Comhairle Contae Chorcaí Cork County Council

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF WEST CORK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT held in Clonakilty Council Chamber and on MS Teams at 11.00am on Friday 6th September 2024

Members Present:

Cllrs. Patrick Gerard Murphy, Joe Carroll, Caroline Cronin,

Danny Collins, Deirdre Kelly, Finbarr Harrington, Noel

O'Donovan, Isobel Towse, Daniel Sexton

In attendance:

Noreen O'Mahony, S.E.O. W.C.M.D.

Jacqueline Mansfield, M.D.O. W.C.M.D.

Ruth O'Brien S.E.E. Bantry

Martina O'Driscoll, Meeting Administrator W.C.M.D.

On MS Teams:

John Ahern S.E.E. Skibbereen

Cllr. PG Murphy presided.

Statutory Meeting

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(a) Minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 1st July 2024 Proposed by Cllr. D Kelly, Seconded by Cllr. C Cronin

Resolved:

"That the minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 1st July 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

(b) Minutes of Municipal District 'In Committee' meeting (as circulated) of 1st July 2024

Proposed by Cllr. D Collins, Seconded by Cllr. F Harrington

Resolved:

"That the minutes of Municipal District 'In Committee' meeting (as circulated) of 1st July 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

(c) Minutes of Municipal District 'In Committee' meeting (as circulated) of 5th July 2024

Proposed by Cllr. D Collins, Seconded by Cllr. C Cronin

Resolved:

"That the minutes of Municipal District 'In Committee' meeting (as circulated) of 5th July 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."





MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. N O'Donovan requested an update on the Ballineen Public Toilets project. In response Noreen O' Mahony SEO noted that drawings had to be revised based on the archaeological report and a revised report from the archaeologist was being submitted today.

2. REPORTS & CORRESPONDANCE

Municipal District Officer's Report – 6th September 2024

1. Hedge Cutting Scheme 2024/2025

21 no. applications received.

All 21 no. applications considered for grant allocations.

Total amount sought by applicants = €31,426.50

Total amount eligible to be allocated = €30,476.50

Total grant available to distribute = €20,000

Due to the significant increase in number of applications received this year, the amount eligible far exceeds the grant amount available as per above. Any eligible applications under €500 received 100% funding, all remaining applications over €500 received approximately 61% of the eligible amount applied for.

2. Michael Collins House Museum

Michael Collins House welcomed over 15,000 visitors to date in 2024. During the month of August, the Museum teamed up with the National Archives to display the Michael Collins Diaries. Close to 5,000 visitors came to see the diaries over the course of the month, with the diaries featuring strongly in local media and on Cork County Council's social media accounts. Michael Collins House also held an open day with free entry as part of Heritage Week 2024. The anniversary of Michael Collins on August 22nd, was celebrated, hosting over 450 visitors at the museum.

3. Skibbereen Heritage Centre

Skibbereen Heritage Centre had another busy season with visitor numbers above 23% on last year's figures to date. The Centre was also awarded the TripAdvisor 'Traveller's Choice Award' again for 2024 in July, which places it in the Top 10% of tourism businesses worldwide, a fantastic achievement. The Centre continues to engage with the local community, such as hosting a variety of booked-out events for Heritage Week in August, with attendances at these events estimated to be over 500 people.

4. Skibbereen Town Hall Theatre

The Town Hall Theatre can now host multimedia events after the building was upgraded to a full fibre broadband service, such as the recent streaming of the Olympic rowing events during the Skibbereen Arts Festival. The Theatre also catered for a number of other activities throughout 2024 that is; Plays, Musicals, Operas, Polling Station for the Referendums and Community Display of the Town Centre First Regeneration Plan.

5. Skibbereen Annual Arts Festival

Skibbereen Arts Festival took place from Friday 26th July to Saturday 3rd August, hosting several film screenings at the Town Hall Theatre to much success, as part of the wider festival programme. These included the 2016 documentary "*Pull Like a Dog*" which follows Skibbereen Olympic medallists', brothers Gary and Paul O'Donovan, as they return from the Rio Olympics and the film adaptation of John McGahern's acclaimed novel

"That They May Face the Rising Sun". Large screens were installed to live stream both the Olympic rowing events, films and documentaries at the Town Hall Theatre, facilitating over 200 people at any one time, during the festival.

6. Olympic Homecoming

Skibbereen was the place to be last Sunday, as thousands descended on the town to welcome home its Olympic Heroes and celebrate such a momentous occasion. Festivities included a parade incorporating eighteen local clubs, with gold medallists Paul O'Donovan and Fintan McCarthy, and Olympians Aoife Casey and Emily Hegarty, escorted upon an open top bus through the streets of Skibbereen. The Parade arrived at the Fairfield to resounding applause. A meet and greet ensued, hosted by none other than Jacqui Hurley. Fans were delighted to have the opportunity to meet their heroes thereafter.



7. Cruise Visit

Bere Island welcomed cruise ship 'Island Sky', a 110 passenger, all-suite vessel operated by Noble Caledonia to its shores recently. Once ashore, guests went on guided walks of the island, including Lonehort Battery, Cloughland Martello Tower and the island's Heritage Centre, while Dessie's Bar opened early for the visitors and musicians were lined up to provide a rousing sample of Irish culture. Cllr. Caroline Cronin presented Captain George Hendry with a customary gift to mark the occasion of their first call to Bere Island.





8. Community Recognition Fund 2024 Window Two

Application Window Two is now open for the 2024 Community Recognition Fund. Cork County Council is seeking applications for project proposals from Community Groups in towns and villages that are hosting high levels of New Arrival Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection or International Protection Applicants within Cork County, including towns identified for the rapid build homes programme.

The Fund aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community. Community groups can apply for between €50,000 and

€500,000 in funding for capital projects. Projects are required to be shovel ready, be capital in nature and deliver medium-long term benefits for the communities in which they are located and be capable of being delivered over the course of 2025 and 2026.

For projects over €200,000 additional information must be provided at application stage giving further details on the needs identified in the location, the engagement and collaboration that resulted in the selection of the location and specific project and the capacity of the community to progress the proposed project.

Applications for Window Two should be submitted <u>online by 5pm Thursday 12th September 2024.</u> The final Window of the 2024 Scheme - Window Three, is expected to open in January 2025. Please ensure to read the CRF guidelines, available on the portal, in relation to the current scheme. If an application was not successful in Window One, it may be given further consideration in Windows Two and/or Three, but the application must satisfy all the qualifying criteria outlined in the Scheme Guidelines. If so, there is no need to reapply online, instead please advise the Community Recognition Section of Cork County Council by email at CRF@corkcoco.ie and provide any further information you think is relevant. Queries in relation to the Community Recognition Fund can be made through your local Municipal District Office or by email to CRF@corkcoco.ie

9. Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2025

The 2025 Built Heritage Investment Scheme will provide grants of up to €50,000 to individual owners for small-scale works to repair and preserve their historic properties. Successful applicants will be announced by the Minister in January 2025.

The deadline for submission of completed applications is <u>4.00pm on Friday, 27th of September 2024</u> in respect of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2025. Applications can be made by emailing conservation@corkcoco.ie or a hard copy may be submitted to the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, Cork County Council, Heritage and Conservation Office, Floor 3, Planning Department, County Hall, Cork.

10. Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan (LAPR)

This scheme is a government backed mortgage and loan for the purchase and renovation of derelict and non-habitable homes. A first-time buyer who wishes to turn a vacant or derelict property into a new home can receive a loan to fund both purchases and renovation works.

Applicants must be first time buyers or Fresh Start applicants.
Income limits for borrowers remain the same ie; €70,000 single, €85,000 joint.
Applicants must be eligible for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant
Full details are available at https://purchaseandrenovationloan.ie/

Forms are to be returned to; Housing Loans Section Floor 4 (Extension) Cork County Council County Hall Cork.

Tel: 021-4285927 or 021-4285408 Email: housingloans@corkcoco.je

Cllr. J Carroll congratulated Jackie Mansfield's daughter Ciara O'Sullivan who recently won the West Cork Sports Star Award at the Celtic Ross Hotel for being an outstanding player in the recent All Ireland camogie final.

