

MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd April 2024 AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH.

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

1.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of: Monthly Meeting held on 4th March 2024.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the minutes, as amended, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising.

Harbour Row:

G. O'Hora stated that road lining had yet to be completed on Harbour Row and he was considering installing yellow boxes at the pull in bays to facilitate the movement of traffic.

High Road:

G. O'Hora stated that he had carried out an inspection of the wall and would be monitoring it going forward.

Joe Reid Place, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that he was awaiting funding before implementing traffic calming measures in the area.

Spy Hill, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that an inspection had been conducted and that he would be writing to the landowners to advise them to cut back their hedging.

Signage in Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that he was examining the signage around town and progressing a programme of works to repair damaged signs.

Cluain Ard:

G. O'Hora stated that some road lining works had been carried out, however the remaining works were dependent on the weather conditions and the contractor will carry out remaining works when the weather improves.

Lower Road, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that additional road safety signage was scheduled for this location.

Public Toilets, Cobh:

The painting of the gents' toilets has been listed for works.

Electric Vehicle Charging Point:

G. O'Hora confirmed that no update was available in relation to locations for electric vehicle charging points.

Watergrasshill:

G. O'Hora stated that he was attempting to source alternative funding for works in Watergrasshill, however signage had been purchased including one for the Skehane/Bartlemy road.

Carrignavar Church:

G. O'Hora explained to the members that a yellow box is not the appropriate remedy in this instance as it would be in front of a single house entrance, he proposed putting in double yellow lines or the priest could put up a sign for No Parking. Cllr. S. O'Callaghan urged him to reconsider as the box was not being sought for just the priests house, but also covered the entrance of the church grounds.

Train Station Steps:

G. O'Hora confirmed that a fabricator had been appointed to fix the railings and repair works would be carried out shortly.

St. Colmans' Square:

G. O'Hora stated that he was awaiting Cork County Council funding allocation for 2024 footpath repairs.

Cobh Vocational School:

G. O'Hora stated that the road lining contractor had been advised to add this location to the work list.

Whitepoint Estate:

G. O'Hora confirmed that works to close the cul de sac turning area is listed when staff become available.

Pat O'Brien Close/Assumption Place:

G. O'Hora confirmed that a speed survey was scheduled for this location.

Rinn Ronain:

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

Cobh Lanterns:

G. O'Hora stated that the electrician had been informed and the repairs scheduled.

West End, Carrigtwohill:

G. O'Hora stated that the works had been scheduled, however he was awaiting staff availability.

Ballinaboitre Road:

G. O’Hora stated the pothole had been repaired.

Dennehy’s Garage, Carrigtwohill:

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

Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora stated that he had been in contact with the Council’s traffic and transportation section, they were examining the installation of a footpath from the train station to the schools.

Litter Warden:

P. Lynch stated that interviews for a new litter warden would take place in the next week.

Irish Water:

P. Lynch stated that a letter had issued to Irish Water.

Playing Fields:

P. Lynch stated that a response had been received in relation to the playing fields and had been circulated to the members.

Cuskinny:

P. Lynch stated he had met with the new landowners regarding the issues with campervans at Cuskinny, the owners are not interested in putting in a barrier at this time. Cllr. Rasmussen asked if the Council were maintaining the car park. P. Lynch replied that the Council had not tarred the car park, nor was the Council monitoring it, Cork County Council had no legal authority to prevent the public accessing private property.

Top of the Hill:

P. Lynch stated he had been in contact with the Anti-Litter Unit regarding CCTV. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the water leak at Top of the Hill still wasn’t repaired, and the drain was now full of debris, he asked that this be followed up.

Drain Cleaning:

Cllr. Rasmussen again raised the issue of blocked drains at Harbour Hill, he reiterated this should be a priority, also the steps adjacent to Ryngs shop were covered in stones and grit. G. O’Hora stated that drain cleaning works were scheduled and would be carried out shortly.

