

MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd MARCH AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH.

Present: Cllrs. S. O’Callaghan, A. Barry, G. Curley, D. Finn, C. Rasmussen S. Sheppard.

Officials: Ms. Sharon Corcoran, D.O.S.
Ms. N. Brennan, S/SEO
P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer
G. O’Hora, Snr. Executive Engineer
R. O’Sullivan, Executive Engineer
Ms. C. McDonnell, Cobh Municipal District.

1.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 4th February 2025.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. G. Curley, the Minutes of the Cobh Municipal District Meeting held 4th February 2025 were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising.

Rahilly Street & Harbour Hill:

G. O’Hora confirmed that cold tar patching road repair had been carried out at both Rahilly Street & Harbour Hill.

Bus Shelter at Knockraha:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the bus shelter had been installed at Knockraha village.

Wall at Seaview, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the wall at Seaview has been listed for repair by the mason.

Church Road, Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora stated that the potholes had been repaired, the new sign has been delivered and will be erected this week.

St. Colman’s Square, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that some road repair works would be carried out this week.

Signage at Coolamber:

G. O’Hora stated that 2 additional “Slow signs” have been erected.

Bollard and wall at Newtown:

G. O’Hora stated that broken bollards have been replaced and the damage to the wall has been repaired.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if the broken bollards had definitely been replaced as the last time he passed, they were still broken.

G. O’Hora confirmed that they were replaced recently.

Pothole at Top of Hill, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the pothole has been repaired.

Caravans at the Five Foot Way car park:

P. Lynch stated that the Gardaí have asked them to move but the owners have refused.

N. Brennan told the Members that as this issue may be the subject of legal proceedings, it should not be discussed further.

Replacement of grate at the exist of the Cathedral Gates on the right-hand side.

G. O’Hora stated that works to raise the level of the drain and install a new large grate opposite the Quarry Cock Bar to alleviate build-up of surface water would be carried out shortly.

Potholes on the Newtown Road

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

Patching at the bottom of East Hill

G. O’Hora confirmed that some works had been carried out at this location and will be completed this week when the velocity patcher is in town.

Completion date for the ESB works at Ticknock

G. O’Hora said that he has spoken with the contractors and works will be completed by the start of April.

Derelict Signal Box by railway station.

P. Lynch told the Members that he would be meeting with the Town Regeneration Office next week.

Road Sweeper in Cobh

G. O’Hora told the Members that the road sweeper will be in Cobh town every week over the summer season.

Blocked shores at Condonstown, Watergrasshill.

G. O’Hora said that these stormwater drains have been inspected and necessary works have been agreed and scheduled.

Broken drain at Russell Heights

G. O. Hora stated that this drain is listed for investigation and survey as there might be an issue with the discharge pipe being blocked.

Update on speed survey in Carrignavar Village

G. O’Hora confirmed that the survey has now been completed.

Signage/Traffic Calming at Joe Reid Place, Cobh

G. O’Hora confirmed that “Children at Play” signs have been erected at this location.

Blocked drains at Eurospar and down to Norwood, Cobh

G. O’Hora stated that the drains have been cleared.

Blocked drains at Hilltop Park

G. O’Hora stated road drain have being cleaned.

Bollard missing by the footpath at Ryngs shop, East Beach.

G. O’Hora stated that the replacement bollard had been ordered and once delivered, it would be installed.

Drains by Spar and next to the narrow footpath by Moore’s Place need unblocking.

G. O’Hora confirmed that these drains have been cleaned.

Update on the footpaths at Plunkett Terrace and Coolamber.

G. O’Hora stated that the broken telecom cover on the footpath has been reported to Eir and once repaired CCC will repair footpath.

Double yellow lines required at Glenanaar Place.

G. O’Hora told the Members that a new road lining contractor had been appointed and a list of necessary road lining works would be given to them quarterly.

Area of the road at Newtown by the Cobh Connect stop is sinking and floods every time it rains.

G. O’Hora stated that an inspection of roadway is to be carried out .

Section of road at College Manor is damaged from buses and trucks parking.

G. O’Hora stated that this road area will be repaired as part of a hot patch contract.

Update on road design for Ticknock Hill

G. O’Hora told the Members that this has been referred to the Road Design Office to examine.

Flooding at the turning area at Whitepoint

G. O’Hora stated a new road gully had been installed in the turning area and existing Gully cleaned.

New Toilet Block at Whitepoint

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if new operational signage could be erected.
Sign to be arranged.

Toilet Block at The Promenade, Cobh

G. O’Hora told the Members that the toilet block at The Promenade will be closed for a week to undergone repairs and repainting after the most recent vandalism.

Driver Feedback signs at Carrignavar.

Cllr. S. Sheppard asked when the driver feedback signs would be erected.
G. O’Hora said that the sign will be installed once the new rural speed limit for town and villages have been approved.

Road Lining at Cois Coille, Carrigtwohill

Cllr. A. Barry asked if the road lining at Cois Coille would be carried out in the 1st phase of the road lining.

G. O’Hora confirmed that it would.

3.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence

P. Lynch referred to response received from Cobh Connect dated 21st February 2025 in which they stated that they were unable to meet with the Members on 3rd March.

Members expressed their frustration at this and asked that a letter be issued to Cobh Connect asking them to suggest a suitable date for a meeting with the Members to discuss the various issues.

R. O’Sullivan told the Members that he had spoken with Cobh Connect last week regarding the pole for the bus stop at Carrigaloe and the movement of the stop at the Park Road.

4.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigigh / Officer's Reports

G. O’Hora told the Members that he has been notified of his Public Lighting Budget for 2025 and it amounts to €36k.

G. O’Hora stated a number of requests had been received for public lights and asked members to submit any further requests for consideration.

Cllr. G. Curley raised the issue of the amount of public light outages in Cobh over recent months. He said that several areas are now in complete darkness at nighttime causing danger to the public and while many have been reported several times, there is still no resolution.

Cllr. A. Barry said that the same issues are ongoing in Carrigtwohill.

Cllr. D. Finn said that the ESB need to be brought on board now too.

Cllr. S. Sheppard said that a number of pedestrians have fallen in the pitch darkness and that the situation is shocking.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen said that there were Skyline trucks in Cobh today, some working on electrical faults, more on replacing bulbs.

G. O’Hora asked the Members to forward a list of all areas affected to him and he will submit it to CCC Public Lighting Dept. He also said that he will raise the members concerns with the Public Lighting Department

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

P. Lynch circulated the figures collected relating to the Community Fund Scheme, Town Development Fund and the figures for Pay Parking for the year to date.

2025 Community Fund Scheme

P. Lynch told the Members that applications for funding under the 2025 Community Fund Scheme were currently being examined. He said that it is hoped to hold an in-committee meeting on 19th March for discussion and the item can then be placed on the agenda for the April meeting.

Funfair Licence Application

P. Lynch told the Members that a Funfair Licence Application had been received from Ms. S. Piper for 16th and 17th March for the Promenade in Cobh. The application is for 3 pieces of equipment.

Ms. Piper has also submitted an application for the following dates, for 2 pieces of equipment:

May: 3-4; 10-11; 17-18; 24-25; 31
June: 1; 7-8; 14-15; 21-22; 28-29
July: 5-6; 12-13; 19-20; 26-27
August: 2-4; 9-10; 16-17; 23-24; 30-31

P. Lynch told the Members that Ms. Piper has operated for a number of years in Cobh without any difficulties and has submitted current Certificates of Safety and insurance details for any dates that she has operated.

P. Lynch recommend that a Licence for the requested dates be approved by the members, subject to the appropriate insurance documents, fee and up to date Safety Certificate being supplied.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. D. Finn it was agreed to issue the licence to Ms. Piper.

Report on Previous Notice of Motion.

As discussed at the February meeting, P. Lynch confirmed that he had contacted Cork City Council in relation to the Dog Park they are operating in Ballincollig and spoke to an official in the City's Parks & Recreation Section.

Cork City Council have advised that the existing Dog Park in Ballincollig was installed in December. The project is currently a 12 month pilot scheme, and the City Council will review the project at the end of 2025 before deciding whether it can be rolled out to other locations in the City.

The installation of the fencing on the site cost approx. €40,000. The park itself is divided into 2 sections; one for smaller dogs and one for larger dogs with signage setting out the sizes for each section. Dog bins have been provided but the site is primarily self-policing as the City Council relies on users to clean up after their dogs and to dispose of any dog littering in the bins provided. The City Council have noticed some wear and tear on the surface but have not carried out any repair works to date.

P. Lynch suggested that Cobh M.D. contact Cork City Council again early in 2026 after they have reviewed the success or otherwise of the scheme.

6.0 Quarterly Report on Tackling Dereliction and Vacancy

P. Lynch presented list of properties /sites on the Derelict Sites Register as at 31st December, 2024 in the Cobh M.D. area.

He confirmed that there were 11 in total:-

Cobh – 8

Whitechurch – 1

Watergrasshill – 1

Carrignavar - 1

P. Lynch advised the Members that a number of these properties have had significant work carried out to them and are no longer derelict. These will be removed from the register.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked how long the Council gives owners who are not engaging or carrying out any works, as some sites are derelict for a long time.

P. Lynch stated that this is why the Council set up the Regeneration Office. He said where no significant progress is being made, the Council arranges for a valuation of the site and can impose a levy of 7% of the market value.

P. Lynch told the Members that he will be meeting with the Town Regeneration Office next week.

7.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion

1. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Ger Curley:

That Cork County Council as a matter of urgency upgrade and maintain the leisure complex at Coral leisure in Cobh the steam room has been out of order for over 12 months and there are several pieces of equipment which needs maintaining or upgrading and going forward that money be put aside for ongoing maintenance.

Response: The management of the Leisure Centre in Cobh is a matter for Carrignafoyle Leisure DAC. The Board of Carrignafoyle Leisure DAC are in discussions with Cork County Council in relation to the need for investment in the Leisure Centre and are due to meet with the management of the Centre in the next week.

Cllr. Curley stated that the Steam room at the centre had been closed for 14 months. The covers on both the large and small pools were not working, and this was adding to increased electricity costs. The centre has over 1,600 members with over 4,000 users, including schools and clubs. He said that he was concerned that a failure to invest would lead to extra costs in the long term. He said that staff at the centre had said that it had been 7 years since there had been any substantial investment in the centre.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that he would have assumed that if there was no investment in the centre for such a substantial period that the management at the centre would have spoken to the councillors long before now. He agreed that funding was required for the centre.

Cllr. Finn supported the motion stating that members couldn't use a lot of the equipment at the centre.

Cllr. Sheppard, in supporting the motion asked if applications could be made for Sports Capital Grants for the leisure centre. She asked that the Councillors be provided with regular reports in relation to the leisure centre.

P. Lynch stated that he is a Director of Carrignafof Leisure DAC, which is the Council-owned Company set up to manage the leisure centre. He advised that Cork County Council provides annual funding of €70,000 to the Company to enable it to manage the centre. The Company paid approximately €32,000 in Commercial Rates from that sum, leaving €38,000 for all other expenditure. The Company also received a Licence Fee from Coral under the terms of the Licence to operate the centre. He stated that he disputed the suggestion that there had been no major investment in 7 years. In 2024, Carrignafof Leisure had spent over €100,000 on repairs to the building and equipment.

In relation to the Sports Capital Grant, P. Lynch stated that while Carrignafof Leisure could not apply itself for grants, Cork County Council could, and had, applied for grants. He stated that the Board of Carrignafof Leisure meet with Coral management on an annual basis to agree a work programme for the year. The 2025 meeting was due to be held this month and the Board would be looking for a priority list of works from Coral at that meeting. He also advised that the Board of Carrignafof Leisure had submitted a request to Cork County Council for additional funding to allow them to carry out additional works and that a response to this request was expected shortly. He advised that any funding received by Carrignafof Leisure was invested in the Leisure Centre.

Cllr. Curley asked if additional income for the centre could be generated by increasing membership fees. P. Lynch stated that there was an existing licence agreement between Carrignafof Leisure and Coral and any financial arrangements had to comply with that agreement. Carrignafof could not look for an increase in membership fees under this licence.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Curley, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the motion was adopted.

2. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Dominic Finn:

That the Cobh MD supports the re-introduction of the Ex-Residents Day for family members associated with Spike Island, and that it would be back in place for September 2025.

This Notice of Motion was referred to Spike Island Development Company, as they are responsible for the management of Spike Island. SIDC have replied as follows:

For a number of years, Spike Island Development Company (SIDC), supplied one sailing free of charge to ex residents of Spike Island. This was always welcomed and well managed by the organisers.

This sailing was never removed by SIDC.

In 2023 the offer was declined.

In 2024 no request was made for an ex resident sailing to SIDC.

Going forward, SIDC would be delighted to offer one sailing carrying up to 110 passengers on a date in September to be agreed upon. SIDC would seek to ensure that this sailing is organised correctly and that a list of those travelling is collated and supplied to SIDC prior to the sailing.

Cllr. D. Finn said that he was delighted with the response.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Finn, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the motion was adopted.

3. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Dominic Finn:

That the Cobh MD would clear the ground and widen the road at the bottom of the Ballyleary Road (boreen) where it meets the Tay Road.

Response: The L-2994-0 Ballyleary road is a narrow local road. To widen the road will require purchasing land from neighbouring landowners. Area Engineer will refer to CCC road design office to examine land purchase and road widening. Area Engineer will schedule some verge clearing works and hedge cutting along the L-2994-0 road at the L-2993 Tay Road junction.

G. O’Hora stated that it would have to be confirmed whether the waste ground is in private ownership prior to any works being undertaken.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated there is a spring at this location.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Finn, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the motion was adopted.

4. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:

Can the footpath on the opposite side of Ahern Place No 1-5 be added to our footpath program for 2025 & St Colman’s Square be also looked at for same.

Response: CCC will examine including the footpaths at Ahern Place No 1-5 and St Colman’s Square to the Cobh MD 2025 footpath programme.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the motion was Adopted.

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

That this Municipal would look at the parking layout in Philip O' Neill Place up to and including reducing part of the green area following complaints from some residents

Response: CCC will examine parking layout in Philip O' Neill Place, Cobh. Any reduction in green area space to facilitate parking will require full agreement from residents within the estate.

Area roads budget presently has no funding code/allocation to carry out additional parking area works within housing estates.

G. O’Hora stated that funding for this type of work will be difficult to secure as there is no budget for putting parking spaces into existing housing estates.

R. O’Sullivan said that in order to carry out this work, some trees would have to be removed and this would have to be okayed with the residents.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. G. Curley, the motion was adopted.

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

That this Municipal would look to have the dangerous and overhanging trees on Ballard Hill cut back as a matter of urgency.

Response: CCC will examine trees along the L-2989 Ballard Hill Road, Cobh and will write to private landowners of any dangerous and overhanging trees advising them of their responsibilities to cut back dangerous and overhanging trees.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. D. Finn, the motion was adopted.

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

That the poor drainage and blocked drains along the Pottery Road and Tay Road area needs to be sorted to help prevent the flooding.

Response: CCC recently carried some drainage maintenance works along Pottery Road and Tay Road and have scheduled further drain clearing works for these areas in the coming weeks.

8. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:

That Cobh MD would look at installing a number of dog fouling bins in more locations within the municipal district.

Response: There are presently 16 dog fouling bins at various locations across Cobh MD. CCC have no plans to install additional dog fouling bins. CCC will examine erecting additional dog fouling signage at location to be agreed.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the Council have to be practical and responsibility for dog fouling lies with the owners.

Erecting additional Dog fouling signage to be examined.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. G. Curley, the motion was adopted.

8.0 Aon Ghnó Eile/Any Other Business

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan

1. Potholes and ponding on the Bartlemy Road, ditch needs opening.
Engineer stated CCC carried out some road drainage works on the Bartlemy Road and would inspect drains on the road.
2. Sign for Ballinacluiche Bridge stating it’s not suitable for HGVs. There is one on the Watergrasshill side but not on the approach from the Skehanagh side.
Engineer stated CCC erected a HGV sign at the bridge and would examine erecting an additional sign.
3. Extension of footpath in Whitechurch, extending to the development boundary to facilitate children attending the pre-school.
Engineer to examine.
4. Ponding on the footpath at the cemetery in Whitechurch
Engineer stated drainage works were scheduled and would be carried out shortly.

Cllr. S. Callaghan thanked G. O’Hora for the footpath works at Rathpeacon.

Cllr. D. Finn

1. During the resurfacing at Ballard, one driveway wasn’t dished.
Engineer to examine.
2. The boxing club use the Lake Road entrance to the hall at the back of the convent.
Could a footpath be installed as club members there is only a grass walkway there.
Engineer to examine.
3. Could some tac coat be put between the new parking area installed in Assumption place and the road.
Engineer to stated parking area was inspected and deemed fine.
4. Buses speeding at the 5 Foot Way, Whitepoint when cruise ships are in Cobh.
P. Lynch said that he was at a meeting with the Port of Cork and other stakeholders last week and this issue was raised.
5. Need for a pedestrian footpath at Tullegreine.
This proposal forms part of the Carrigtwohill Urban Regeneration Plan.
6. Update on Theatre for Cobh – the building is now purchased, it has charity Status. An engineering report and a heritage report are underway.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen

1. Tarmac on footpath at 5 Foot Way is breaking up.
Engineer to examine.
2. Hedge at Leonard’s Lodge needs cutting back.
Sections of Hedge was cut by CCC late 2024.
3. Any update on the new Parking Byelaws.
N. Brennan told the Members that the review would be piloted in Cobh, and it is hoped that the draft byelaws would be completed by the end of March.
4. 2 lights broken by the Shantyman. Is it possible to build them in deeper to avoid Breakage.
Broken lights referred to the Architects Dept to schedule for repair.

5. 2 broken speed signs, one at Ballynoe Hill and one by the bridge at Carrigaloe need replacing.

Signs listed for repair.

6. Abandoned van at Cooline, Cobh.

Details to be forwarded to P. Lynch who will pass it on to the traffic warden.

7. Is it possible to put a yellow box in Small's Well to prevent traffic backing up.

Yellow box in Small's Well scheduled with road lining contractor.

8. Can the roadsweeper be asked to clean the driveway at The Old Church Cemetery.

G. O'Hora to arrange.

9. Potholes:-

- Tarmac on some sections at the five foot way
- Hole on footpath near the Sirius Art Centre
- Near the old Rinn Ronan Hotel
- Just above Cobh Hospital before you enter the small estate
- Big one on the Tay Road where we have fixed before just before the ESB sub station on the left going towards Cow Cross
- Norwood Hill just before you go into Rushbrooke Manor
- Norwood Hill before you turn left onto Newtown Road
- Section across width of road near Kirkwood Villas
- Newtown Road as you travel towards Russell Heights 3 or 4 sections in the middle of the road.
- Near IFI bad one and rutted areas
- Along towards Lynch's Quay ,just past the old well house.
- Rahilly street is still bad in 3 or 4 sections

Potholes repaired.

Cllr. A. Barry

1. Traffic building up on the filter lane by the new school campus in Carrigtwohill.

To discuss with CCC traffic lights contractor.

2. Is there a traffic management plan in place for the moving of 16,000 tonnes of material from the demolition of the R & R Hall in the city to the railway line between Glounthaune and Middleton. This amount of transporting will have to go down the Hedgy boreen and not come through Carrigtwohill.

Refer to CCC Environmental Dept regarding licence to transport demolition material.

3 Road lining at Fr. O'Keeffe Terrace?

Listed with CCC road lining contractor.

4. Ballinbointra Road is in a bad condition.

Listed for repair.

5. Official opening of Slatty Pond

P. Lynch to arrange.

Cllr. G. Curley

1. Broken footpath at Gardiner's Walk, Rushbrooke Links and the pipe underneath will break.

Engineer to examine.

2. Tree taken out at Hermitage Grove and there appears to be sewerage problems since.

Refer to Uisce Eireann.

3. Wall falling in at Ticknock, undermined by recent works and there's also an issue with a spring there.

Engineer to examine.

4. Collapsed wall at Lake Road

P. Lynch told the Members that Dangerous Structure notices had issued to both property owners.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan congratulated Cork County Council on winning an award for the Cobh Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) Pilot Project in East Beach, Cobh

Cllr. C. Rasmussen expressed a Vote of Sympathy to Danny Crowley, former member of Cobh Town Council on the recent passing of his wife, Martina. R.I.P. The other Members and staff were associated with the vote of sympathy.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHOIRLEACH

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER.