

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting of East Cork Municipal District held via MS Teams
on 6th December, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.**

I Lathair: Cathaoirleach Cllr. McCarthy presided.
Cllrs. Linehan Foley, Ahern, Hegarty, Quaide, & Twomey.

Leathscéal: Cllr. Collins.

Ag Freastal: Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer.
Mr. Seán O' Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer.
Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer.
Mrs. Helen Mulcahy, Senior Staff Officer.
Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer.
Ms. Susan Murphy, Clerical Officer
Mr. Tom Mulcahy
Mr. John Silke

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 1st November, 2021

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st November, 2021, were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley and seconded by Cllr. Twomey.

2. Matter Arising from Minutes.

No matter arose from the minutes.

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

3.5 Speed Limit Review - Regional, Local Roads & National Road Submissions Draft A East Cork – Report circulated with November Meeting.

The Speed Limit Review - Draft A East Cork was considered and will be submitted as approved.

See attached.

3.1 Tom Mulcahy – The Way, Local walkway loop from MY Greenway to Town Centre.

Tom Mulcahy gave a presentation which included a map showing the layout of a 7km loop walk connecting the Railway Station with the Heritage Centre and returning to the Station via Main Street. He addressed the History, Accessibility and Amenity of the loop.

The Members, unanimously, supported the proposal.

Mr. Sean O'Callaghan, the Senior Executive Officer emphasised that the Council's focus would be on the development of MY Greenway project until the Greenway is completed.

A copy of the presentation was sent to Members.

3.2 Village Enhancement Scheme 2021.

It was now proposed by the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Susan McCarthy and seconded by Councillor Danielle Twomey, supported by Councillor Ann-Marie Ahern, and resolved, that the fund of €68,500 be approved to support a number of projects and be divided as follows:

1. Replacement of three footbridges in Glenbower Wood, Killeagh. A grant of €36,000 had been secured under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, 2020 from the Department as advised at the September Municipal District meeting and it was agreed that €10,000 from the Village Enhancement Scheme, 2021, operated by the Council, would be approved for this project.

2. Car Park, Ladysbridge. It was agreed that €23,000 from the Village Enhancement Scheme, 2021, would be approved to have part of the car park near the Church in Ladysbridge resurfaced in tarmac and lined appropriately.

3. Churchtown South Community Hall. It was noted that a major project for the repair, enhancement and refurbishment of the Community Hall in Churchtown South had been undertaken by the community and that they had raised a significant local contribution and had been successful in being approved for a significant grant from Leader funding. During the course of the development additional works not originally foreseen arose and needed to be carried out. A request for a contribution from the Council was made to the Municipal District and it was agreed and approved that €30,000 from the Village Enhancement Scheme, 2021, be granted to enable completion of this project.

4. Whitegate Rowing Club. On the suggestion of the Cathaoirleach it was agreed and approved that the balance of €5,500 from the fund would be made as a contribution towards a project by Whitegate Rowing Club.

The Members of the East Cork Municipal District expressed their satisfaction at the spread and diversity of the projects being supported in the Municipal District and commended the community groups involved.

3.3 Municipal District Officers Report November 2021.

Town Development Fund, 2021, was distributed as follows:

1. Painting Scheme Youghal & Midleton

€20,000 was allocated to the painting scheme in 2021. 18 applications were approved and the fund was fully expended.

2. Yew Wood Venues.

€3,000 was allocated to Yew Wood Venues for marketing and administration costs. Although closed since Covid Yew Wood Venues is now back up and running and a series of Christmas Concerts will run for the month of December. This allocation has been fully expended.

3. Youghal Clock Gate Tower.

€10,000 was allocated to Youghal Clock Gate Tower for marketing and promotion. Although closed for varying periods of time through Covid guided tours still operated where possible and marketing and website development continued behind the scenes. This allocation has been fully expended.

4. Jail Steps Repair.

The lower section of the Jail Steps suffered a significant collapse on the 13th November 2020 and has remained closed since. The cost of the repair is €100,000 with €67,000 of this coming from the Heritage Council. The remaining costs must be carried by Cork County Council - €10,000 of which was allocated from the Town Development Fund. Work is now underway to repair the collapse and reopen the pathway.

