

MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER, 2023 AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH.

Present: Cllrs. A O'Connor, C. Rasmussen, S.O'Callaghan &
S. O'Connor.

Officials: Mr. S. O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer
Mr. G. O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

Apologies were received from Cllr. A. Barry and Cllr. S. Sheppard for their inability to attend.

1.0 Presentation by Eirgrid in relation to the Celtic Interconnector Project.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, the members voted to reject the draft budget as presented.

Michelle Walsh, Community Liaison Officer, Eirgrid, outlined to the members the progress that had been made to date. Contractors were onsite at Ballyadam and Knockraha and progress was being made on the French side also. The information days held in Carrigtwohill and Knockraha had been well attended. A free text service had been launched to advise residents in relation to road closures and delays and Eirgrid were encouraging as many as possible to sign up to this. Shane Cooney, Eirgrid outlined the detailed plan on road closures and assured members that additional signage would be provided to facilitate residents and others to navigate the diversions and that the roads would be fully opened over the Christmas period. Sinead Dooley, Head of Public Engagement stated that the successful applicants for the Community Fund would be announced in the next few weeks,

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan enquired as to the times that the helplines advertised to locals would be open and insisted that problems caused by the works being carried out by Eirgrid should be fixed before the contractors left the area.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the roads being used as diversions were deteriorating at an alarming rate, particularly after the recent storm and enquired whether it would be the responsibility of Eirgrid to fix. The public had also been unaware of the length of the diversions prior to the works starting.

Cllr. A. O'Connor thanked the representatives of Eirgrid for attending. He also queried how the Community Funds would be distributed outside the immediate corridor.

Shane Cooney stated that once the current series of road closures are finished which included the construction of passing bays, the remaining works such as when the cables are being laid would not require the roads to be fully closed. Sinead Dooley took the

opportunity to thank the various landowners who have facilitated the construction of Community Fund for those organisations outside the buffer zone.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that it was his understanding that a Stop/Go system would be in place for this phase of works also, and if plans change the members and more particularly the public should be informed of this in advance. Also he wanted to know who would be paying for any repairs to the road network.

Shane Cooney replied that it had always been planned to close the Woodstock road, however the recent flooding had complicated the arrangements put in place for diversions. A survey of the road before and after the works would be taken in conjunction with Cork County Council and an agreed programme of re-instatement carried out. G. O'Hora confirmed that a Resident Engineer with Cork County Council had been appointed to the project.

Cllr. O'Connor thanked the representatives of Eirgrid for their presentation, who then withdrew.

2.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of: Monthly Meeting held on 6th November 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr S. O'Connor, the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 6th November were adopted.

3.0 Matters Arising.

Cul Ard, Carrigtowhill:

G. O'Hora stated that the additional hedge cutting works had been carried out along the cycle path.

Trees on Bishop Street:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the trees had been cut back.

Signage at Belvelly:

G. O'Hora stated that a VMS/Driver feed back sign had been ordered for this location and it was proposed to place it on the R624 road verge (estuary side) after Belvelly bridge, unless the members had other suggestions. The sign is mobile and can be moved around the area.

Cobh & Carrigtwohill Drains:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the road drainage programme is progressing.

Annegrove & Carrigane Road:

G. O'Hora confirmed that additional road safety signs had been acquired and would be put in the next few weeks.

Leonards Lodge, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that a new drain had been constructed on the R624 road to alleviate excess surface water ponding on the road.

An Cur, Cul Ard:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the drains had been cleared.

Old Cemetery, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the topsoil had been cleared and timber shuttering removed.

Belvelly/Ticknock Hill:

G. O'Hora stated the speed survey list was being progressed and the surveys would be completed in the next month.

Ballard Hill:

G. O'Hora stated that Cork County Council would now carry out the repairs required and works would be finished during the next few weeks.

Ballywilliam:

G. O'Hora expressed his frustration at the delays in moving this pole, the fees had been paid to the ESB and were awaiting the ESB to progress this matter.

Russell Heights:

G. O'Hora stated that the road lining had been carried out at this location.

Mobile Sweeper:

G. O'Hora stated that he had priced a mobile sweeper which would cost in the region of €60,000.00. He stated that the Council had an electric sweeper for which he was arranging an additional charging station in Cobh, once that is in place he proposed using this sweeper in Cobh on a trial basis as well as on the greenway.

Mens Shed, Glounthaune:

G. O'Hora confirmed that he had identified a location for the mens' shed at Rockgrove, he has contacted the chairperson and will meet him on site later this week.

Ballyvoloon/Ballyleary Road:

G. O'Hora confirmed that a contractor had been appointed and sections of the road would be re-surfaced over the next few weeks.

West Beach, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that the road had been repaired.

Leeview Court:

G. O'Hora stated that the pothole had been repaired.

Harbour Hill:

G. O'Hora stated that the road had been listed for repair, which would be carried out next year as part of 2024 road programme.

O’Rahilly Street:

G. O’Hora stated that the road had been listed for repair, which would be carried out next year as part of 2024 roads programme.

