

Minutes of the October Macroom Municipal District Blended Meeting, which was held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Macroom on Friday 03rd of November 2023

Present/I láthair: Cllrs. Ted Lucey (Cathaoirleach), Michael Looney, Michael Creed, Martin Coughlan & Gobnait Moynihan (virtually)

Attendance/Tinreamh: Ms. Eileen O'Brien, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Marie O'Leary, Municipal District Officer
Mr. James Dwyer, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Pat O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer
Mr. Denis O'Shea, Assistant Staff Officer (virtually)

Apologies/Leath scéal: Cllr. Eileen Lynch

**1. DEIMHNIÚ MIONTUAIRISCÍ
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr. Martin Coughlan and seconded by Cllr. Michael Looney the Minutes of the proceedings of the Macroom Municipal District Meeting held on Friday 22nd of September, 2023 having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach and the Municipal District Officer.

**2. BREITHNIÚ AR AN DRÉACHTPHLEAN BUISÉID DO CHEANTAR BARDASACH
MHAIGH CHROMTHA
Consideration of the 2024 Draft Budgetary Plan for Macroom Municipal District**

M. O'Leary, MDO, introduced the plan to the Councillors and pointed out the 7.5% LPT increase has allowed the proposed 2024 funding match the 2023 budget for the GMA, TDF, VEF etc.

While Cllr. Creed welcomed that the LPT increase had made a difference to the MD, he still proposed a rejection of this plan as it falls short on the funds that are required for this MD.

Cllr. Moynihan seconded that proposal and expressed the hope that more would be allocated to the 2024 draft plan.

Cllr. Lucey pointed that this MD's GMA allocation has remained the same with many years, despite requests for its increase and therefore he too agreed to reject this draft plan.

M. O'Leary, MDO, told the meeting that she would relay the Councillors decision to the Head of Finance.

Following a query from Cllr. Moynihan regarding the expenditure on burial grounds, M. O'Leary, MDO, responded that in general spending on burial grounds exceeds what has been allocated.

Cllr. Coughlan indicated that the Street Cleaning budget should be larger for this MD and queried what other MDs are receiving under this category as more staff are required for the towns. M O'Leary, MDO responded that she will relay this concern to Finance Dept and make the query.

J. Dwyer, SEE said that while recruitment is an ongoing issue, there will be General Operative interviews held shortly and hopefully, this will help alleviate some of the labour shortage.

3. NITHE AG ÉIRÍ AS NA MIONTUAIRISCÍ MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Gobnait Moynihan

- (a) Bench & Tap in Millstreet Graveyard
P. O'Sullivan, EE said he is due to meet contactor regarding the pipes required for the tap and hopes to have both projects underway very shortly.
- (b) QR Code on the Murals in Macroom
M. O'Leary, MDO said work is continuing on this and hopes to have the QR codes for the plaques ready shortly.
- (c) Macroom Town Parking – Update
Following a query from Cllr Moynihan, M. O'Leary, MDO outlined that this matter remains a priority and the Council has had positive engagement in relation to a potential parking solution. Once further details are available, the Members will be updated.
- (d) Signage - requesting a sign for Mallow and a sign for Killarney at Monument in Millstreet
P. O'Sullivan, EE said he is waiting on the signage contractor to look at this.
- (e) Millstreet – Lights installed by the Old Fire Station
P. O'Sullivan, EE said he will follow up with the Lighting Section to see if these can be energised.

Cllr. Martin Coughlan

- (a) St. Colman's Park, Macroom – Dangerous Trees
Cllr. Coughlan said that a number of palm trees require immediate attention as they are leaning against other trees. J. Dwyer, SEE said that there has been a delay with the contractors, who have been asked to carry out this job.
- (b) South Doc Out of Hours Service, Macroom
Cllr. Lucey said that M. O' Leary MDO has written twice to South Doc HQ regarding fears circulating that South Doc is leaving Macroom, and asking for clarification from South Doc Management.

Cllr. Coughlan expressed disappointment at the prospect of South Doc leaving, as it is a cause of worry for people. Cllr. Lucey responded that he hopes to receive an update on this matter early next week.

- (c) Abandoned Cars - Macroom
Cllr. Coughlan said that the Tidy Towns group have discovered quite a few abandoned cars in Macroom. J. Dwyer, SEE asked Cllr Coughlan to forward the details and locations of the cars to him.

Councillor Ted Lucey

- (a) Macroom – Water pooling on Main Street
J. Dwyer, SEE outlined that TII will be doing works in Macroom and that this issue will be completed then.