Cllr. J Carroll expressed his thanks to all involved in the Homecoming parade of Skibbereen Olympic Team, especially to Noreen O'Mahony, Jackie Mansfield, John Ahern and Loraine Lynch, as he noted that the event could not have been organised without the Council and it was an outstanding success.

Jackie Mansfield MDO briefed the members on the following quarterly report on Derelict Sites.

West Cork Municipal District

Reporting Period: Up to September 4th 2024

Category	Number	Details
Properties on the Derelict Sites Register	16	 Bantry (5) Clonakilty (3) Skibbereen (3) Dunmanway (5)
Properties being considered for entry onto the Derelict Sites register	13	 Castletownbere (1) Clonakilty (6) Dunmanway (3) Drimoleague (1) Schull (1) Skibbereen (1)
Technical Assessments Completed (Derelict Sites Reports)	35	 Bantry (6) Clonakilty (9) Dunmanway (8) Schull (3) Skibbereen (9)
Mapping/Boundary Exercises completed	32	 Bantry (5) Clonakilty (9) Drimoleague (1) Dunmanway (10) Schull (1) Skibbereen (6)
Levy demands	0	
Properties approved for activation under the URDF Call 3 Vacancy and Dereliction Programme	0	The settlement of Clonakilty has now become eligible for URDF Call 3 (Tackling Vacancy and Dereliction) Funding in 2024. An exercise is underway to identify sites that are eligible for this initiative.
Properties under consideration for compulsory acquisition	1	Skibbereen (1)

Statutory notices served under the Derelict Sites Act	43	 <u>27</u> no. Section 8(2) (Intention to place on Register) <u>16</u> no. Section 8(7) (Placed on
		register)
		• <u>11</u> no. Section 22 (Market valuation)
		• <u>2</u> no. Section 23 (Levy Demand)

Cllr. I Towse requested more information on the levy demands. The MDO Jackie Mansfield advised that properties are being listed on the register during 2024 and the levy would be payable from properties starting from 2025 onwards. Cllr. PG Murphy queried if the register was available to be viewed and the MDO noted that it was available on the Council website. Cllr. N O'Donovan expressed his concern that people do not understand the process of the derelict site register and queried if the members could get a briefing on the process. The SEO Noreen O'Mahony noted that a briefing with the members can be arranged.

3. STATUTORY BUSINESS /GNO REACHTUIL

(a) Nomination to Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) for the West Cork MD

Cllr. PG Murphy sought nominations from the members and Cllr. I Towse put her nomination forward. Her nomination was proposed by Cllr. F Harrington and seconded by Cllr. N O'Donovan.

4. NOTICES OF MOTION/ FOGRA RUN

Following the direction of the Chair, the Motions (a) and (d) were combined.

Proposed by Cllr. C Cronin and Cllr. F Harrington, Seconded by Cllr. D Collins

"That Cork County Council would carry out speed surveys and engineering reviews at Ballydehob, Schull, and Goleen with a view to developing traffic calming measures for the town and villages. It is important that these would be progressed urgently so as to be "shovel-ready" to apply for funding applications such as Clár and other such funding schemes".

"That this Council would explore all options to implement the installation of "traffic speed ramps" in Ballydehob village to reduce the speed of traffic travelling through the village, especially the traffic that travels from the direction of Schull on the main R592 road going down the hill into the village and also the traffic travelling up Staball Hill heading towards Schull".

The members expressed their concern regarding the issue of speeding in the villages across West Cork and highlighted issues in Schull, Goleen, Leap, Drinagh, Drimoleague, Ballineen, Enniskeane, Kealkil and Lowertown in Schull, and they queried the policy on using speed ramps to slow traffic down. Members noted that speed ramps have been used in North Cork in towns like Buttevant and raised crossings have been used in villages like Durrus, and they queried why more raised crossings or speed ramps are not used in West Cork. Cllr. N O'Donovan called for a countywide policy to address the issue of speeding in urban areas and highlighted that there was an opportunity for Cork County Council to do something different like a visible road safety plan which would consult with

people in towns and villages regarding road safety issues. Cllr. D Collins reported that a truck had gone off the road at Kealkil due to the narrow carriageway.

The members agreed that a motion stating that the West Cork MD are calling for a countywide survey of speed in villages that have regional and national roads running through them.

Response from Ruth O'Brien S.E.E.

The Road's Department can carry out speed surveys in Ballydehob, Schull and Goleen. The traffic radar only covers discreet sections of road at a time. If there are specific areas of concern, these locations should be forwarded to the Schull Area Office. Speed ramps are not encouraged under Cork County Council's Traffic Calming Policy and can cause disruptions to emergency services, such as the ambulance and fire services and also to bus services. Furthermore, there can be issues with resultant noise from ramps for residents nearby. Traffic calming in Ballydehob has been looked at previously and consideration will be given again to see if any suitable traffic calming solutions can be found. It should be noted that the speed limit on Staball Hill has recently been reduced to 30kph.

The works done in Durrus village were funded as part of the Town & Village Renewal and Village Enhancement Scheme and they needed that level of funding. Speed detection is currently being done at Lowertown in Schull and it is on the list for driver speed activation signs. Kealkil village started on MTA funding and it will be resurfaced after the watermain works. Drimoleague village pedestrian crossing was proposed and funded under S15 and the works should take place before the end of the year. The road at Kealkil has been identified as needing road widening.

(b) Proposed by Cllr. F Harrington, Seconded by Cllr. PG Murphy "That this council would address the opening and closed hours of the Castletownbere Civic Amenity site, as it is causing much frustration for both our employees and all the people that use this vital service".

Response from Louis Duffy DOS Environment

There have been reduced opening hours frequently over the past number of months at Castletownbere Civic Amenity site (CAS) due to annual leave and sick leave. Health and Safety protocols require that there be two persons on site when it is open. Where local assigned staff are not available, management assigns operatives, mainly from the CA site at Derryconnell. This can impact on opening times at Castletownbere due to travel time. Steps are being taken to ensure availability of cover staff to reduce the risk of closure, having regard to available budgets. The scheduled opening days of the site provide two weekdays and half day on Saturday, based on usage at the site. Management has no plan to increase these hours and has not sought a budget to do so. This will be kept under review in the light of trends in usage of the service.

Cllr. F Harrington highlighted issues with staff leave causing closures at the civic amenity site and he called for extra staff training to provide cover. He reported that there are long queues outside the gates due to the short staffing and reduced opening hours at Castletownbere. Cllr. PG Murphy highlighted that staff annual leave is booked in advance and staff cover should be approved in these instances. The members agreed that a motion should issue to the next Divisional Committee meeting where Environment will be in attendance to request an overall review of all amenity sites opening hours and staffing issues.

- (c) Proposed by Cllr. F Harrington, Seconded by Cllr. C Cronin "That this council would erect a "no overnight parking of camper vans" on a number of locations throughout West Cork to include but not limited to the following locations -
 - Zetland pier Adrigole Beara
 - Cahermore pier Beara
 - Garnish beach car park Beara
 - Kilmoe graveyard Barleycove
 - Galley Cove beach, Crookhaven
 - Audley Cove, Rosbrin
 - Sheeps Head peninsula"

Response from Jackie Mansfield MDO

The Tourism Unit, Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism Directorate has developed a Draft Motorhome Policy approved at Tourism SPC level which is a review of the 2018 policy. It is intended to progress the adoption of this draft policy at Full Council by Q1 2025. One of the actions identified has been the need to erect onsite Code of Conduct signage in conjunction with the relevant Municipal District at appropriate locations where it is identified that unauthorised motorhome parking is an issue. The implementation of this action has already commenced, and an update will be provided to members in due course. In the meantime, a Code of Conduct for Motorhome users had been added to the Visit Cork section of Cork Co Council website.

Member all agreed that while campervans were welcome highlighted issues with campervans parking across parking spaces at beaches and leaving rubbish behind. Cllr. I. Towse requested more bins to be installed at beaches and designated parking spaces for campervans. Cllr. D. Collins reported that in Kerry County Council that there is a person employed to check at no parking sign areas to move on campervans and queried if Cork County Council should look into this. Members discussed the designated campervan sites such as the one on Bantry Pier and called for the CDP and planning to look into the provision of these sites across West Cork. They also called for policy to encourage private led developments providing these campervan services. Cllr. J. Carroll advised members of a national campervan group that use the rugby club facilities in Skibbereen and queried if other facilities could be encouraged to provide this service for campervans. Members asked for Tragumna and Glengarriff to be added to the list of locations requiring signage.

(e) Proposed by Cllr. N O'Donovan, Seconded by Cllr. D Sexton "That this council would begin the necessary survey/design works to provide a footpath for safe pedestrian access from the outskirts of Clonakilty town at Scarthagh to McCurtain Hill / Clonakilty Garda Station".

Response from John Ahern

This matter will be referred to the Regional and Local Road design office to progress.

(f) Proposed by Cllr. N O'Donovan, Seconded by Cllr. D Sexton "That a report be provided on the feasibility of the installation a pedestrian crossing in Ardfield village to allow for safe crossing at the church, graveyard and sporting facilities".

Response from John Ahern

This matter will be referred jointly to the Sustainable Travel Unit and to the Regional and Local Road design office to determine the optimum method of delivery.

(g) Proposed by Cllr. D Collins, Seconded by Cllr. D Sexton

"Since the recent announcements of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (T.I.I.) review of planned expenditure to Cork County Council road's budget, we are requesting why the N71 Ballylickey to Dromkeal Pavement Scheme and the N71 Newmills /Owenahincha Scheme have been pulled for funding. We are calling for a letter to be sent to T.I.I. as a matter of urgency to retract their decision to pull the funding and to give us an explanation as to why this was done. Also we are calling for this motion go to Full Council as it has been brought to our attention there are other roads in this situation throughout the County".

Response from Sean Callery

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) has advised that they are currently undertaking a review of planned expenditure for 2024 against the overall budget for National Roads, Active Travel Schemes and Greenways. Pending completion of the review, TII has requested that local authorities across the country should not proceed to award contracts for certain projects. This impacts on the N71 Ballylickey to Dromkeal Pavement Scheme and the N71 Newmills /Owenahincha Scheme. Once the review of planned expenditure has been completed, TII anticipates being in a position to provide further information/clarification in relation to the progression of these schemes. Cork County Council will write to TII seeking clarification on the current funding status for the N71 Ballylickey to Dromkeal Pavement and the N71 Newmills /Owenahincha Schemes. We also note Cllr. Collins request for this NOM to go to Full Council."

Members expressed concern that the money was being taken from these projects and moved to another road project and highlighted that the N71 is no longer a national route but more of a regional road in comparison to other national routes. Members agreed that a motion needed to be sent to Full Council calling for the funding to be reinstated for these 2 projects.

(h) Proposed by Cllr. D Collins, Seconded by Cllr. PG Murphy

"It is now nearly 2 years since the road works were done on Glengarriff road and a great job was done, but no lights have been installed at the designed zebra crossing at Newtown just at the chemist. I am requesting an update on who were supposed to install these lights and I want confirmation on when they are going to be installed".

Response from Ruth O'Brien S.E.E.

The delay in the installation of the lights at the proposed pelican pedestrian crossing at Glengarriff Road, was outside of the control of the Contractor. These installation works are actually scheduled for the week after next, the second week in September.

(i) Proposed Cllr. D Collins, Seconded by Cllr. F Harrington "I am calling on Cork County Council to advise the date of when the main streets of Castletownbere are going to be resurfaced".

Response from Ruth O Brien S.E.E.

Road surfacing for streets is funded from the Department of Transport Road Restoration Improvement grant. Examples of this grant usage in the last five years would be the surfacing of the R-572 west of Glengarriff, the R-572 surfacing to the east and west of Adrigole Church, the R-571 surfacing at Ardgroom village, the R-571 surfacing at Eyeries

national school and sports field and further north towards Ardgroom, the R-575 surfacing in Allihies Village, the surfacing of the roads at Cametrignane in Castletownbere and the nearly complete R-572 approach road works in Castletownbere. Since 2010 Restoration Improvement funds have been expended in Castletownbere e.g. the back road by Castletownbere National School, The R-572 from Blackrock Terrace to the Square, the R-572 from the playground to the Tallon Road, the loop at the Olde Bakery and as mentioned Cametrignane and the R-572 approach. In the interim Irish Water has carried out both planned and emergency drainage and water works throughout Castletownbere which has impacted on roads previously surfaced. The Regional and Local Roads Design Office has surveyed and is finalising a design for the R-572 from Blackrock Terrace to Murphy's Restaurant and the R-571 from the R-572 junction to the Bridewell. Once this design is approved and has navigated the statutory processes then these sections of roads will be included in the Restoration Improvement Programme for 2026. The Castletownbere Area Office will be replacing some footpaths in town during the remainder of 2024 i.e. the southern footpath opposite Wisemans as far as the west end carpark, and if funding allows the southern footpath from the carpark as far as Twomeys Bar, so the sections of main street at these locations can be considered for the 2025 & 2026 Restoration Improvement Programmes. Restoration Improvement funding is a finite resource with many roads throughout the Castletownbere Area requiring its intervention, so caution will be exercised when planning any expenditure of same and the timing of any expenditure will be subject to having footpaths replaced, drainage upgraded, etc.

Cllr. F Harrington queried if some footpath repair works could be carried out in the interim and some resurfacing from outside Supervalu to the carpark. Ruth O'Brien SEE noted that any works were dependent on funding, and she would review what works could be done with Aidan Prendergast.

(j) Proposed by Cllr. D Kelly, Seconded by Cllr. N O'Donovan "The County Development Plan de-zoned land referred to as DY-R-05 located just off Castle Street in Dunmanway. Would it be possible to again discuss the possibility of repurposing this land as a car park which would facilitate taking cars off what is already a very narrow street".

Response from Noreen O'Mahony S.E.O.

We are in discussions with the Housing Directorate assessing the possibility of a carpark at this location. Due to the narrow width of the street, there are design constraints which need to be addressed at the proposed entrance to the site off Castle Street.

Cllr. D Kelly commended John Ahern and the Dunmanway team for the works at East Green, Dunmanway. She asked if parking can be removed from one side of Castle Street in the interim until a more long-term solution to parking is agreed.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. F Harrington reported issues with the new footpaths on the R572 at Glengarriff and that lorries were mounting the footpaths in order to navigate the bends going out of the village. Cllr. D Collins suggested that 1 footpath on the right-hand side only going out the village would alleviate this issue. Ruth O' Brien noted that the reason for 2 footpaths was in relation to active travel and also slowing down traffic. She advised that it had been auto tracked.

Cllr. D Collins reported that elected members were no longer receiving notifications from the Housing Directorate on housing allocations and when he enquired as why the notifications had stopped, he was told it was the decision of the Executive. He expressed concern that this was a dissolution of powers. Cllr. Collins requested that a motion be sent forward to the next Housing meeting of the Western Division to request Cork County Council to overturn their decision to cease notifying members of housing allocations.

Cllr. D Collins called for a civic reception to be organized for Owen Brady regarding achievements at the World Kick Boxing Championships. Cllr. J Carroll also requested that Evan Collins from Skibbereen be included in the civic reception. Noreen O'Mahony noted the matter for review and would revert to the members.

An extension of time was proposed by Cllr. F Harrington and seconded by Cllr. N O'Donovan.

Cllr. N O'Donovan reported that there were serious issues with the lack of parking in Baltimore village and highlighted that there was land available to increase the parking provision in the village and he called for a report to be provided at the next MD meeting on measures that can be taken to address this issue. Cllr. I Towse reported that she had recently missed her ferry due to the lack of parking and noted that this was a real issue of concern to islanders who frequently miss their ferry due to the lack of parking. Noreen O'Mahony noted that matter for a report at the next meeting.

Cllr. C Cronin expressed thanks to all the team in the Schull Area Office for their work during Calves week, she highlighted that the streets were gleaming every morning, and the bins were changed regularly.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH	DATE