School Safety Works:

G. O’Hora confirmed contractor was due back on site shortly.

Top of Hill:

G. O’Hora confirmed that he had been in contact with Irish Water, however Cork County Council would further examine location and arrange to carry out the necessary repairs.

Walterstown:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the drain had been cleared outside the school. Cllr. Rasmussen expressed his thanks for that, but stated the one he had referred to was at the turn off to the Valley Road. G. O’Hora stated drains would be cleaned.

Rushbrooke:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the greenery had been listed to be cut back.

High Road:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the works had been carried out to the drain.

Belvelly:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the works had been carried out to the drain.

The Spires:

G. O’Hora confirmed that repairs would be carried out as part of the 2024 roads programme.

Tay Road: Large pot hole has reopened at the bottom of the boreen onto the Tay road from Ballyleary road. Engineer to examine.

Harbour Hill:

G. O’Hora confirmed the drains here and at the Cliften Corner had been cleared.

Signs:

G. O’Hora stated that the staff were working through the programme to reline and update the road lining.

Watergrasshill:

G. O’Hora stated that this was a private site.

Glencree:

G. O’Hora stated that the road works had been listed and would be completed this week.

Hedgy Boreen:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the potholes had been repaired.

Carrigtwohill:

G. O'Hora stated that he would contact Irish Water again.

Glavins/Stack Terrace:

G. O'Hora confirmed that this road was listed for repair.

Whitechurch:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the footpath repair was included in the footpath programme.

Mount Crozier, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that the drains had been cleared.

Assumption Place, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that the drain at this location was discharging to an old soakaway which needed to be upgraded.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen expressed his thanks to the engineers and their teams for the work done over the course of the past year.

Whitepoint:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the tree at Whitepoint needed to be cut back so the light can be repaired. G. O'Hora responded stating that the works would be carried out shortly.

Old Church Cemetery:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the issues have not yet been resolved, one of the local undertakers had received a letter outlining works to be done and queried what was happening in other cemeteries. P. Lynch stated that until recently all burials were undertaken by council staff, what is happening now i.e. the local undertaker is arranging for the graves to be dug by a third party. This is the situation in all other graveyards and there is no issue in those burial grounds. Cllr. S. O'Connor stated similar problems regarding spoil had arisen in St. Colmans Cemetery.

Ballyleary:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the whole road would need to be resurfaced when all three of the current developments were finished, he queried where the funds for this would come from.

Carrigaloe:

Cllr. Rasmussen queried if the bus stop would be in place before Christmas. R. O'Sullivan replied that he will be liaising with the bus company in relation to new bus stop at Carrigaloe.

Whitepoint:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the ground was lifting in places. R. O'Sullivan replied that he would pursue with Irish Water.

College Manor:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that signage must still be put up in College Manor and that several potholes had developed near the ramps. G O' Hora stated potholes were listed for repair.

School Safety Works:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that there seemed to be no urgency from the contractors to complete the works. G. O'Hora stated that these works were being co-ordinated by the Traffic & Transport section of Cork County Council and he had discussed the programme with them on a number of occasions. Cllr. Rasmussen asked if the engineering staff were happy with the ramps as currently constructed.

Cul Ard:

Cllr. A. O'Connor expressed his thanks to the staff for the works at Cul Ard and for the costings in relation to the sweeper. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that a special budget allocation of €750,000 was available and Cobh MD should fight for its share of same. P. Lynch replied that he was seeking clarification on what projects were eligible for this fund and would revert to the members as soon as possible.

4.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence.

P. Lynch stated that any correspondence had been circulated with the meeting documentation.

5.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigh / Officer's Reports.

P. Lynch confirmed that there were no reports under this item.

6.0 Tuairisc ó Oifigeach Ceantair Bardasacha / Municipal District Officer's Report.

P. Lynch stated that Cobh Tidy Towns had requested additional funds in relation to the Titanic Garden. They had carried out works to replace the hedging with permanent signage at a cost of 2,500.00.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmusen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor it was agreed to fund the repairs from the Heritage Sign Scheme funds.

7.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.

To consider the following notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Rasmussen

“That a full breakdown of pay parking fines is produced for the town of Cobh for the last 12 months – broken down by category and location.”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that most of the complaints he received in relation to parking concerned the lack of spaces in the town centre. The provision of this report would enable the officials and members to see where the problems were arising. P. Lynch circulated the requested report to the members and will also email same. He stated that the new parking application should be ready by the end of Q.1 of 2024 in Cobh and by the end of the year would be rolled out to the rest of the County. Once that is in place, the majority of the older machines would be removed.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, the motion was carried.

To consider the following notice motion in the name of Cllr. Rasmussen

“That a review of the road layout at the entrance to Cluain Ard estate at the dangerous bend on the Newtown road to see what safety measures can be installed at this very busy location.”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that a crash had occurred at this location in the last week due in part to the lack of road lining. The stop sign needs to be moved.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. O’Connor, it was agreed that the engineer would arrange for the junction to be relined and examine erecting additional road safety signage on the road.