- (b) Fitzies Corner, Macroom – lining faded
J. Dwyer, SEE said that the lining contractor has been delayed in doing this job.
- (c) Pedestrian Crossing in Masseytown / Kilnagurteen
J. Dwyer, SEE said that he hasn't heard back from the Design Team, but that he will raise the matter with them again.

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

(a) **Macroom Christmas Parking Arrangements**

Proposal was proposed by Cllr M Creed, seconded by Cllr M Coughlan & agreed by all of the Members.

(b) **Municipal District Officers Report**

Members noted the Report as detailed.

- CLÁR Fund 2022 Update
In reply to Cllr Moynihan's enquiry on the Béal Átha n Ghaorthaidh project, M O'Leary, MDO confirmed that this project has been granted an extension of time by the Dept.
- Macroom Library & Briery Gap Theatre Project Update
Following Cllr. Looney's query regarding an official opening, M. O'Leary, MDO outlined that will be but that was at an early stage as yet and will be finalised closer to the time.

Cllr. Creed said that the photos of the Briery Gap were excellent.

Cllr. Moynihan asked that they be put up on social media platforms, and M. O'Leary said that she will send them to the Council's Communications Team.

- 2023 Paint Scheme Update
Following a discussion on the number of applications still to be completed, it was agreed that we'd try to roll over the current Scheme into early 2024 and will write out to the applicants again on it.
- 2023 Macroom Christmas Market
Cllr. Creed welcomed the Christmas Market and said that traffic complications won't be a problem this year, with the opening of the bypass last December. Cllr. Lucey asked M. O' Leary MDO to liaise with the Briery Gap contractors to ensure that the Back Square remain free for the day.

Cllr. Moynihan said that in addition to the Transition Year students being invited, could we also include Youth Reach.

(c) **Discretionary Fund Applications**

| Group/Organisation | Brief Description of Request |
|---|---|
| Emily Cronin St. Mary's Secondary School, Macroom | Miscellaneous expenses associated with travelling to Kolkata, India in early Spring 2024 with the Hope Foundation as part of the Schools Immersion Programme. |
| Ella Lucey St. Mary's Secondary School, Macroom | Fundraising for the Hope Foundation as part of the Hope Foundation School Immersion Programme 2024. |
| Millstreet Parent & Toddler Group | In order to be able to offer more sensory play for children, funding is required to purchase the material such as tuff trays and the accessories. |
| Total | €900 |

Members sought further clarification about another request for Discretionary Funding from Aherla Community Active Association with respect to costs for a Darkness Into Light event, on the basis that these events are being many communities within the MD. M. O'Leary MDO will seek clarification from Aherla Community Active Association about this.

Proposed/ Ar Moladh: Cllr. Ml. Creed
Seconded/ Cuidithe: Cllr. T. Lucey

(d) **Disposal of Lands Proposals**

1. Disposal of land at Millstreet Road, Macroom, Co. Cork. Area of land measuring c.1.78 acres at a consideration of €60,000.

Members asked for further clarification on this – the document indicated that the land is being sold to and bought from the same company. M. O' Leary, MDO will contact the Property Section about this.

2. Disposal of land at Sleaveen East, Macroom, Co. Cork. Land measuring (c.0.0040 hectares/ 0.01 acres) to John and Kay O' Sullivan at a consideration of €500.

Members agreed to this proposal.

Proposed/ Ar Moladh: Cllr. T. Lucey
Seconded/ Cuidithe: Cllr. Ml. Creed

**5. CHUN NA RUIN SEO LEANAS ÓN GCOMHAIRLEOIR A MHEAS:
To consider the following Notice of Motions in the name of:**

Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan

1. "Íarr ar an Comhairle "speed activated signs", a lonnú í gCill Mhuire, las muigh don scoil náisiúntá í dtros cosc a chur le luas ar an mbothair L2002-0"

Ask this Council to install speed activated signs outside Killmurry National School, in hopes it may inhibit speed on this section of road L2002-0

Over the past 3 years the Elected Members have voted to allocate Municipal District funding to the allocation of Speed Activated Signs in a number of locations. If such funding is to be made available in 2024 then I would recommend that 2 signs be installed in Killmurry village – one north of the National School just inside the speed limit and a second one on the southern side of the school, on the hill down towards the crossing point.

James Dwyer, SEE

Cllr. Moynihan said that the existing Pedestrian Crossing and ramps are not inhibiting speed.

Cllr. Lucey suggested placing the speed activated signs on both sides of the village, taking in the stretch of road along the church and museum.

Cllr. Coughlan said that the one guaranteed way of slowing down traffic to his mind was installing ramps.

J. Dwyer SEE said that most complaints about speed are in relation to the hill going down to the school, and subject to funding, recommends one as you approach the school coming up the hill, and the second one below the old HSE centre/ doctors surgery at the top of the hill before you head down to the school.

Cllr. Creed said he was happy at that suggestion.

Cllr. Lucey seconded Cllr. Moynihan's Notice of Motion with regard to J. Dwyer's proposed locations.

Marie O' Leary, MDO reminded Members that the agreed policy on the provision of these signs is that the Council funds one of the signs and that the community funds the other sign and they can apply for Community Funding towards it. The Members agreed with this policy, however, Cllr Moynihan outlined that she would have wished that the Council could fund both signs in this instance.

2. Tá gá piopa searchais nua a chur isteach fé an mbothair (R584-23) i lar Beal Átha nGhaorthaidh le tamail anuas. Cén uasdatú atá ag an Comhairle faoi sa?"

What update has the Council on; the public sewerage pipe that is due to be replaced in Beal Átha nGhaorthaidh in the center of the village (R584-23).

The Municipal District will write to Uisce Éireann seeking an update on the matter.

James Dwyer, SEE

J. Dwyer, SEE said that he didn't have an update and requested that the MD write to Uisce Éireann about this issue.

M. O' Leary MDO told the meeting that she will write to Uisce Éireann on this matter.

6. VÓTA COMHGHAIRDEAS
VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

Cllr. M Creed congratulated Cill na Martra football team on winning the Intermediate Football County Final last Sunday. All Members asked to be associated with this.

7. VÓTA COMBHRÓIN
VOTES OF CONDOLENCES.

- Cllr. T Lucey, together with all the Members expressed sympathy to Kevin Curran and family, on the recent death of his wife, Nuala.
- Cllr. M Coughlan, together with all the Members expressed sympathy to Seamus Barry's wife and family on his recent death. He paid tribute to Seamus and all the work he did for Macroom, which is evident throughout the town & will stand the test of time.
- Cllr. T Lucey, together with all the Members expressed sympathy to Michael Lucey and his sisters on the recent death of their mother.

8. AON GHNÓ EILE
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Michael Creed

- (a) Roadside slippage on the Millstreet side of Carriginimma
Cllr M Creed understood that it won't be easy to fix this, but he is getting numerous calls about the dangerous state it is in at present.
P. O'Sullivan, EE replied that Climate Action Funding has been sought to enable the build up of the embankment as there is nothing to support any crash barriers there at present.
The Climate Action Funding should be announced around February 2024 but in the meantime he will continue to monitor it.
- (b) Further damage to Hanover Bridge after previous damage had been repaired
P. O'Sullivan, EE said that the Design Office is in talks with the contractor about this.
- (c) No lighting in the new Council Estate in Millstreet
P. O'Sullivan, EE will contact the supplier and the Public Lighting section about this.
- (d) Temporary flooding protection measures promised for Baile Bhuirne / Baile Mhic Íre about 4 years ago weren't put in place.
J. Dwyer, SEE said at the time the plan had been to sandbag all along the river bank. He said he will contact the Flooding Section for an update on this.
- (e) Sign at Fitzies Corner in Macroom to indicate entrance to Cork Marts
J. Dwyer, SEE said he will check this out.

- (f) Two holes have appeared on the Old Railway Bridge at the Four Mile Bridge
Cllr. Creed said it would be a pity if this structure fell down.
J. Dwyer, SEE said that he will check this out with the ESB – it may be a protected structure.
- (g) Baile Bhuirne section of the N22 By-Pass officially being opened on Monday at 1 PM.
Cllr Creed said he hoped that the Baile Bhuirne bypass will prove to be as beneficial to the people of the area as the Macroom bypass has been to the people of Macroom.
- (h) Request for meeting with the TII regarding busy junctions on the N22
Cllr. Lucey told Cllr. Creed that he has spoken to the TII about arranging this.

Cllr. Martin Coughlan

- (a) Entrance to the Fire Station – looks unsightly.
M. O’Leary, MDO has referred this matter to the Director of Environment & The Fire Service are investigating this and hopes to have update for the next meeting.
- (b) Coolcower Picnic Area.
Cllr. Coughlan suggested that the front area should be kept as a picnic area and that the back area should be planted with native trees and biodiversity friendly shrubs and plants. J. Dwyer, SEE said he will investigate and agreed a revamp of the area is needed, though any plan will require funding.
- (c) Plaster to be removed from both sides of the bridge in Macroom Town
J. Dwyer, SEE met with contractor, who took a sample at one end of the bridge, uncovering mast concrete at that point. He will arrange for another sample to be taken in the middle section of the bridge.
- (e) Lights in Macroom Town Hall
Following Cllr M Coughlan’s query, M. O’ Leary, MDO outlined that the electrician will look at the floodlights & coloured film that’s on them & will also ask them to check on the strip lighting and fix any not working or dislodged.

Cllr. Michael Looney

- (a) Pipehouse Cross, Courtbrack – Residents concerned about the Cross – can anything be done to make it safer?
P. O’Sullivan, EE said that a contractor is coming to reline the Pipehouse Cross area shortly.
- (b) Ballyshoneen Speed Limit Signs on the western side.
P. O’ Sullivan EE said that the road markings will be in place in the next few weeks.
- (c) Ballyanley Speed Limit Signs
P. O’ Sullivan EE said that they will be in place in the next few weeks.
- (d) Berrings Cross – Road Markings Faded
- (e) Welcome Sign at Cloghroe Village
Cllr. Looney indicated that the Irish spelling that’s used on the Post Office is the one to be used on the new signage. P. O’Sullivan, EE said he will meet with Cllr. Looney on site to agree size & location of the sign.

- (f) LIS Schemes for the MD
 Cllr. Looney had 10 or 12 applicants for this scheme in his area, but none of them were offered a scheme this year. P. O'Sullivan, EE said the only scheme undertaken by his office this year and there was a 5-yr waiting time approximately.
 J. Dwyer, SEE said that there could be 25 to 28 schemes in this MD, but resourcing these schemes can be difficult as the MD must allocate its resources to undertake the RI & CIS programmes as a priority and therefore they were unable to do any of the LIS schemes so far.
- Cllr. Creed said that the rule limiting eligibility to the LIS scheme to roads with 2 or more farmers discriminates against roads who do not satisfy this criteria.
- (g) Junction at Courtbrack is holding water and needs attention
 P. O'Sullivan, EE said he will investigate
- (h) Road from Berrings to the Yellow House is very rough
 P. O'Sullivan, EE said he will include this road in next year's Surface Dressing programme.

Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan

- (a) Speed Activated Signs for Cloughboula
 P. O'Sullivan, EE said bigger poles than the existing ones need to be stood here. It is expected that this project will be completed within a couple of weeks.
- (b) Speed Activated Sign in Renairee not operating correctly and might not be working at all
 J. Dwyer, SEE said he will investigate.
- (c) Manhole covers are sinking in Baile Bhuirne from the Centra shop to the Quilt Centre
 J. Dwyer, SEE said the fact that these manhole covers are on the wheel track has meant that this has been a recurring problem. The forthcoming bypass will help the situation but he will check them to see what needs to be repaired.
- (d) Kilmurry – looking for an extra light between the old HSE building, down to the school
 J. Dwyer, SEE said he will check this out and include it in next year's Public Light proposal.
- (e) On-going complaints about extended kerbing by Millstreet pedestrian crossing
 P. O'Sullivan, EE said that trucks are taking the turning correctly, and traffic taking the turn has slowed down. He understand that the haulage companies in Millstreet Town are satisfied with this new design of the junction and hasn't received any complaints.
- Cllr. Moynihan agreed that traffic had slowed down as a result of the new design, but she said that pedestrians are unsure where the footpath ends and the lowered kerbing begins. Pat O' Sullivan, EE agreed to have another look at it.
- (f) Castlemore Cross update on re-designing that junction
 Cllr. Moynihan requested an update on the redesign of this junction and asked that a focus now be placed on the other junctions on the N22 now that the bypass works have completed. J. Dwyer, SEE said that a scheme is being prepared to go to TII shortly. He will update the Members on this in the very near future.

Cllr. Ted Lucey

- (a) Bus Stop on the Millstreet Road, Macroom
J. Dwyer, SEE said a location on the Killarney road has been identified, and Cllr. Lucey welcomed that.
- (b) Hedge in Masseytown on the bridge side is very overgrown and encroaching on the footpath
J. Dwyer, SEE to investigate to see if the ESB needs to be contacted.
Cllr M. Coughlan said that the ESB had trimmed the top of the hedge and so he feels that the problematic part of the hedge is below the ESB cables.

Marie O'Leary, MDO

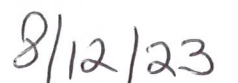
Proposed that the next meeting be on Friday, the 8th of December.
The Members agreed to this proposal.

Críochnaíonn sé seo gnó an chruinniú

This concluded the business of the meeting



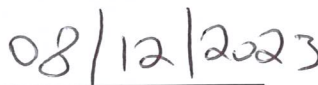
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