Fota Road:

Cllr. Rasmussen asked if a contractor was being brought in to clean the Fota Road. G. O’Hora responded saying Council staff were now available and that further cleaning of the Fota Road would be carried out on Wednesday 3rd April, there would be a traffic management system in place from approximately 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. The members expressed their concern with the short notice to the public of works proceeding.

Harbour Row:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that there had been chaos on the street over the long weekend due to the lack of road lining. R. O'Sullivan responded saying that Irish Water have to reinstate the lining that had been there and once that has been done, he will monitor the situation and put in additional lining if needed.

Litter Plan:

Cllr. Rasmussen sought an update on when the revision of the Litter Plan would take place, P. Lynch confirmed it would be during the summer.

Carrignafoy:

Cllr. Rasmussen asked if the yellow box outside the school could be renewed. Engineer to examine.

Glenanaar:

Cllr. Rasmussen asked if double yellow lines could be placed near the garage at the corner. Engineer to examine.

Barryscourt:

Cllr. Barry stated that more bollards were needed near the shop, in the interest of traffic safety, this was a blind junction. Engineer to examine.

Station Road:

The lining by church was completely faded and needed to be renewed on Station Road. G. O'Hora confirmed lining would be scheduled with the road lining contractor.

Bike Rail:

Cllr. Sheppard asked if the installation of the bike rail would be going ahead? Engineer yet to arrange a site visit and will report back following this.

Ballard Hill:

Cllr. Sheppard asked if the verges along the hill could be cut back, dangerously overgrown. Engineer stated, with the Wildlife Act and bird nesting season Cork County Council was restricted from cutting roadside hedges from March to September.

Whitepoint Estate:

Cllr. Sheppard asked for a date for the works. Engineer stated Cork County Council staff were presently working on the RI and RM annual roads programme. When staff become available, he would allocate them to works at Whitepoint.

Pouladown Road:

Cllr. O'Callaghan welcomed the works carried out.

Interconnector:

Cllr. O'Callaghan asked if gravel could be placed along the verges of the interconnector route and into agricultural gateways to facilitate motorists as the verges were very muddy. Engineer will forward concerns on to the contractor for the Celtic Interconnector works.

Pedestrian Crossings:

Cllr. A. O'Connor asked if there was any possibility of trialling new signs proposed for pedestrian crossings before May? G. O'Hora replied that he would discuss with Cork County Council Road Design Office.

Hedgyboreen, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. O'Connor asked if there had been any correspondence from Eirgrid regarding the ongoing deterioration of the road. G. O'Hora stated that some mitigating repairs had been carried out and the road would be fully resurfaced over the summer.

Ballyadam:

Cllr. Barry stated that potholes needed to be filled from Ballyadam to the IDA entrance. G. O'Hora stated that some repairs had been carried out.

Playing Field, Glanmire:

Cllr. Barry stated that this matter needed to be progressed as a matter of urgency.

Road Sweeper:

Cllr. Rasmussen asked how many hours a day was the road sweeper in the town of Cobh? He stated that Harbour Hill never seemed to be cleaned and while Spy Hill was traversed every week by the sweeper, it stayed in the middle of the road, being unable to get into the verges due to parked cars. G. O'Hora requested that the members email him with a list of areas or streets with specific concerns.

3.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence.

P. Lynch stated that he had received a reply from the Planning Directorate to Cllr. Barry's Notice of Motion in relation to the School Campus in Carrigtwohill. Cork County Council had undertaken a rainwater management plan for the area including the playing fields in Carrigtwohill and this was expected to be completed by end of April, when he will report back to the members.

P. Lynch stated that he had received a reply in relation to Cllr. Barry's query concerning Cedar Estate in Glounthaune. He stated that a topographical survey had been received in relation to the land levels and that a Warning Notice had issued in relation to the footpath.

P. Lynch advised that the Divisional Manager had issued a response in relation to Cllr. A. O'Connor's Notice of Motion concerning the lands leased to the FAI. The response stated that the Council has been in ongoing communication with the FAI over the past year in order to discuss and confirm their position with regard to the lease. Following a decision of the FAI Board it has been confirmed to Cork County Council that the FAI wish to sublet the site to Riverstown Football Club, based in Glanmire County Cork. Having carried out due diligence on the proposed sub-leaseholder, Council is satisfied the Riverstown Club has the financial capacity, good governance, approved borrowing facility, sports capital grant approval, the backing of the FAI and a growing membership which combine to enable them to develop a portion of the lands which will serve a significant cohort of the community currently availing of facilities outside of the area. He advised that Cork County Council intend

to accede to the request of the FAI in this regard on condition that the area of the site not utilised by the proposed sub-let will be quantified and masterplanned for wider community gain - likely to be sport / club related. The FAI had been advised that the land to be used by the Football club must be developed within 3 years, and assurances have been received that they are in a position to proceed immediately on the basis of the current planning permission He confirmed that the site will not be restricted in use to any single sporting code. It is envisaged that a number of uses and beneficiaries will be included as part of the masterplanning process which will be undertaken in the coming months.

Cllr. Barry stated that it was unfortunate that it had taken so long to come to a solution. Cllr. Rasmussen asked how much of the lands were to be utilised by Riverstown and who would be in control of the remainder. Cllr. O'Callaghan stated that while she welcomed the news that the lands were to be utilised for the good of the community but was concerned about who would be responsible for developing the rest of the lands.

4.0 Part 8 - Carrigtwohill to Midleton Inter-urban Cycleway Phase 2

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to recommend the Part 8 to full Council.

5.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigigh / Officer's Reports.

There were no reports under this item.

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

P. Lynch present the updated figures for the various schemes to the members, as well as the updated parking revenue figures. P. Lynch stated that the proposed new cashless parking option for Cobh was in the final discussion stage and should be operational by the end of April. He also presented a report on the various derelict sites currently on the register.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that a caravan was currently parked in one of the bays at the Five Foot Way. P. Lynch stated that he had approached the occupants of the caravan and a legal notice had been served, the file has been referred to the County Solicitors office.

Cllr. Rasmussen asked what was happening regarding the derelict site at the former Welcome Inn. P. Lynch stated that a contractor was in place and due to start works shortly.

Cllr. Sheppard asked if a coin option would still be available for parking in Cobh and queried the phased removal of the parking machines. P. Lynch replied that a coin and card option would be both be available and that it was intended to remove some but not all of the parking machines over time.

7.0 Community Fund Scheme / Town Development Fund – Allocation of Grants.

P. Lynch stated that 8 Community Contract Grants, 40 Amenity Grants, 32 Resident Association grants and 2 Capital grants had been received.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, the list of grants presented was approved.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan stated that some community groups and residents’ associations were finding it difficult to apply for grants as they couldn’t set up bank accounts. Cllr Rasmussen thanked P. Lynch and the staff for the work involved in assessing the grants.

8.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.

1 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:

That a slow speed sign and children walking sign as well as possibly two dog fouling boxes be erected on the valley road as this is a very busy and popular road for walkers.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that this was a popular walking area with no footpaths, additional signage was required. The local community would be willing to manage the dog fouling boxes, if supplied. R. O’Sullivan replied that additional signage would be provided, however he had reservations about providing dog fouling bins in rural areas.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Connor, it was agreed that Cllr. Rasmussen would consult further with the local community and revert to the members.

2 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:

That the plan for using the local school car parks in Cobh during the busy summer season would be revisited and implement, if possible, in time for the busy summer season.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that any proposals to use the school car parks would have to go before the various boards of management initially, the additional car parks would be needed now that the Cathedral car park had a charge.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that P. Lynch would contact the schools in question.

3 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Alan O’Connor:

That this Municipal District would undertake a traffic survey of main street Carrigtwohill, with particular scrutiny of the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles transiting through some or all of the area in a given period of time.

Cllr. A. O'Connor stated that there was a serious issue with HGV's using the main street in Carrigtwohill, as there were a number of quarries in the area. Cllr. A. Barry stressed that the traffic situation would only get worse as new housing came on stream. G. O'Hora replied Cork County Council will carry out a road traffic survey to determine type of vehicle usage on the main street.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the motion was carried.