To consider the following notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Rasmussen

“That a full breakdown be given by the municipal on the number of outdoor staff that we have in the district and as to where they are located and what functions they carry out.”

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated he wished to acknowledge the works done by the outdoor staff and queried whether any of the proposed new staff would be allocated to the Cobh M.D. area.

G. O’Hora thanked the members for their comments and stated that currently there are 24 outdoor staff, divided up into 4 teams. These teams are generally located in Cobh, Knockraha, Glanmire/Little Island and Carrignavar. He stated that the works carried out by the crews included Road Restoration Improvements, Road Restoration Maintenance, drainage, road and footpath maintenance and repair, climate action and adaptation programmes, maintenance of playgrounds, cemeteries, greenways and

litter collection, refuse collection. At present there were no plans to increase the number of staff.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that he was surprised to hear that 6 staff were assigned to Cobh every day. G. O’Hora replied that it was not possible all year round but that all efforts were made to keep the core teams in situ as much as possible.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, the motion was carried.

To consider the following notice motion in the name of Cllr. Sheppard

“That this MD would request a meeting with estate management and ask for an outline of the amount of estates within the district that are not taken in charge and a list of the amount of bonds attached to these estates.”

In the absence of Cllr. Sheppard, the motion was deferred.

8.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan:

- 8.1 **Little Island:** The drain at the golf club entrance needs to be examined. G. O’Hora replied that the road gullies needed to be replaced and was included in the drainage programme for 2024.
- 8.2 **Glounthaune:** Cllr. O’Callaghan stated that the removal of the tree in Glounthaune was affected a lot of people but it was now clear that the tree needed to be removed on safety grounds. She wondered if a feature could be made out of the stump? G. O’Hora replied that he proposed to replant an native Irish tree (e.g. Irish Oak) in its place also the Mens Shed had requested some of the timber to make bowls for sale in support of charity. The members were in favour of same.
- 8.3 **Whitechurch:** the works from the cemetery to Dromgariff Lane had greatly improved the area. G. O’Hora stated that resurfacing of the road was planned.
- 8.4 **Coom:** A lot of the roads in the area have subsided and water is lodging on the road. G. O’Hora replied that remedial repair works were carried out on the road.
- 8.5 **Ardnageeha:** The High Road from Ardnageeha (L1522) to Pouladown needs improvement. G.O’Hora stated this road was listed for remedial works.

- 8.6 **Priests Hill:** Thanks for freeing the shore at Priests Hill, 2 lights are scheduled to be installed, any update? G. O’Hora confirmed that the road at Priests Hill was also listed for repair following the recent storms.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

- 8.7 **O’Sullivan’s Place, Cobh:** Concrete slabs laid across the green area need to be examined as they now constituted a trip hazard, also the trees needed to be cut back, 2 at least need to be removed. Engineer to examine.
- 8.8 **Whitepoint:** The lights still need to be switched on. Engineer to follow up with CCC public lighting section.
- 8.9 **Cobh Town:** Cllr. Rasmussen expressed his thanks for the recent works to make the footpaths along the town more accessible however works were still needed near the Library and Chamber.
- 9.10 **High Road:** Has the traffic survey in relation to the crossing been completed? G. O’Hora confirmed the survey would be carried out shortly.
- 9.11 **Carrignafof:** Double yellow lines need to be put in near the Community College and there is a large pothole near Mount Crozier. Engineer to examine.
- 9.12 **Ferry:** There are 5-6 trenches leading to the car ferry which are getting worse. Engineer to list for repair.
- 9.13 **Fota Road:** There was chaos on the Fota Road last week due to a company laying cables for broadband, there would appear to have been no warning given regarding this and no stop/go system in place. R. O’Sullivan replied that a block road closure licence was in place for these works, however the Gardai should have been notified and a stop/go system put in place, he had spoken to the works supervisor regarding same.
- 9.15 **Five Foot Way Toilet:** Any update? P. Lynch that as it was decided to charge for use, the suppliers need to re-issue the specifications and this should be signed off shortly, once this is done a start date can be agreed.
- 9.16 **Welcome back:** Cllr. Rasmussen welcomed Mr. P. Lynch back to work following his recent illness.

Cllr. A. O’Connor:

- 9.17 **Carrigane Road:** The shared footpath has not yet been finished, the edge has yet to be dished to accommodate cyclists safely. Engineer to examine.
- 9.18 **Rushbrooke:** Any update on the speed survey? G. O’Hora replied the survey was scheduled to be carried out shortly.

9.19 **Knockraha:** The road from Ballinagoul Cross to Barrys Corner is quite dangerous. G. O’Hora replied the road hedgerow had been cut back to improve sight lines at the junction.

9.20 **Derelict Sites:** Cllr. A. O’Connor sought clarification on how to register a derelict site. P. Lynch said that any properties that members thought were derelict should be referred to the M.D.Office.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.