



## MINUTES OF WEST CORK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING held in Dunmanway Pool and MS Teams at 11.00 am on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

- Members Present:** Cllrs. Caroline Cronin, Danny Collins, Deirdre Kelly, Finbarr Harrington, Joe Carroll, Isobel Towse, Daniel Sexton.
- On MS Teams:** Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy
- Council Officials:** Nicola Radley, Manager W.C.M. D.  
Noreen O' Mahony, S.E.O., W.C.M.D.  
Eimear O' Neill S/M.D.O., W.C.M.D.  
John Ahern, S.E.E., Skibbereen  
Kevn Lynch E.E., Bantry  
Martina O'Driscoll, Meeting Administrator W.C.M.D.

Cllr. D. Collins presided.

### Statutory Meeting

#### 1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(a) ***Minutes of West Cork Municipal District meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025.***

*Proposed by Cllr. Daniel Sexton, Seconded by Cllr. Caroline Cronin*

Resolved:

"That the minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach".

(b) **Minutes of 'In Committee' West Cork Municipal District meeting dated 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

*Proposed by Cllr. Finbarr Harrington, Seconded by Cllr. Daniel Sexton*

Resolved:

"That the minutes of 'In Committee' Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach".

## **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

## ***(b)* REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Municipal District Officer's Report – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

#### **1. Cork County Council Island Community Fund Scheme 2025**

Cork County Council is committed to supporting the West Cork Island Community through its Island Community Based Grant Fund for 2025.

This scheme funds island community development with small scale capital and amenity projects, with a minimum of €1,000 and a maximum of €25,000 per project to improve the range and/or quality of community-based facilities on the islands.

Following this notification to the Members of the 2025 Scheme, information will be forwarded this week to West Cork Island groups. The closing date for submissions is 5.00pm Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

#### **2. Per Cent for Art Commission – Clonakilty Flood Relief Scheme**

The OPW and Cork County Council under the State's Per Cent for Arts Scheme are commissioning an artwork / project attendant to flood defence work carried out in Clonakilty as part of a major Flood protection and early warning system.

The Flood Relief Scheme is composed of several elements throughout the town and surrounding areas; proposal may consider possible physical sites, areas of interest, communities of interest or place, events, or activities in the Clonakilty area that they wish to engage with.

Artists are invited to make proposals for artwork that is **permanent or temporary, in any artform** as identified by the Arts Act 2003. For outdoor works, the Croppy Park has been identified as a site. Proposals from collectives / groups of professional artists, designers or craftspeople are also welcome. Artists do NOT need to identify specific communities or groups of interest but can indicate suggested types of desired collaborators.

The commissioners are seeking artistic proposals that support creative placemaking and connection to the wider environmental concerns that the flood relief scheme engages with in Clonakilty. Proposals should emphasise community engagement and artistic process as well as the anticipated outcome(s). Artists are asked to consider the specific social, political, environmental, historical, and cultural contexts of Clonakilty. Artists are asked to be mindful and conscientious of the proposed environmental impact of their proposal.

The selected artist will engage or collaborate with communities of interest and/or place in the developmental phase of the artwork.

Cork County Council and the OPW welcome both traditional and new and innovative forms of engagement and recognises that artists connect with communities in a wide range of ways e.g. workshops, creative consultation, action research, interviews, collaboration on research, digital platforms, collaborative spaces online etc. The successful applicant will receive support in identifying and contacting local communities.

The deadline for submissions is 5.00pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

### **3. Cork County Council Community Fund Scheme 2025**

The Community Fund Scheme closed on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February. The process of assessing applications has begun, with the intention of presenting our recommendations to the Members in due course. West Cork Municipal District received over 100 applications, which is similar to last year's number of applications.

### **4. Community Recognition Fund – Window 2**

The Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary, recently announced over €14million to deliver 163 community projects across the Country through the Community Recognition Fund.

The Community Recognition Fund was first introduced in 2023 to recognise the huge efforts made by communities in welcoming and supporting people coming to Ireland.

The investment announced will deliver a diverse range of projects and includes upgrades and enhancements to much needed sports facilities, community centres, parks, walking trails and playgrounds.

There are a total of 11 successful projects in Cork County:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>City / Town / Village Area</b>	<b>Project Group</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Funding Approved</b>
Cork County	Youghal	Cork County Council	Youghal Greenway – Trailhead user friendly	€110,000
Cork County	Clonakilty	Cork County Council	Clonakilty Playground – Replacement of accessible equipment	€65,000
Cork County	Bandon	Cork County Council	Bandon Playground – Refurbishment of old Bandon playground	€55,000

Cork County	Midleton	Cork County Council	Midleton Playground – Upgrade works	€50,000
Cork County	Fermoy	Cork County Council	Fermoy Town Playground – Upgrade and refurbishment works	€67,307
Cork County	Bantry	Cork County Council	Bantry Tennis Courts – Resurfacing of courts	€50,000
Cork County	Mallow	Le Cheile Family Resource Centre	Community garden accessibility works	€50,000
Cork County	Macroom	Macroom FC	Refurbishment of shower areas at clubhouse and tarmacadam of car park	€60,000
Cork County	Youghal	Youghal Communications CLG	Replacement and refurbishment of recording, broadcasting, and audio equipment	€50,000
Cork County	Mitchelstown	Mitchelstown Parish Town Hall, C/O Mitchelstown Parish Church	Parish Hall – Footpaths and repairs and replacement of main hall roof	€80,731
Cork County	Cobh	Access for All – Sirius Arts Centre, Regenerations Project	Roof replacement	€50,204

## **5. National Tree Week**

Cork County Council is offering native trees to schools, community groups and organisations to celebrate National Tree Week 2025. An initiative of the Tree Council of Ireland, National Tree Week will take place from March 9<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>.

The initiative invites communities to learn about the folklore of trees, their practical applications and to appreciate the importance of a healthy and diverse native tree stock. Since its inception in 1985, National Tree Week has been responsible for

planting over half a million trees in Ireland, including over 5,000 in Cork County in the past 6 years alone.

National Tree Week has grown from strength to strength in Cork County over the past number of years. In 2024, Cork County Council allocated more than 1,000 trees to over 100 recipients and thanks to the support of the Tree Council of Ireland, The Council's Heritage Unit will once again have over 1,000 trees on offer this year. The likely species included Common and Silver Birch, Oak, Rowan, Alder, Scots Pine, and Hazel and will be available in bundles of 5 or 10. These are on a first come first served basis and people are encouraged to contact the Heritage Unit early to avoid disappointment.

To be part of National Tree Week, community groups, organisations and schools are invited to organise or participate in events throughout the week. As well as tree planting, the range of events can include forest and woodland walks, nature trails, workshops, woodturning displays, talks, poetry, readings, exhibitions, dramas, or any other ideas that will celebrate the fascinating world of trees.

Trees will be available for collection from Cork County Hall or at a select number of Cork County Council premises around the County. Pick-up locations and allocations will be confirmed with each participating group, and all requests must be submitted by emailing [corkheritage@corkcoco.ie](mailto:corkheritage@corkcoco.ie) by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

More information on National Tree Week is available by visiting [www.nationaltreeweek.ie](http://www.nationaltreeweek.ie)

## **6. Local Enterprise Week**

Cork County's business community is set for an extraordinary week of learning, networking, and inspiration as Local Enterprise Week 2025 returns from 3<sup>rd</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup>. Hosted by Cork County Council's Local Enterprise Offices (LEO's), this year's programme promises an unparalleled line-up of events designed to empower business leaders, entrepreneurs, and SMEs to grow and innovate.

This year's programme features a mix of online and in-person events, offering business leaders a change to gain valuable insights while connecting with industry experts and peers. Locations include the iconic Jameson Distillery, Springfort Hall, Ballymaloe Grainstore, and the cutting-edge Fota Education, Conservation and Research Centre. These inspiring settings are designed to cultivate innovative thinking, fresh perspectives, and meaningful collaborations.

Many events are free to attend, but early booking is advised. For more details and registration, visit [www.localenterprise.ie](http://www.localenterprise.ie)

## **7. West Cork Arts Centre Artist Residencies 2025**

Cork County Council and Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre are delighted to announce a partnership residency for artists Maitiú Mac Cárthaigh and Bernie Masterson.

Taking place from March to May 2025, this partnered residency supports artists seeking opportunities to research and develop their practice, and engage with Uillinn,

local and diverse communities and the public. The award includes a studio space for 4 weeks at Uillinn and a stipend of €2,500 each. Both residencies are funded by Cork County Council's Arts Service.

Maitiú Mac Cárthaigh, a visual artist based in County Cork and a recent graduate of the MA in Artistic Research at KABK, Den Haag, has been awarded the Cork County Council / Uillinn Artist Residency from 14 March to 26 April 2025. Maitiú's residency will focus on producing a body of work based on their current research which examines how agri-fluids are used as "blood and soil" materials in perpetuating Irish patrilinear domination over the land.

Dublin-based artist and filmmaker Bernie Masterson has been awarded the Bealtaine / Cork County Council / Uillinn Artist Residency from 1 to 31 May 2025. Organised in association with Age & Opportunity's nationwide Bealtaine Festival which celebrates the arts and creativity as we age. Bernie's project, Can You See Me Now, will share her work with the public via several events over the course of her residency, including a Bealtaine event at Uillinn. Bernie seeks to explore the notion of identity as we progress into older years in life, and what that means in contemporary Ireland today.

## **8. Castletownbere Library Refurbishment**

Castletownbere Library will undergo a refurbishment over the coming weeks to make the best use of the library space to meet the diverse needs of users of all ages and interests, which includes the porch space at the front of the building.

The works will be carried out in two phases, with

Phase 1 commencing after closing on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March with the library re-opening as usual on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

Phase 2 will commence on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March with the library re-opening on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_ End of MDO Report \_\_\_\_\_

## **(c) STATUTORY BUSINESS /GNO REACHTUIL**

### **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.

#### **(a) Lambe Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork County Council**

<u>Situation:</u>	Disposal at Lambe Street, Clonakilty, Co Cork
<u>Area:</u>	Measuring 0.062 hectares (0.154 acres)
<u>Acquired From:</u>	Acquired from unknown – predated Council Records
<u>To Dispose To:</u>	Helen Houlihan.
<u>Consideration:</u>	Litigation Settlement – nominal amount

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Sexton, seconded by Cllr. C. Cronin, members approved the above disposal and recommended it to full plenary Council for consideration.

(a) Seafield Business Park, Seafield, Bantry, Co. Cork

Situation: Disposal at Seafield Business Park, Seafield, Bantry, Co. Cork  
Area: 0.0254 hectares plus Right of Way in favour of Michael Harrington  
Acquired From: Unknown – predated Council records  
To Dispose To: Con Keane  
Consideration: Nil - part of boundary rectification to regularize matters in the Land Registry

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Collins, seconded by Cllr. PG. Murphy, members approved the above disposal and recommended it to full plenary Council for consideration.

(b) Seafield Business Park, Seafield, Bantry, Co. Cork

Situation: Disposal at Seafield Business Park, Seafield, Bantry, Co. Cork  
Area: 0.0549 hectares  
Acquired From: Unknown – predated Council records  
To Dispose To: Michael Harrington  
Consideration: Nil - part of boundary rectification to regularize matters in the Land Registry

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Collins, seconded by Cllr. PG. Murphy, members approved the above disposal and recommended it to full plenary Council for consideration.

#### **4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr. F. Harrington voiced his concern regarding the impact of staff absenteeism on the transfer sites and their operational hours. He urged that provisions for staff coverage be arranged to address leave absences, highlighting the need to resolve this matter prior to the busy summer season. The members concurred that staff coverage should be ensured for Derryconnell, Clonakilty, and Castletownbere. Nicola Radley MD Manager noted that query for follow up.

Cllr. J. Carroll reported that the ongoing transfer of personnel back to Cork County Council from Uisce Éireann would lead to a significant shortage of staff coverage for Uisce Éireann in the West Cork region. All members concurred that the departure of local staff from Uisce Éireann was a serious issue as it would result in the loss of extensive local expertise related to the water system.

Cllr. F. Harrington reported that the water was turned off in Castletownbere this morning without any prior notice due to 'unplanned maintenance'. He highlighted that these works must be planned in advance and that local businesses are suffering when the water is turned off without any notice. Kevin Lynch EE noted that unplanned maintenance could be connected to water breaks in the network.

Cllr. I. Towse queried the N71 works on Clonakilty bypass road which had a diversion route through Shannonvale village from 7pm to 7am for the coming weeks ahead. She highlighted that the increased traffic through the village was a concern for local residents compounded by the issue that the public lights in the village has been out of service for over 12 months. Cllr. D. Sexton noted that traffic congestion issues in Clonakilty have meant that a lot of car users now use Shannonvale village to bypass Clonakilty. He reported that signage advising of the works and diversion routes were

badly placed on the roadsides and this needed to be looked at. He also queried if the works planned for next Thursday night could be cancelled as the Rally would be using that route that evening. John Ahern SEE advised the members that the contractor Ward and Burke had applied for the road closure on behalf of Uisce Eireann and that as it was a nighttime road closure the traffic volumes through Shannonvale would be low. Although Shannonvale is the signed diversion route, there is also an option retained for westbound traffic to pass through Clonakilty via Pearse St and the Western Rd which are not part of the road closure which would further reduce traffic volumes through Shannonvale. He also noted that Ward and Burke had been in contact with the local Rally organisers to discuss arrangements for the Rally route.

Cllr. F. Harrington reported that there was a delay with Electric Skyline dealing with public light faults. He noted that some lights that were fixed were out of service again within days which was further complicating matters. He called for the issue with delays in repairing public lighting to be addressed with Electric Skyline. Cllr. D. Kelly requested that a report be supplied to the members outlining the number of faults in West Cork and the timeline for their repair addressed by Electric Skyline. John Ahern SEE advised the members that repairs to the existing network are also being undertaken simultaneously with the Public Light Energy Efficiency Project which will be replacing many of these old lamps giving faults anyway. He requested that members submit any public light faults directly to their local Area Engineers office who would raise them on the Countywide Public Lighting Faults system.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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