**Minutes of Monthly Meeting of East Cork Municipal District held via MS Teams   
on 4th July 2022 at 10.30 a.m.**

**I LATHAIR:** Cathaoirleach Hegarty presided.

Cllrs. Linehan Foley, McCarthy, Ahern, Twomey, Quaide

**Ag Freastal:** Ms. Helen Mulcahy, Senior Staff Officer.

Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer.

Mrs. Geraldine O’ Connell, Clerical Officer.

Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer.

1. **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 7th June 2022.**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th June 2022, were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley and seconded by Cllr McCarthy.

1. **Matter Arising from Minutes.**

No matters arose.

**3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.**

**3.1 Municipal District Officer’s Report.**

Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer circulated the following Municipal District Officers Report July 2022 to the Members:

**Glenbower Wood:**

3 No. footbridges have been installed in Glenbower Wood and the project is now completed.

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

**Old Bridewell Gaol, Youghal**

Work on gated community garden, including an urban orchard, raised beds, seating and courtyard, is almost complete with the only outstanding item being the completion of surfacing.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020, Accelerated Measures – Castlemartyr Footpath Project.

A grant of €25,000 was approved under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 Accelerated Measures to part fund the development of a linear walkway from Castlemartyr village along the Ladysbridge road to the entrance to Castlemartyr Resort/ Forestry entrance. A further €68,500 was allocated to this project from the 2019 Village Enhancement Scheme (Council funded scheme). We are advised that it is necessary to retender the project as the contractor has not progressed a multi-site works package awarded in 2021 and has now formally withdrawn from the contract.

Traffic and Transport Section has advised that the footpath should be increased to be a 3m wide shared cycle / footpath standard – and we will tender on that basis. The Senior Engineer advises that once tenders are back, Traffic and Transport will confirm National Transport Authority’s approval of any necessary budget increase /required for the provision of 3 m shared cycleway. The Senior Engineer also suggested bike stands near junction by disability viewing area.

Roads Design Office has been asked to detail the pedestrian crossing works at the Hotel Entrance and we will engage with the Hotel once details are available.

Castlemartyr Community Group and Castlemarty Carers group will be contacted regarding the proposal.

Extent of works is Phase 1 only – i.e. from traffic lights to Woods entrance. Current estimate for these works is €175,000. A later phase 2 from the Woods Entrance to the GAA footpath could provide for a footpath / parking and a pedestrian crossing on the regional road to Bridgestown Estate.

Water Services will carry out their works at the Pumping Station in the next month or so.

This report was marked as read.

**3.2 East Cork Municipal District Roads Grant Programme 2022 Progress Report.**

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer circulated the following East Cork Municipal District Roads Grant Programme 2022 Progress Report to the Members.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Funding Grant Category** | **Project Number** | **Road Class** | **Road Number** | **Road Name and or Townland Name** | **Length of Work (m)** | **% Completed** |
| Restoration Maintenance | RM 1 | LP | L-3601-53, L-3601-85 | East Cork – L-3601 (part) Ballyedmond to Rathgire | 3,664 | 100% |
| Restoration Maintenance | RM 2 | LP | L-3625-0 | East Cork – L-3625 (part) Carneys Cross to Geargh Cross | 1,700 | 100% |
| Restoration Maintenance | RM 3 | R | R-629-0 | East Cork – R-629 (part) Scarriff to Knockgorm | 1,104 | 100% |
| Restoration Maintenance | RM 4 | R | R-630-0 | East Cork – R630 (part) Rostellan towards Whitewell | 2,250 | 0% |
| Restoration Maintenance | RM 5 | LS | L-7658-0 | East Cork – Jamesbrook (Saleen to Garranekinnefeake) | 1,960 | 100% |
| Restoration Maintenance | RM 6 | R | R-626-0 | East Cork – R626 (part) Ballyedmond Bridge to East Cork Oil | 1,061 | 0% |
| Restoration Maintenance | RM 7 | LS | L-7694-0 | East Cork – L7694 (part) Lisgoold East from Top Cross towards Ballycurrany | 1,350 | 0% |
| Restoration Maintenance | RM 8 | LP | L-3619-51 | East Cork – L3619 (part) Ballintubber Road, Baneshane to Ballyvodock East | 1,684 | 0% |
| Restoration Maintenance | RM 9 | LP | L-3821-0 | East Cork – L-3821 (part) Ladysbridge to Glennageare Cross | 2,860 | 0% |
| Restoration Maintenance | RM 10 | R | R627-129 | East Cork – R-627 (part) Murleys Cross to Aughnalyra | 2,220 | 0% |
| Restoration Maintenance | RM 11 | LP, LS | L-3811-0, L-7850-0, L7856-0 | East Cork – L7856 (part) & L3811 (part) Gortroe to Ballyling | 5,128 | 100% |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Restoration Maintenance | | RM 12 | LS | L-7857-0 | East Cork – L7857 Burgress X to Gortnagark | 879 | 100% |
| Restoration Maintenance | | RM 13 | LS | L-7858-0 | East Cork – L7858 Clearies Road | 1,318 | 100% |
| Restoration Maintenance | | RM 14 | LS | L-7833 | East Cork – L7833 Ballymacooley Bridge to Monashask Cross | 4,201 | 0% |
|  | |  | **RESTORATION MAINTENANCE SUBTOTAL =** | | | **31,379** |  |
|  |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 1 | LP | L-3619-51 | East Cork – L3619 Ballintuber Road (Section at Castlerock) | 410 | 0% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 2 | R | R-630-6 | East Cork – R630 Loughatalia to Rosehill | 672 | 10% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 3 | R | R-634-9 | East Cork – R634 Tallow Road at Halfway | 931 | 0% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 4 | LP | L-3645-21 | East Cork – L3645 Trabolgan to Ballyhook | 600 | 0% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 5 | LP | L-3800-0, L-3800-16 | East Cork – L3800 Rathorgan to Monalyre X | 1,707 | 0% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 6 | R | R-907-0 | East Cork – R907 Cork Road, Midleton | 944 | 5% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 7 | LS | L-9524-0 | East Cork – L9524 Sarsfield Terrace Youghal | 256 | 0% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 8 | LS | L-728-2 | East Cork – Riversfield Estate | 108 | 0% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 9 | LS | L-7824-0 | East Cork – L7824 from R627 to Barradaw | 1,670 | 95% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 10 | LS | L-7710-0 | East Cork – Hydes Park, Ballinacurra | 47 | 100% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 11 | LS | L-7844-0 | East Cork – L7844 Kyle | 1,212 | 95% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 12 | R | L-R-626-0 | East Cork – R626 (part) at Carrigogna | 417 | 0% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 13 | LP | L-3818-49 | East Cork – L3815 (part) New Line Ballymacoda | 275 | 0% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 14 | LP | L-3601-0, L-3601-29 | East Cork – L3601 Monaleen Bridge to Peafield X | 1,680 | 0% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 15 | LP | L-3615-19 | East Cork – L3815 Kilcredan Road to Kilcraheen | 1,330 | 0% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 16 | LP | L-3643-0 | East Cork – L3643 Lahard | 1,012 | 95% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 17 | LS | L-7841-0 | East Cork – L7841 (part) Ballyglassin | 900 | 60% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 18 | LS | L-7657-0 | East Cork – L7657 (part) at Jamesbrook | 710 | 100% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 19 | LS | L-7847-0 | East Cork – L7847 (part) Ballyhobert | 720 | 0% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 20 | LP | L-3639-0 | East Cork – L3639 (part) Ballydavid Road | 814 | 100% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 21 | LS | L-7806-31 | East Cork – L7806 (part) Breeda Road by Breeda Bridge | 1,000 | 0% |
| Restoration Improvement | | RI 22 | LP | L-3601-0 | East Cork – L3601 Peafield Cross to Ballyogaha West (substituted for Churchtown Phase 1) | 906 | 0% |
|  | |  | **Restoration Improvement Subtotal\* =** | | | **18,321** |  |
| Development Contributions | |  | R | R-626-0 | East Cork – R626 (part) at Upper Mill Road | 300 | 100% |
|  | |  |  | KEY | |  |  |
|  | |  |  | By Cork County Council | |  |  |
|  | |  |  | By Contractor | |  |  |

This report was marked as read.

**3.3 Speed Limit Review 2021/2022 Regional & Local Roads (Draft B Stage).**

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer circulated the Speed Limit Review 2021/2022 Regional & Local Roads (Draft B Stage) to the Members.

Mr. Dave Clarke informed the Members that the public consultation phase of the agreed Draft A proposed amendments to the speed limits has been completed.  No objections were received so the drawings showing the proposed amendments to the Speed Limits on Regional & Local roads have been moved to Draft B stage.  He is now seeking members approval to allow the recommended changes to be incorporated into a Draft Countywide Speed Limit Byelaws document, which it is intended to put before Full Council in September for adoption on a Countywide basis.

The Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that the Roads Director’s Office has advised that the Roads Directorate had hoped to be in a position to put the previously recommended suggested changes on National Routes to the MD Meetings in July also, but as it is taking longer to achieve TII consent to the changes, the Draft B National Roads element of review will have to come forward at a later meeting.

Cllr. Twomey asked if a brief outline could be given regarding Bowles Gate Corner.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that there is a proposed speed limit change of 60 kph at the bend on this road which will then revert to 80 kph further up the road.

On the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley which was seconded by Cllr. McCarthy the Members unanimously adopted the Draft B Stage of the Speed Limit Review 2021/2022 Regional & Local Roads.

1. **Business Prescribed by Statute.**

None.

1. **Notices of Motion.**

5.1.1 Cllr. Liam Quaide, received on 13th June 2022

“That the East Cork MD would request, as a matter of urgency, a meeting between Michael Fitzgerald, HSE Chief Officer, and the local Cllrs and Ms. Liz Maddox, head of Castlemartyr Family Carers and Disability Group, on the future of the Castlemartyr Health Centre and the implications for local constituents who use the Centre of any changes to the services provided”.

Cllrs. Linehan Foley, McCarthy, Twomey, Hegarty & Ahern seconded this motion.

Cllr. Linehan Foley informed the Members that she has contacted the HSE regarding this matter and is awaiting a reply, once Cllr. Linehan Foley has received a reply she will forward same to Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer to circulate to the Members.

Cllr. Twomey asked if the scope of the motion could be extended regarding a facility in Cloyne that has been abandoned by the HSE and stated that a wider conversation on this matter is needed to tackle the issue of such facilities rural areas.

Cllr. Ahern proposed that the motion be extended to involve several stakeholders with a members from each group being requested to attend a meeting.

5.1.2 Cllr. Liam Quaide, received on 13th June 2022

“That the East Cork MD would explore possibilities with local volunteers for the creation of a new Midleton Community Garden and consider Council land for a possible site”.

Cllr. Quaide asked that consideration of this motion be deferred to the September Meeting.

5.1.3 Cllr. Liam Quaide, received on 13th June 2022

“That the East Cork MD would write to Paul Reid, HSE CEO, and the three leaders in government to oppose latest proposals by the HSE to remove 24-hour staffed mental health placements from East Cork for several years at least while a notional new facility is going through a lengthy planning process followed by a recruitment drive, and that the Oireachtas Health Committee recommendation of a reversal of the closure be followed through, and a less disruptive means of addressing the building issues be pursued by the HSE”.

Cllr. Quaide circulated the following draft letter to the HSE to the Members for their consideration.

Dear Mr. Reid, Taoiseach, Tanaiste and Minister Ryan,

Following a lengthy appraisal of the Owenacurra Centre closure rationale, including a three hour public meeting with the HSE, consideration of building reports and a site visit, the Oireachtas Health Committee concluded in April that the evidence produced was “unconvincing”, that it raised “concerns about the ad-hoc nature of the decision-making process relating to capital infrastructure of mental health facilities”. The Committee went on to recommend a reversal of the closure decision. The Health Committee has since conveyed a more detailed refutation of the closure rationale to Minister Butler, Mr. Reid and, more recently, to the HSE Board.

Despite repeated briefings suggesting otherwise, no independent reports have, in fact, supported the HSE’s position that the Owenacurra building issues are beyond repair. The independent Asbestos Management Survey report of October 2019 from Occupational Hygiene & Safety Services (OHSS) and the Fire Safety Risk Assessment report of March 2021 by Maurice Johnson & Partners set out works that needed to be undertaken on the Owenacurra Centre premises. Neither report indicated that the Owenacurra building could not be brought up to an acceptable standard. An undated internal HSE Estates Dept. report claimed that the building was beyond repair. There is no evidence from this report that a new building survey was carried out in arriving at this conclusion.

In October 2021 three families of Owenacurra Centre residents wrote to Mr. Michael Fitzgerald, Cork/Kerry HSE Chief Officer, to request that they be allowed to appoint an independent structural engineer to assess the feasibility of renovations of the Owenacurra Centre. They received a response five weeks later, saying that this would “not be viable”.

Removing the Owenacurra Centre is not just uprooting a very vulnerable group of people from their home, it is leaving East Cork uniquely disadvantaged in the broader Cork region in respect of residential mental health provision.

1) Service disparities and A Vision for Change: The service disparity with other areas arising from this closure is highlighted when we contrast East Cork with North Cork. North Cork has a full multidisciplinary Rehabilitation Mental Health Team and three 24-hour staffed community residences for people with severe and enduring mental health difficulties. The North Cork catchment is made up of three Adult Mental Health Teams whose populations were recorded at the last census as:

Kanturk: 33,495

Mallow: 39,405

Fermoy: 19,826

Total: 92, 726

Each of the main North Cork towns has a 24-hour staffed community mental health residence:

Kanturk residence: Cois Alla (14 single, en-suite rooms)

Mallow residence: Solas Nua (14 single, en-suite rooms)

Fermoy residence: Carrigabrick (14 single, en-suite rooms)

2) Proposed new facilities in East Cork: It is concerning to hear that the HSE are on the point of purchasing a new property in East Cork without considering a renovation of the Owenacurra premises, which has, due to its town centre location, considerable community integration advantages for its residents, as well as being their longstanding home. A briefing from HSE management dated May 26th indicated that a house that could accommodate 3-4 people in Midleton would be 24-hour staffed. Families of Owenacurra Centre residents were later informed in family meetings that this house will not be 24-hour staffed. This has since changed again, following a further briefing from local management. This level of confused and chaotic decision-making is adding to the distress of families.

The HSE has also proposed the construction of a 10-bed facility in Midleton that will be 24-hour staffed. As this has not yet gone through a pre-planning stage such a facility would take several years to be completed. A complicated planning process would be followed by a further potentially lengthy process of staff recruitment. Most of the existing residents would be dispersed around Cork for those years and there would be no capacity to take in any new local residents in East Cork. This means the local service of respite referrals would have stalled completely since February 2021, which was the last time the Owenacurra Centre took in a new resident. There is no funding commitment for this notional service secured, nor is there even a site identified. We are therefore looking at a minimum 4-5 years before this service materialises, assuming the HSE are acting in good faith.

Families of residents have written to the Health Committee and expressed deep concern about the prolonged uncertainty that such a plan involves for them and their relatives and about the potential for undoing many years of painstaking progress. Uprooting people with severe and enduring mental illness from their home involves major upheaval for them and a risk of regression.

Conclusion:

In light of the above, we ask you as decision-makers to intervene and uphold the rights of remaining Owenacurra Centre residents to have building issues in their home addressed in a less disruptive manner than being dispersed around Cork, in some cases to premises such as St. Stephen’s Hospital, Glanmire that are inferior in key respects.

The loss of the Owenacurra Centre, including its town centre location, would involve far-reaching adverse consequences for the most vulnerable group of people attending the East Cork mental health services, and would constitute a regression in their care and rehabilitation. We also ask that the service requirements for the broader cohort of people in East Cork with severe and enduring mental illness, as set out in A Vision for Change, are funded and provided as a matter of urgency.

All Members fully supported this motion.

Cllr. Hegarty proposed that the CEO of the HSE be written to regarding this motion.

5.1.4 Cllr. Danielle Twomey, received on 14th June, 2022

“Can the footpaths at Castlemanor and Kiltha park in Castlemartyr be inspected for repair”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that he will inspect these footpaths and any defect identified will be prioritised and put on the footpath programme.

5.1.5 Cllr. Danielle Twomey, received on 14th June, 2022

“I’m asking that the council please conduct an assessment for driver feedback signs coming into Garryvoe village (Ladysbridge approach) and if there is any funding available from any source whatsoever that we explore this as a road safety measure, due to the absence of community groups in the area”.

Cllr. Hegarty seconded this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer will assess this matter.

5.1.6 Cllr. Danielle Twomey, received on 14th June, 2022

“Can this Council install ramps at the St Colman’s national school in Cloyne”.

Cllr. Ahern seconded this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer will examine the issue of speeding around school opening and closing times and will have a speed survey carried out at this location.

* + 1. Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 24th June, 2022

“Asking ECMD to look at extending the pontoon on Nealons Quay , bearing in mind the asset this is to the town of Youghal and surrounds”.

All Members supported this motion.

Ms. Helen Mulcahy, Senior Staff Officer informed the Members that the original pontoon project was managed by Coastal Management and funded by the Department of Agriculture and Marine and stated that a feasibility study would need to be carried out to determine the suitability of an extension to the pontoon.

Cllr. Hegarty proposed that the motion be forwarded to Coastal Management.

* + 1. Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 24th June, 2022

“Asking that signage be put near outfall on beach to warn people that it’s there on front strand beach, there is signage on Pathway but when tide is in it’s quite dangerous”.

Ms. Helen Mulcahy, Senior Staff Officer will investigate this matter.

5.1.9 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 24th June, 2022

“Can we ask the ECMD to look at drainage issues behind the community centre as flooding is a problem and this area is widely used with pedestrians”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer will investigate this matter and stated that there is a possibility that the drains at this location may need to be jetted.

5.1.10 Cllr. Michael Hegarty, received on 28th June, 2022

“Update on the status of Casual Trading Bye Laws within the East Cork Municipal District”.

Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer informed the Members that there is no further update on the status of Casual Trading Bye Laws and stated that the advice from County Hall is that work is ongoing regarding the Bye - Laws with a schedule regarding Historic Trading Rights around the County being prepared.

In the interim Joe will liaise with Mr. Seán O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer, and will email the Members with any update on same.

5.1.11 Cllr Michael Hegarty, received on 28th June, 2022

“That the trees and hedging at Gortroe cross road off of L3812where it meets the N25 be trimmed for a safe exit for all road users”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer will make contact with the landowner in question.

5.1.12 Cllr Michael Hegarty, received on 28th June 2022

“That the L7863 road from Garryvoe Upper to Ballincourlea and Knockglass on the Ladysbridge Road be repaired”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer will list this road for repairs.

5.1.13 Cllr Ann Marie Ahern, received 29th June 2022

“Any further update on my previous motion regarding a lighted pedestrian footpath from Grange, Castlemartyr to Main Street Castlemartyr”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer referred this matter to the NRDO and was informed that there is no TII funding available presently.

Cllr. Ahern proposed that the NRDO be written to again to raise this matter.

5.1.14 Cllr Ann Marie Ahern, received 29th June 2022

“Is there any possibility for a driver feedback sign at Dungourney Village to assist in reducing the speed going through the Village”.

Cllrs. Twomey and Hegarty seconded this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that a CIS application for the provision of a Driver Feedback Sign on the Midleton approach at this location would be positively viewed.

5.1.15 Cllr Ann Marie Ahern, received 29th June 2022

“Following positive work in cutting hedgerows by road maintenance crews, is it possible to review cutting around road signs at Crossroads and by-roads”.

Cllrs. Twomey, Linehan Foley, Hegarty & Quaide supported this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that localized cutting at junctions where the line of sight is lost is undertaken by Cork County Council and stated that approach roads to beaches are cut back in February. He stated that he would need specific locations to address this motion.

1. **Correspondence.**

No Correspondence was received.

1. **Any Other Business.**

1. Cllr. Linehan Foley informed the Members that Sruthain na Saili Residents Association applied online for funding of €500.00 under the Community Grant Scheme and stated that their application was never received. Cllr. Linehan Foley stated that she was asking for support from her fellow Councilors for the allocation of €500 for this estate.

Cllrs. Hegarty, Twomey & Ahern supported this request.

1. Cllr. Twomey informed the Members that she was contacted by the Kindred Spirit Group regarding bins that they have put out around Midleton town and stated that it was impossible to get public liability insurance and asked if there is anything the East Cork Municipal District can do to support the group. Cllr. Quaide supported this matter.

Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer advised that while he is always grateful for the involvement and support of community groups, Cork County Council cannot cover these bins with their insurance.

Cllr. Hegarty asked if there was any way the group could be indemnified on the Council’s policy. The Municipal District Officer informed the Members that Cork County Council have to satisfy their insurers that people working within the Council have the proper PPE gear, are trained in Health & Safety and are experienced workers in order to have their own employees indemnified and it would not be possible to have their insurance extended to indemnify the group.

1. Cllr. Hegarty raised the issue of 3 dangerous potholes on the Shanagarry road out of Cloyne to Ballymaloe which need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

**This Concluded the Business of the Meeting.**