5. Youghal Chamber of Tourism and Development

€8,000 was allocated to Youghal Chamber. Following a difficult 2020 the offices remained largely open for 2021 and continued to provide services. The allocation of €8,000 has been paid to the Chamber.

6. Upgrade Market House

€6,000 to upgrade Market House, Youghal.

7. Midleton Chamber.

€3,500 was allocated to Midleton Chamber. Following a difficult 2020 the offices remained largely open for 2021 and continued to provide services. The allocation of €3,500 has yet to be drawn down .

8. Millennium Ponds Reinstatement.

€13,000 was allocated to the project to refurbish, replant and re-instate these ponds which are a beautiful feature of the park. The project is currently at the tender stage.

9. Midleton Ambush Plaque.

€2,500 was allocated to this project which is almost complete.

10. Rejuvenation of Roxboro Park.

€22,000 was allocated to this project. The project is currently at the design stage.

11. Public Realm Works at the Geeses Acres.

€14,000 was allocated to this project. The project is currently at the design stage.

12. Public Realm Works at the Courthouse/Oliver Plunkett Place.

€8,000 was allocated to this project. The project is currently at the design stage.

Project Act 2021

- The installation of two wheelchair accessible picnic benches, one in the Baby's Walk Park and one in Midleton Lodge Park. This initiative was proposed by the local Older Persons Council representative who is a key advocate for people with disabilities. The picnic benches were manufactured locally and have been installed in the parks and are proving to be very popular.
- The installation of 8 sets of seating and planters combined located throughout Midleton town in Baby's Walk Park, Midleton Lodge Park, Riverside Way, Bailick Car Park and Midleton Courthouse.
- Introduction of one way pedestrian system on the North Main Street and access to Dolphin Square Car Park in Youghal
- High visibility bollards at areas around Youghal where illegal parking created difficulties for social distancing.
- Road lining improvements throughout Youghal.
- New pedestrian crossings and speed ramps at Grattan St & Kent Street, Youghal.
- New picnic area in Greenpark, Youghal.
- New picnic benches at the Front Strand, Youghal.
- 12 outdoor dining applications granted.

Youghal Boardwalk Phase II . An additional 1.2km of boardwalk stretching from Claycastle to Redbarn was completed and opened in 2021. Its completion has created a continuous seaside walkway stretching 5 kilometres from Youghal Town Centre to Redbarn.

Midleton Pollinator Plan: Promotion of Midleton Pollinator Plan and extension of pollinator and biodiversity supporting community projects throughout the Municipal District, including Youghal, Ballinacurra and Saleen.

NTA funded project, Midleton.

The NTA funded the upgrading and enhancement of the amenity walkway from Bailick car park to Gaelscoil Mhainister na Corann. This is Phase 1 of the Ballinacurra to Midleton Pedestrian Walkway and Cycleway which will strongly integrate Ballinacurra and Midleton and will facilitate access to the MY (Midleton-Youghal) Greenway for pedestrians and cyclists.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme, 2020.

Glenbower Wood: An application for funding to facilitate the replacement of 3 no. footbridges in Glenbower Wood, Killeagh, was successful and the Department allocated €36,000 to this Project. The detailed design has been completed.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 Accelerated Measures in Response to Covid-19

Old Bridewell Gaol, Youghal

The Council was successful and received a grant of €38,000 for a joint Cork County Council, Youghal Tidy Towns and Tesco Youghal proposal to develop a community garden at the Old Bridewell Gaol, Mill Road, Youghal. The project will consist of a gated community garden including an urban orchard, raised beds, seating and courtyard.

St. Marys Collegiate Church, Youghal: The Voice of St Mary's is an immersive visitor experience at St Mary's Collegiate Church which was launched in 2021. Using a variety of interpretative media, you can engage with the 'Voices of St Mary's' and explore the meaning and significance of the site.

Conservation and Cleaning of Public Sculptures and Monuments.

In this year of commemorations and anniversaries the Municipal District arranged for the conservation and cleaning of public sculptures and monuments including:-

The Clonmult Monument, Midleton.

Nellie Cashman, Angel of the Cassiars, sculpture, Midleton.

Gyrators, sculpture, Midleton.

Sheep and Post, Sculpture, Fair Green, Midleton.

The Kindred Spirits Choctaw Monument.

3.4 Date/Time for January 2022 Meeting (Motions for January 2022 meeting to be submitted no later than 22nd December, 2021).

The Members agreed that the January, 2022 meeting of the East Cork Municipal District would be held, via MS Teams on Tuesday 4th January, 2022 at 2p.m.

3.6 Footpath Programme 2021 – Progress Report

Attached.

3.7 Section 183 Notice – Disposal adjacent to Hurley's Super Valu, Midleton.

Before notice is given to the Members of Cork County Council in relation to the proposed disposal of property in East Cork the matter is brought to the attention of the Members for the East Cork Municipal District for their consideration. Details are set out in the attached draft notice.

Situation: Disposal of land adjacent to Hurley's Super Valu, Midleton.

To Whom It Is Proposed

To Dispose: Mr. John Hurley.

Consideration: €1,000.

On the proposal of Cllr. McCarthy which was seconded by Cllr. Ahern, the Members had no objection to the proposal.

4. Business Prescribed by Statute.

5. Notices of Motion.

5.1.1 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 10th November, 2021

"Asking East Cork Municipal District to erect signage for Deers Crossing and Horse Riders at Caher area, Knockacool area, Lacken area. About 3 km stretch of road between the borders of Cork / Waterford after Half Way Bar on Tallow Road P51 DW26".

Cllr. Michael Hegarty supported the motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer will examine. He advised the Members that there are Deer Crossing signs on a substantial section of this road.

5.1.2 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 10th November, 2021

"Asking East Cork Municipal District to look at safety signage similar to Greencloyne and Summerfield for Gortroe across, bearing in mind that I have had 2 motions passed on this on safety over the last 2 years".

Cllr. Michael Hegarty supported this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer will examine this area again .

5.1.3 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 10th November, 2021

“Asking East Cork Municipal District to install a communications board at all East Cork Municipal District playgrounds to benefit children with ASD, Autism and other communication issues”.

Cllr. Danielle Twomey supported this motion and told the Members that she had previously raised this at the Social Inclusion S.P.C.

It was agreed that this matter would be referred to Mr. Vincent Flourish, Executive Engineer, for investigation but Ms. Helen Mulcahy, Senior Staff Officer reminded the Members that the playground budget is minimal.

5.1.4 Cllr. Danielle Twomey, received on 17th November, 2021

“That the L36383 be included in the 3 year roads programme with a view to prioritising resurfacing works in 2022. And that because of the fact that there are 4 farms on the road, we contact the IFA for support and the Department of Agriculture for financial support in resurfacing this road. That we also contact the Roads Department in Cork County Council and request a special allocation for works, like what was done with Whitegate”.

Cllr. Twomey informed the Members that she had spoken to the residents in this area who said that this road hasn't been resurfaced in over 50 years. This road is in the main access road for a Nursing Home, a Montessori, a Community Hall as well as four farms and houses.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer will examine but suggested that the residents might wish to apply for the Community Involvement Scheme.

5.1.5 Cllr. Danielle Twomey, received on 17th November, 2021

“Can the engineer please advise as to when in 2022 the Loughatalia to Rosehill junction will be done. And also what is the case since the contract has been awarded. Does this need to be retendered or is the contract still valid”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that the contract is still valid and will inform the Members as soon as an update is available.

5.1.6 Cllr. Danielle Twomey, received on 17th November, 2021

“Can this council write to the Department of Education and the Minister for Education and request that a full independent review be done of the projection number of Primary Students in the East Cork Area for the next 5 years.

That this report will take into account students that will need a secondary school place in the next 5 years, in the entire catchment area, not specific to the townlands. The capacity compared to the future need - and also to include what extensions are planned, and how this will cover these proposed projects will cater for the future demand of the next 5 years”.

All Members fully supported this motion.

Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley asked that this Motion be amended to ask that the Minister for Education meet with the Members of East Cork Municipal District regarding this matter.

Cllr. Liam Quiade asked that this matter also be referred to the Oireachtas Education Committee and request that the Committee also meet with the Members.

