



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF WEST CORK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**  
**held at Skibbereen Council Chamber and MS Teams at 11.00am**  
**on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

**Members Present:** Cllrs. Joe Carroll, Paul Hayes, Deirdre Kelly, Caroline Cronin, Declan Hurley, Danny Collins, Karen Coakley, Patrick Gerard Murphy, Chris Heinhold

**In attendance:** Noreen O'Mahony, S.E.O. W.C.M.D.  
Jacqueline Mansfield, M.D.O. W.C.M.D.  
John Ahern S.E.E. Skibbereen  
Ruth O'Brien, S.E.E. Bantry  
Martina O'Driscoll, Meeting Administrator W.C.M.D.

Cllr. J. Carroll presided.

**Statutory Meeting**

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- (a) ***Minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024***  
*Proposed by Cllr. Karen Coakley, Seconded by Cllr. Declan Hurley*

**Resolved:**

"That the minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

- (b) ***Minutes (as circulated) of West Cork Municipal District IN COMMITTEE meeting dated 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024***

*Proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Kelly, Seconded by Cllr. Caroline Cronin*

**Resolved:**

"That the minutes of West Cork Municipal District IN COMMITTEE meeting (as circulated) of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

## **MATTERS ARISING**

An update was requested regarding the meeting with community groups Ballineen Toilets. The MDO responded by stating that the proposed redesign was well received. Some suggestions were made during the meeting and they are currently being reviewed. Members expressed their gratitude for the progress made on the public toilets project and queried the possibility of having a caretaker to maintain the toilets. One member expressed concern that the Council should always ensure the maintenance of public toilets and suggested the recruitment of retired individuals as caretakers in each town. The SEO cautioned that this would incur significant additional budgetary costs and stated that there is currently a staff member responsible for maintaining a number of toilets and the addition of more locations to their roster would be kept under review.

An update on the relining of the pedestrian crossing at Newtown, Bantry was requested and in response Ruth O'Brien noted that a timeframe of 6-8 weeks was advised by the contractors.

A member inquired about the response to the Uisce Eireann letter, and the MDO informed that as of now, no reply has been received.

In reply to a members request for an update on the Service Enhancement Scheme, the MDO noted that that there is currently no additional information available.

A member queried if the new lock on the disabled swing in Clonakilty playground was actively working and if new signage regarding the swing had been erected. The MDO advised that the new lock was in place and working and signage was being sourced to explain the new lock mechanism on the disabled swing.

A member enquired about the submission of a funding application for Rathbarry Church, and the MDO confirmed that an application had indeed been made for the Community Monuments Fund.

## **2. STATUTORY BUSINESS /GNO REACHTUIL**

### **(a) Bantry GAA - Old Playground Property**

Ruth O'Brien provided a summary of the previous proposal made by Bantry Town Council regarding the acquisition of land by Bantry GAA when the old playground was relocated. She informed the members that Bantry GAA had submitted a request to the Council to acquire the land, and the Council's property section was in the process of preparing a Section 183 to facilitate the disposal. The members agreed that if the Council had no further plans for the property, they would support its disposal.

It was proposed by Cllr Patrick Gerard Murphy and seconded by Cllr Danny Collins to proceed with this disposal.

**(b) Section 183 –Notices**

In accordance with the provision 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 notices circulated to members.

**Grant of Lease at Creggane, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork**

**Situation:** Grant of Lease at Creggane, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork  
**Area:** Land measuring 7.138 hectares (17.637 acres)  
**Acquired From:** Acquired from unknown - predates property records  
**Dispose To:** Proposed to dispose to Rosscarbery Pitch & Putt Club  
**Term:** For a term of 10 Years by way of lease.  
**Consideration:** €2540 per annum

On the proposal of Cllr. Deirdre Kelly, seconded by Cllr. Karen Coakley, members approved the above grant of lease and recommended it to full plenary Council for consideration.

**3. NOTICES OF MOTION/ FOGRA RUN**

***Cllr. Declan Hurley***

***“I call on Cork County Council and the relevant stakeholders to provide funding and install flood preventative measures at Ardcahan Bridge on the R587 to alleviate the serious flooding which takes place at that location and results in the road having to be closed on a regular basis”.***

**Report from John Ahern S.E.E.**

Ardcahan Bridge on the R587 lies at the confluence of the Caha and Bandon River.

In periods of prolonged and heavy rainfall, water overtops upstream of the Bridge and floods the road making it impassable for periods of time. This can happen several times during the year and presents both a hazard and a nuisance requiring a temporary emergency road closure and diversions to be put in place.

The primary cause of flooding at this location is the Caha River which bursts its banks in the vicinity of the Caha Bridge. The waters rise to cause flooding to the rear of the adjacent dwelling house. As the water level further the crossroads 200m to the south also floods. The river Bandon also overflows and floods the surrounding lands at Ardcahan Bridge to the North and then out onto the R587.

A number of issues exist that do not contribute to straightforward solution.

1. The dwelling and the roads are very low lying so a ready solution in terms of local drainage works does not exist.

2. The area around Ardcahan Bridge is within a designated Flood Zone A as per CDP surrounded by private property with domestic dwellings also in proximity. Any planned alteration works to the existing layout including level would require a Flood Risk assessment to determine the likely knock-on effects of any planned works or alterations followed then by a period of Public Consultation.
3. The area around Ardcahan Bridge is a Designated Special Area of Conservation SAC code 002171 so any planned works in the area would be subject to legislative compliance reports eg AA Screening, Appropriate Assessment etc.

Staff in the Regional and Local Roads Design office have been developing a scheme of repair and remedial works for Ardcahan Bridge. The proposed works originally envisaged cleaning of the eyes of the bridge to improve Hydraulic conveyance capacity and also masonry repair works to the Bridge deck.

The update received from the Regional and local roads design office on this scheme is as follows:

*“..... All documentation should be in place by early February with the planning application to be advertised in February 24 and lodged with An Board Pleanala under a 177AE Planning application.*

*In terms of the works being proposed, they will be confined to the bridge repairs only [primarily deck element]. There will be no clearing of debris around the eyes of the bridge, to minimise the impact of flooding, as this was deemed unacceptable from an environmental point of view [Fresh Water Pearl Mussel]. Consequently, the proposed works being brought forward will not have a flood preventative impact.”*

The issue of Fluvial flooding from Rivers is a matter for the Office of Public works. Considering all of the above, the matter will be discussed with CCC's Capital Flood Projects unit who are Cork County Council's point of contact for the Office of Public Works.

#### **4. REPORTS & CORRESPONDANCE**

##### **(a) Revision of Speed Limit on R-591 Durrus**

*Ruth O'Brien provided an update to the members regarding the proposed extension of the 50 kph speed limit to Durrus pitch. However, the Durrus Project Group appealed against this extension, and their appeal was successful. As a result, the speed limit will now revert back to 60kph, with a reduction to 50kph closer to the village. The members have accepted this revised speed limit.*

**Proposed Cllr Danny Collins.**

**Seconded Cllr Patrick Gerard Murphy**

**(b) MDO Report**

**Municipal District Officer's Report – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

Municipal District Meeting times and dates for the next three months

<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>	<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>	<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024</b>	<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b>
Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid
Teams & Location TBC	Teams & Location TBC	Teams & Location TBC	Teams & Location TBC

**Actions from the last meeting.**

**1. Community Fund Scheme 2024**

Reminder deadline for submission of applications regarding Cork County Council's 3 No. Community Fund Schemes 2024 is 4pm Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**2. Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP)**

The Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) is a new programme developed by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications to address climate change at a local level and support the delivery of low carbon and climate resilient communities. The programme will be administered at a local level by Cork County Council, in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, and is funded by an allocation from the national Climate Action Fund.

Funding under both **Strand 1** and **Strand 1a** of the is available through a competitive application process, which is now open for submissions from **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023** until **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 16:00**.

Funding is available for up to 100% of the project, and prospective applicants can apply under three eligible sizes;

- Small scale projects < €20,000
- Medium scale projects €20,000 to €50,000
- Large scale projects €51,000 to €100,000

Cork County Council's Community Climate Action Officer, Anthony O'Reilly hosted a number of project clinics recently across the county. Cork County Council would urge anyone interested to engage with the CCAP team.

Applications can be submitted to the following email address [climate@corkcoco.ie](mailto:climate@corkcoco.ie)

**3. Local Enhancement Scheme 2024**

Cork County Council is inviting applications from community and voluntary groups for funding under the new Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) and Women's Groups Fund 2024. Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, the €254,559 LEP capital only fund will help groups,

particularly in disadvantaged areas, with funding for small scale capital projects such as improvements to their facilities and purchase of equipment. Within the LEP, €40,926 will be available for the Women's Groups Fund to assist groups and clubs with small capital projects and equipment purchases, as well as the continued support of Women's Sheds Groups.

The Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) Fund can be used to develop and improve facilities, for once-off maintenance, upgrade to amenities or equipment as well as for energy efficiency type projects. Grants will be available for projects of €1,000 or less and over €1000. The LEP is supported by Cork County Council's three Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs).

The closing date for applications is Monday the 26th of February at 3:00pm.

Applications can be made via the following links; [Local Enhancement Programme](#) and [Womens Group Fund](#). For further information, contact the Council's Local Community Development Unit on [021-4285561](tel:021-4285561) or [021-4285828](tel:021-4285828) or email [communitydevelopmentunit@corkcoco.ie](mailto:communitydevelopmentunit@corkcoco.ie)

#### 4. **Creative Communities Programme Fund**

Cork County Council's Creative Communities Programme Fund 2024 is now open for applications which focus on new and ambitious projects that establish cultural and creative activities with communities across Cork County. This year, for the first time, the fund will be available for projects of one, two, or three year duration. The Fund also assists projects that involve both community groups and the creative sector, such as artists, designers, makers, or arts organisations. Successful projects will include communities collaborating with a creative person or organisation which supports or improves the quality of life and wellbeing in the community. Activities could include events, research, workshops, conversations, placemaking programmes, or programmes that include multicultural or multigenerational communities.

Applications can be made for projects that will be one, two, or three years in duration. There will be a maximum award of €10,000 for a one-year project, €20,000 for a two-year project, or €30,000 for a three-year project, with a minimum award of €2,000, €4,000, and €6,000, respectively. Applications open until February 23rd, 2024.

#### 4. **CLAR 2023 M1 West Cork MD Successful Allocations**

<b>Project location</b>	<b>Project summary</b>	<b>Grant award</b>
Durrus	Installation of an all-weather playing pitch within existing Community facility at Durrus	€50,000.00
Ballydehob	Upgrade of tennis courts including basketball hoops	€50,000.00
Baltimore	Refurbishment of Wild Atlantic Pool gym	€29,835.00
Ballineen/Enniskeane	Renewal of playground equipment	€28,800.00
Castletownbere	Upgrade of GAA car park	€27,000.00

Drinagh	Upgrade of the Drinagh Rangers FC grounds	€32,670.00
Dunmanway	Provision of Sam MaGuire Spectator Stand at Doheny's GAA Club grounds	€50,000.00

## 5. **Skibbereen Heritage Centre**

A new resource for those researching their Cork ancestry is now available online free of charge courtesy of the team at Skibbereen Heritage Centre. The 'West Cork Genealogy' podcast features local genealogist Margaret Murphy sharing her extensive knowledge on how to carry out research with local historian Terri Kearney over five short episodes. All five episodes are available on [www.skibbheritage.com](http://www.skibbheritage.com), or search for 'West Cork Genealogy' on Apple, Spotify and other hosting platforms.

In response to a query on a funding application for St. Peters Church in Castletownbere, the MDO advised that an application had already been submitted to the Heritage Unit. The committee members agreed that a letter of support for both this application and the Rathbarry Church application should be sent through the Chair of the WCMD.

The MDO also briefed members on the correspondence received from Kerry County Council regarding the installation of LED lights in the Cahah Pass Tunnel.

## 5. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The recent correspondence regarding the sale of the Baltimore Railway building was thoroughly discussed by the members. They acknowledged that the reply received was very comprehensive and critical of the Council. The members expressed their concern about not being informed about the termination of engagement with Fáilte Ireland regarding the building's lease. They highlighted the breakdown in communication regarding this matter. The members expressed their concern that they did not authorise the Executive to cease communications regarding the project.

The land at Bull Point in Baltimore was discussed and the members expressed great concern for this property, and they believed that this property should be utilised for the benefit of the Baltimore community. The members asked that a letter should be sent to Fáilte Ireland requesting information about their plans for the land at Bull Point. The S.E.O. noted that there was a lot of history to the lands at Bull Point and committed to reporting back to the members on the executives view on these lands at the next meeting.

A member expressed their gratitude for the progress made on Adrigole Bridge where the preliminary investigation had been completed and identified the preferred option for the Bridge. Thanks were also expressed to the DoT for funding the project.

A member reported that CoAction in Dunmanway had requested shoot bolts on the access gates at Dunmanway playground as there are vulnerable children who are a flight risk who can exit the playground without issue using the gates currently in place. The S.E.O. noted the matter for review.

The pedestrian crossing on the road outside the playground in Dunmanway was highlighted by a member as needing repainting. It was also reported that a safety gate was needed here to prevent children from running out onto the road. The S.E.O. noted the matter for review.

A member reported that the Childrens Dental Services clinic in Dunmanway had closed and expressed concern that the dental clinics in Skibbereen and Schull had also previously been closed. It was reported that that these dental clinics are relatively new, equipped with modern facilities, yet they are being shut down. It was pointed out that historically children would have received dental care in these clinics during their 2nd, 4th, and 6th years of primary school. However, in recent years, this has been reduced to only 6th class. The members unanimously agreed that this situation poses a significant risk to the oral health of children and therefore requested that a letter be sent to the HSE Dental Services addressing these closures.

An update on the plans for Keelbeg pier was requested.

A member queried whether there were any plans for better toilet facilities at Long Strand.

A member reported that there were holes in the matting in Skibbereen playground and they requested a review of the playground in order to update it.

The zebra crossing outside Londis on Bridge Street, Skibbereen was reported by a member as being a risk to pedestrians as cars were not stopping in time for pedestrians crossing after coming around the corner of the junction of Ilen Street/Bridge Street and they requested a review of it.

A member reported that cars were exiting the LIDL carpark on Baltimore Road, Skibbereen without due care to oncoming traffic and requested that the Council contact LIDL to install signage to request motorists to exit the carpark with due care.

Ruth O'Brien S.E.E. and Aidan Prendergast E.E received congratulations from the members for the Blue Pool walkways project being selected for the LAMA awards shortlist which was acknowledged as a great achievement.

The members agreed to hold the March WCMD meeting in the Bantry Courtroom on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 11.00a.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**CATHAOIRLEACH** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_