓIN**  
VOTES OF CONDOLENCES.

- Cllr. Lucey expressed his condolences to Cllr Gobnait Moynihan, her brother Aindrias Moynihan TD and their family on the recent sad loss of their father Donal Moynihan RIP.
- Cllr. Lynch, as Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District, expressed her condolences to the Moynihan family.
- Cllr. Looney expressed his view that Donal Moynihan was a great ambassador for Coolea. Cllr. Coughlan said that Donal Moynihan was a very nice man, and that his passing was sad news.
- Cllr. Creed associated himself with the previous comments and said that the huge crowd at his funeral was testament to Donal Moynihan's popularity. RIP.

Cllr. Moynihan expressed her gratitude for the kind words from the Members about her father.

**6. AON GHNÓ EILE  
ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Cllr. Ted Lucey**

- (a) Asked to see if a letter could be written to the Manager of Dunnes Stores to see if the 21 apartments over Dunnes Stores in Macroon could be made available to address the housing need in the area  
Marie O' Leary MDO., said that the Council's Property Regeneration Activation Unit has been looking at Macroon and have been in discussion with the owners of this premises. There are some planning issues to resolve but fruitful meetings have been taking place. She will get in touch with the unit and revert back to the Members at the next meeting.
- (b) Staffing issue for Macroon Town and surrounding area  
Cllr Lucey said that there were 7 or 8 full time employees working within the former Macroon UDC Area up to 15 years ago, but now there is only one full time and one part time employee covering the same area. Staff are being drafted in from outside, but this results in all staff being put under extra stress. He asked that this be relayed to the Divisional Manager. Nicola Radley, SEO, said that she will relay Cllr Lucey's concerns to the Divisional Manager and the Roads Department Director of Service.

**Cllr. Michael Creed**

- (a) Staffing issues for Macroon MD  
Cllr. Creed agreed with Cllr. Lucey. He could list 20 roads in significant trouble off the top of his head at the moment, because of drainage issues arising out of the recent appalling weather. The problem is that the Council is missing men on the ground locally, which was traditionally the best way of keeping inlets free. He said that he appreciates the work that is being done, citing recent road resurfacing works in Gurteenroe and Millstreet Town.

**Cllr. Michael Looney**

- (a) Knockyourke Road – bad condition needs to be drained.  
Cllr Looney has received permission from the landowner to allow a drain inside the dyke at this location.
- (b) Firmount Traffic Calming  
Speeding a real issue at this location.
- (c) Request that Dripsey to Blairs Inn be included on a program next year.
- (d) Ballyhanly Traffic Calming

Pat O' Sullivan EE said that he would work on all these issues

**Cllr. Martin Coughlan**

Cllr Coughlan said his issues relate to the Macroon side of the MD on this occasion, and he will bring them to James Dwyer's attention separately.

**Cllr Eileen Lynch**

- (a) Black Top Roadworks in the Model Village, Dripsey  
Cllr Lynch said that the L6810 road was recently done but enquired as to the second lower road by the grotto, which hasn't been done yet.

Pat O'Sullivan EE said that this section had to be cut from the 2022 RI programme as the price for the overall blacktop programme came in dearer than expected. The likelihood is that next year's programme will have to be cut as well for the same reason, so there is a possibility that the road may not be done until 2024. He told Cllr Lynch that interim works would not be appropriate in the short term, because a black top surface is the only real solution for this road.

- (b) Potholes between Shea's Cross and the turn off for St. Olans, Aghabullogue in the short term and request for this section to be tarred at a later stage.

Pat O' Sullivan EE said that a Council crew was here in the last couple of days, and he would take into consideration any further works.

- (c) Lee Valley Inn in a dangerous state.

Cllr Lynch said that this building is in a dangerous state, with sagging evident in the middle of the building. Dangerous in an area with children. Request that those responsible for the property be written to, with a view to ensuring that the building is made safe.

Marie O'Leary MDO said the building is on the Derelict Sites Register and that the Council is presently waiting for information requested from the owners last September. She said she will write to the Solicitor to outline the Members safety concerns and she will discuss with Pat O'Sullivan EE to see if there's anything else that can be done.

Harris fencing was organised at this location by Pat O'Sullivan EE last year.

#### **Marie O' Leary, MDO**

- (a) M O' Leary, MDO proposed to have the next Macroom Municipal District meeting in January 2023 as the December meeting, falling on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December, would be too close to Christmas.

Cllr Eileen Lynch, as Cathaoirleach, and the other Members had no objection to this proposal.

- (b) M O'Leary, MDO expressed her apologies about the meeting having to be held virtually at such short notice this morning, due to internet and other difficulties at Macroom Town Hall. She wished everyone a happy Christmas and said that next year will be a busy year.

#### **Cllr Eileen Lynch**

Cllr Eileen Lynch thanked the staff and Members for their work in 2022, and wished everyone a Happy Christmas. She said she was looking forward to what 2023 has in store for the Municipal District.

### **Críochnaíonn sé seo gnó an chruinniú This concluded the business of the meeting**



**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**27<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**DÁTA**



**OIFIGEACH AN CHEANTAIR BHARDASAIGH**

**27<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**DÁTA**