4 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:

That a new age friendly space be provided in Pearse Square.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the Citizens Information Centre had a lot of elderly clients and that the current wheelchair space was in an inappropriate place, being on a slope. P. Lynch replied that the Age Friendly Spaces were unenforceable, they were courtesy spaces at best. Cllr. S. O'Connor stated that near the archway would be a suitable location.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that the engineer would review.

5 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan:

That Cobh MD would upgrade and extend footpaths at Templemichael Terrace, Coole East under the footpath programme.

Cllr. O'Callaghan stated that an upgrade to the footpaths in the area had not been carried out for some time and now the footpaths were level with the road surface. G. O'Hora replied that he was awaiting a funding allocation for footpath repairs (for 2024) and if funding became available, he would include footpaths at Templemichael for repair.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that the footpaths would be upgraded, subject to funding.

6 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan:

That Cobh MD would reinstate and clear an existing shore on the left-hand side of the R639 north of Condonstown Junction to prevent floods of surface water crossing the road and entering an open shore at Condonstown House entrance. G. O'Hora replied that the drainage issue would be examined.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that the engineer would examine the drainage in the area.

7 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sheila O’Callaghan:

That signage, throughout the Cobh MD that is speed signs, Yields, Stop and directional road signs would be power washed, fixed and secured.

G. O’Hora replied Cork County Council staff were presently working on the RI and RM programme. When staff became available, he would allocate them to sign repairs and some cleaning.

Cllr. O’Callaghan stated that many signs were not legible and turned in the wrong direction. Cllr. Rasmusen agreed.

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that the members would forward a list of problem areas to the engineers.

9.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business.

Little Island Community Association:

Cllr. O’Callaghan stated that the L.I. Community Association had received a grant for roof repairs, changed it to replacing the boiler and now wish to switch it back.

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the change was agreed.

Leamlara/Lisgoold:

Cllr. O’Callaghan stated new signs were required from Leamlara/Lisgoold to Liberty Hill and the New Line. Engineer to examine.

Lackenroe Bridge:

Cllr. O’Callaghan stated a wall at the bridge, which was in private ownership, was casting debris out onto the road. Engineer stated the wall is in private ownership and site owner would be contacted to repair the wall.

Lahern Bridge:

Cllr. O’Callaghan stated that part of the wall had collapsed. Engineer stated the wall was scheduled to be repaired.

Speed Limits:

Cllr. A. Barry asked when the 30Km speed limit for towns/estates is due to start. G. O’Hora replied that he had received no information on speed limit changes.

Carrigane Road:

Cllr. Barry stated that more signage was required at the cross after the lights. Engineer to examine.

Fota Rock to Ballyadam:

Cllr. Barry enquired as to the status of providing a footpath from the end of Fota Rock estate to Ballyadam and the Hedgyboreen. R. O'Sullivan to follow up with TII.

Midleton Street/Rahilly Street:

Cllr. S. O'Connor raised the issue of potholes on Midleton Street and Rahilly Street. Engineer replied the potholes were scheduled for repair.

Carrignafoy:

Cllr. O'Connor stated that the road surface at the graveyard, near the bus stop was in very bad condition. Engineer replied that the road was scheduled for repair.

Birds Hill:

Cllr. O'Connor stated that the wall at the end of Birds Hill still hadn't been repaired. Engineer replied that wall will be inspected.

Hillcourt, Cobh:

Cllr. S. Sheppard asked the drains at Hillcourt Park and Hillcourt Drive be added to the cleaning list. Engineer replied the drains were scheduled for cleaning.

Tay Road:

Cllr. Sheppard stated the drains on the Ferry side of the Tay Road were blocked. Engineer replied drains were scheduled for cleaning.

Assumption Place:

Cllr. Sheppard stated that there was a depression in the road near Eurospar that was continuing to erode. Engineer to examine.

Public Lighting:

Cllr. Sheppard stated that lights had been reported as not working on numerous occasions over the past 3 months and still were not working. R. O'Sullivan requested that she send the relevant pole numbers to him.

Top of the Hill:

Cllr. Sheppard stated that near the old butchers shop the road had eroded, the whole area needed to be examined. Engineer replied road was scheduled for repair.

High Road/Lake Road:

Cllr. Sheppard stated that there was water building up on the roadway near Leonards Lodge. There was a large pothole near the Black Railings. Engineer replied that road gully is blocked and is scheduled for cleaning.

Whitepoint:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if anything had been agreed in relation to signage for buses accessing the Deep Water Quay. R. O'Sullivan replied that signage was being prepared warning traffic going down to the car park of oncoming buses.

Carrignafoy:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the road from the G.A.A. pitch to the corner was badly rutted. R. O'Sullivan stated he would organise the velocity patcher to repair same.

West View:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the roadway at the top of West View, near Smalls Well was in very poor condition. Engineer replied road was scheduled for repair.

Barrymore Avenue:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the road surface at Barrymore Avenue needed to be repaired again. Engineer replied road was scheduled for repair.

Rinn Ronain:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the railings near the old Rinn Ronain hotel were broken. Engineer replied new rail was being fabricated and would be installed shortly.

Public Realm for Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to the current status of the plans for the redevelopment of the public realm for Cobh. P. Lynch replied that it was hoped to go to tender for the detailed design in the next few weeks and the basic plans were ready to go once funding call goes out. Cllr. Rasmussen expressed his dissatisfaction that nothing could be done to the town centre for the next 18 months to 2 years as a result. Sean O'Callaghan replied that Cork County Council was in continual contact with the Department regarding the public realm but that it would be the summer of 2025 before progress could be made at the earliest due to the compliance with proper procurement requirements.

Belvelly Bus Stop:

Cllr. A. O'Connor sought an update on the progress of the bus stop for Belvelly. Engineer awaiting a progress update from the road design office.

Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. O'Connor stated that the double yellow lines required at the entrance to Aldi were still outstanding. Engineer to examine.

Naming of Estate:

Cllr. A. O'Connor sought clarification on the proper procedure for the naming of new estates for the next meeting. P. Lynch stated he would refer this to the estates section, as the naming of the estate was usually a condition of planning and was therefore a function for the planning department and not the Municipal District.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

- Harbour Hill Drains to be cleaned and steps opposite Hardware house full of stones as a result of running water.
- Section of road on Harbour Hill breaking up
- Footpath bottom steps opposite the Hardware house is dropped.
- Signage that needs to be replaced still waiting to be done.
- 6 parking spaces at five foot way needs to be handed back from the contractor.
- Pot hole at entrance to Whitepoint avenue is an Irish Water issue.

- Signs at the bottom of hill at entrance to five foot way car park needs to be sorted re buses etc.
- Some Bad Pot holes in Inishmore Park ,entrance from the Springfield Park side has pot holes as well.
- Some sections of the footpath in Inishmore Park need to be fixed.
- Section of road on Newtown Road is breaking up.
- Ballynoe hill on lower section needs addressing.
- The Carrignafoy road from the entrance to the GAA club all the way to the roundabout is a very poor state.
- Section of footpath in College Manor is broken and raised in the air.
- Pot hole on Cuskinny hill on the corner, rutted section
- Lack of yellow lines at harbour row ,
- Drains at the Clifton Corner
- Section at top West View near smalls well needs urgent attention again.
- Section of road on Thomas Kent Street needs repairing
- Reminder about the state of the road at Rahilly street
- Speed issue at Kirkwood Villas near where the road narrows is still ongoing.
- Query why the abandoned car in the Spires is still not removed.
- Lining of the bad corner at Cluain Ard on Newtown Road.
- Lining of the entrance on Carrignafoy road at entrance to pitch
- Lining at junctions in Hilltop Park
- Sign that was to be erected near the entrance to Frenchs Walk
- Query on how the signage will be erected inside Coolamber near the new pedestrian entrance.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.