5.1.7 Cllr. Susan McCarthy, received on 29th November, 2021

“Can we have an update on the proposed resurfacing of Cork Road and also repairs needed to R632 at Lakeview northbound on approach to roundabout; needed in advance of works under the cycle scheme”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer advised the Members that repairs at Lakeview will commence in January/February 2022 and that works will also commence on Cork Road in 2022.

5.1.8 Cllr. Susan McCarthy, received on 29th November, 2021

“That council install lighting and CCTV from Baby’s Walk through to the Lodge Park. The area has become a black spot for anti-social behaviour and littering. It would be a huge help in combating these types of behaviour and encouraging more social uses both in daylight and in the evenings”.

Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer reminded the Members of the plan being developed for Midleton Lodge Park and of some recent interventions, such as the Wildflower Meadow, the replacement bridge between the Baby’s Walk and Midleton Lodge Park and the new entrance to the Baby’s Walk and Roxboro Parks in addition to tarmac surfacing from Distillery Walk to the Youghal Road entrance to Midleton Lodge, all of which had significantly increased the use by the general public of Midleton Lodge Park. The Municipal District Officer acknowledged and thanked the Executive Engineer, Janette Kenny for her great work and he thanked the Senior Executive Engineer, Dave Clarke for his support and also Michael Foley, Executive Engineer, Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme, who was extending the public lighting from the Youghal Road entrance to Midleton Lodge down through Midleton Lodge Park to the Distillery Walk entrance. Ducting to facilitate CCTV would also be provided however CCTV would not be considered until the issue of Data Protection and Data Processing arising from public CCTV Systems was resolved nationally.

5.1.9 Cllr. Liam Quaide, received on 30th November, 2021

“That the East Cork MD would work with the Midleton Farmers' Market traders on fixing a water tap that is needed for health and safety purposes, and that the MD would agree to take two bags of rubbish from the traders on the Monday after a market day”.

Mr. Joe McCarthy, East Cork Municipal District Officer advised that the tap was replaced but that rubbish would not be collected as it is a matter for each individual trader to ensure

their waste is disposed of by providing suitable receptacles within their trading bays as required by the Casual Trading Bye Laws and the terms and conditions of their Licences.

5.1.10 Cllr. Liam Quaide, received on 30th November 2021

“That safety measures be prioritised for the pedestrian crossing in Ballinacurra in advance of the cycleway scheme due to the dangers posed at present”.

All Members agreed that the interventions of retro fitting carried out had improved safety but that further interventions are necessary which will be delivered through the Ballinacurra to Midleton Cycleway and Pedestrian Walkway Project.

5.1.11 Cllr. Liam Quaide, received on 30th November 2021

That the East Cork MD would write to the three party leaders in government - Micheál Martin, Eamon Ryan and Leo Varadkar - and Paul Reid, HSE CEO, to oppose the removal of 24 hour staffed care from the East Cork mental health services under current proposals to consider new development on the Owenacurra Centre site which would be limited to lower intensity support residences. 24 hour staffed care is an essential part of service provision to facilitate people with the highest level of need to live in their own communities. There is significant provision of 24 hour care across other parts of Cork County and city.

This was seconded by Cllr. Danielle Twomey and agreed.

5.1.12 Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern, received on 30th November 2021

“That the council carry out an inspection of the Tallow to Dungourney road for repairs (adjacent to Leahy's Open Farm)”

Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer to inspect this area.

5.1.13 Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern, received on 30th November 2021

“Is there any update on the erection of signs for cycle lanes in Midleton”

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer to investigate.

5.1.14 Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern, received on 30th November 2021

“Can a feasibility study be carried out on the upgrade to some lighting in housing estates”.

The Senior Executive Engineer understands that the Council is progressing the upgrading of public lighting to LED lighting and he suggested that Members advise the Public Lighting Engineer of any requests for upgrading and to advise of outages to Airtricity.

6. Correspondence.

No correspondence was received.

7. Any Other Business.

7.1 All Members offered their sympathy and condolences to Cllr. Michael Hegarty on the death of his brother.

7.2 Cllr. Danielle Twomey proposed that funding be made available from Community Grants Reserve Fund for the Cloyne Community First Responders Group for the purchase of equipment. This was seconded by Cathoirleach Susan McCarthy and supported by all the Members and approved.

The Cathoirleach thanked everybody for their support throughout the year and wished the Councillors and staff the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING