

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting of East Cork Municipal District
held blended through MS Teams and Pearse Memorial Chambers
on 3rd January 2023 at 2.30 p.m.**

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

Ag Freastal: Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer.
Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer.
Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer.
Mr. Donald A. Cronin Senior Executive Engineer.
Mrs. Geraldine O' Connell, Clerical Officer.

Leathscéal: Mr. Paraig Lynch, A/Senior Executive Officer.

The Mayor wished the Members and Staff of the East Cork Municipal District a prosperous new year.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 5th December 2022.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th December 2022 were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr McCarthy and seconded by Cllr Ahern.

2. Matter Arising from Minutes.

2.1 Cllr. Ahern asked if an amendment could be made to the December minutes regarding the Eirgrid Presentation to state that she requested a copy of paperwork between Eirgrid, Iarnrod Eireann & TII in relation to the proposed route for the laying of the Celtic Interconnector Electricity Cable along the preferred route.

Cllr. McCarthy asked if an amendment could be made to the December minutes stating that she had requested an update on communication to the National Roads Design Office regarding the sound barrier along the embankment between Bailick Park and the N25.

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

3.1 Section 183 – 2 No. Wayleaves at Summerfield, Youghal.

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: Grant of 2 no. Wayleaves at Summerfield, Youghal, Co. Cork to facilitate Celtic Interconnector Project.

Area: 61m x varying widths and 60m x varying widths.

From Whom Acquired: Youghal UDC.

To Whom It Is Proposed
To Dispose: EirGrid PLC.

Consideration: €1

On the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley which was seconded by Cllr. Twomey the Members had no objection to the proposal.

3.2 Water Rock Linear Park.

Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer circulated the following report to the Members following a presentation to the East Cork Municipal District on Water Rock Linear Park which was held on 28th July 2022.

Notification on Planning Process:

- Appropriate assessment had been deemed to be required, due to need for “Mitigation Measures” and related to “Combined Impact” of other proposed developments in the area.
- Part 8 Planning Process is **no longer** required.

An Bord Pleanala:

- Cork County Council to submit to An Bord Pleanala (ABP) for approval of Local Authority Development (instead of Part 8 approval by elected members).
- Further Survey/Study requirement currently being addressed.
- Programme for submission to An Bord Pleanala is Q1 2023.

Public Information Event:

- 26th October 2022.

Attendance:

- 176 no. signed the Attendance Sheet (135 from Willowbank).

Submissions:

- 128 no. Submissions at the Information Event.
- 127 no. Submission by Email.
- 19 no. Submissions by post.
- Total Submissions no. 274.

Main Issue (Access to Willowbank Estate):

- 121 no. individual submissions against all the proposed access routes to Willowbank.
- 381 no. signatures on a single submission objecting to all access routes via Willowbank.
- 7 no. submissions in favour of all access routes.

Concerns (Parking, Safety, Security Open Space Impact, Privacy):

- Visitors use of Willowbank Estate roads for parking – parking space is currently limited.
- Increased traffic would mean increased risk of accidents.
- Existing green areas reduced to facilitate the access points.
- Reduced security for young children and properties.
- Loss of privacy and devaluation of property/houses.
- Willowbank to become a transit space for anti-social behavior.
- Safety of children and the lives of children with disabilities in the estate.
- Access to river may lead to increased incidents of drowning.

Following Public Information Event:

- Assessment of Submission.
- Developed Options 1 to 3.
- Members views on Options 1 to 3.
- EM support on a single Option to proceed.

Option 1 (Original Proposal):

- Keep all access points to Willowbank.
- Keep sensory garden.

Option 2 (Single Willowbank Entrance):

- Single Main Access Point to Willowbank.
- Omit sensory garden.

Option 3 (No Willowbank Entrances):

- Omit all proposed pedestrian access points at Willowbank.
- Omit sensory garden.
- Omit flood berm interference (as far as possible).

Cllr. Twomey stated that she is of the opinion that Option 3 is by far the best option going forward in terms of alleviating flooding for Willowbank Estate.

Cllr. McCarthy stated that all Members have received multiple concerns from the residents of Willowbank and is happy to proceed with Option 3.

Cllr. Ahern also stated that she is happy to support the residents of Willowbank and proceed with option 3 and stated that she will raise the provision of a sensory garden elsewhere within the park at a future date.

Cllr. Healy asked if the residents have been consulted. Cllr. McCarthy stated that the residents are aware that this issue is being raised at today's meeting.

Cllr. Twomey wished to formally second the Members proposal.

Cllr. Ahern asked if the Members could be kept up to date on this item.

Mr. Donald Cronin, Senior Executive Engineer agreed to revert back and brief the Members on the status on the proposed Water Rock Linear Park.

3.3 Response received from Mr. Paraig Lynch, A/Senior Executive Officer on items raised under Motion Nos. 5.1.17 & 5.1.8 at the December Meeting of the East Cork Municipal District.

5.1.17 Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern, received on 30th November 2022

“Can this council, with TII, install a signalled control crossing at the entrance to primary school in Castlemartyr”.

Following the interviews held in December, no appointment of a School Warden was made. The position has now been re-advertised and interviews should take place in due course. The road safety issues at this location have been brought to the attention of the Director of Services for Roads who has undertaken to raise the issues directly with TII.

5.1.8 Cllr. Liam Quaide, received on 29th November 2022

“That the East Cork MD would consider other funding avenues for much-needed upgrades and maintenance of the People's Path from Whitegate to Rostellan after the most recent application to the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme was declined”.

The decision by the Department of Rural & Community Development not to provide funding for this project was raised by Cork County Council with Department officials. The reply received is below.

“An application, Peoples Path, Aghada, East Cork, was received under Measure 3 of the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme for widening & improvement works to sections of the popular 5km long ‘The Peoples Path’ & recreation of rest areas & landscaping works.

All projects were assessed by means of a competitive process, based on the criteria of the scheme outline. A number of factors were considered by the Department, including the information supplied in the Application Form; the range, mix, quality and impact of proposed projects; previous funding provided; any prioritisation of projects indicated by the applicants; inclusion of different population groups including people with disabilities and other adults; geographical spread; project delivery and other relevant considerations.

Due to funding constraints and the level of interest in the scheme, there was a limit on the amount of eligible projects that could receive approval. The overall quality of the applications submitted this year was very high and although Peoples Path was a strong project it did not reach the qualifying score required under this funding round.

Cllr. Quaide asked if would be possible to write back and ask for more detailed feedback from the Department of Rural & Community Development.

Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer agreed to draft another letter.

4. Business Prescribed by Statute.

None.

5. Notices of Motion.

5.1.1 Cllr. Danielle Twomey, received 13th December 2022

“Can the Old Cork Road be inspected for the following issues:

1. Blind corner on access coming from the New Cork Road, and the possibility of a build out or widening of footpath at this point.
2. Additional road markings after the Woodlands entrance to alert motorists of the one way system. Some sat navs. are telling people they can drive up this road.
3. The safety of the Hotel car park entrance and the blind corner, and narrowness of the entrance.
4. The possibility of further “slow down” markings or signage.
5. Drains to be looked at for blockages and upgrades”.

All Members supported this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that he will investigate this motion and will seek further clarification on this matter from Cllr. Twomey.

5.1.2 Cllr. Danielle Twomey, received on 13th December 2022

“Can the road at Lisgoold village be listed for repairs immediately and in future programmes be looked at for resurfacing. Can the road between the GAA pitch and the pub be looked at for slow down markings or rumble strips”.

All Members fully supported this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that this road is listed for repairs and stated that the road between the GAA pitch and the pub could be considered for traffic calming under the Low Cost Safety Scheme and will look at the provision of road markings here also.

5.1.3 Cllr. Danielle Twomey, received on 13th December 2022

“Any update or response from TII on Oatencake flyover. Relating specifically to the lighting issue and the need for footpath upgrades”.

Cllr. McCarthy fully supported this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that the responsibility for this road falls under TII and stated that he has received no response to date from TII. The Engineer informed the Members that repairs had been carried out in the vicinity of the bridge joint and footpath but nothing substantial or recent.

Cllr. McCarthy proposed that the Municipal District write to TII and the NRDO and request the provision of a wider footpath at this location and an improvement in lighting. Cllr. Twomey seconded this proposal.

Mr. Joe McCarthy agreed to follow up on this matter.

5.1.4 Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern, received on 18th December 2022

“Is it possible for interim remedial works be carried out at Carrigogna Bridge until the resurfacing work is done where a deep dip has occurred on the road”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that it is intended to carry out road repairs in advance of the surface dressing works planned for the R626 from Tir Cluan to Carrigogna and stated that these road repairs will include the dip.

5.1.5 Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern, received on 18th December 2022

“Can the East Cork MD refer to the property department of Cork County Council to assist in identifying lands that would be suitable for the re- establishment of a Pitch & Putt course in Midleton”.

Cllrs. Twomey, McCarthy & Hegarty seconded this motion.

Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer informed the Members that he will write to the property department regarding this motion.

5.1.6 Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern, received on 18th December 2022

“Has this MD been updated if there is any further development on the proposal for pedestrian access of the Midleton - Youghal Greenway by Kilmountain Cross?”.

Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer will follow up with Seán O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer, on this motion and will revert back to the Members.

5.1.7 Cllr. Susan McCarthy, received on 19th December 2022

“Following previous motions I submitted on upgrade to Drury’s Lane/Connolly Street, particularly to address safety issues, footpaths, lighting etc, I’m requesting updates on proposed actions/funding for same?”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer, informed the Members that the lighting upgrade has been successfully completed with Council’s own funding and the speed limit has been reduced to 30 kph. Funding to advance other measures i.e. colour contrasting road surfacing, bollards and yield sign is still not available and will be considered under the Low-Cost Safety Scheme funding applications.

5.1.8 Cllr. Susan McCarthy, received on 19th December 2022

“That the traffic lights at the Cork Road Junction with the Northern Relief Road be recalibrated as a matter of urgency. I have brought this up a number of times before, but unfortunately the situation with tailbacks seems to be worsening. This is causing extremely dangerous tailbacks out of the slip and backing up on to the N25 as well as queues as far back as the roundabout at the Midleton Park Hotel”.

All Members unanimously supported this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that the capacity of this traffic light-controlled junction is exceeded at peak times and can result in traffic queuing on all four legs. The medium term proposal to address the capacity issue of the junction is the advancement of the N25 Carrigtwohill to Midleton Upgrade Scheme. The Engineer informed the Members that in the short term the council will be modifying the junction to provide for 2 inbound lanes on the Cork Road until past the junction and the removal of the right turn lane onto the NRR, these works have been awarded and are being carried out as part of the LIHAF (Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund) Water Rock project.

5.1.9 Cllr. Susan McCarthy, received on 19th December 2022

“That double yellow lines be drawn on the entry lane to Millbrook Estate from the Mill Road. Cars and vans have been parked here on a daily basis, and when there is traffic exiting the estate, cars on the Mill Road cannot enter, causing unnecessary tailbacks on the busy Mill Road”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer will investigate the extension of double yellow lines at this location.

5.1.10 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 19th December 2022

“Any update on Footpath on Raheen Road Youghal at the Town Walls side for 2023”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that the Traffic & Transportation Section of Cork County Council have identified measures in Youghal town that have been forwarded to the National Transport Authority with a view to securing funding, to enhance active travel journeys and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists within Youghal town, the measures identified include Raheen Road where a gap in the footpath network exists, the Engineer informed the Members that currently the priority is the delivery of the Active Travel Projects already approved by the NTA for Youghal town – i.e. Summerfield Cross to Aura, Greenway to South Abbey, junction at St. Raphael’s to South Abbey National School and Quarry Road.

5.1.11 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 19th December 2022

“Can the flooding on Pier Head be looked at possibility of blocked drains”.

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

5.1.12 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 19th December 2022

“Can salting be looked at in icy weather from the bypass into Youghal coming in from Strand side”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that salting or gritting is carried out in accordance with the Council’s Winter Service Plan, the plan sets out the priority roads for gritting and which of those roads are pre-treated based on forecasted and road surface temperatures, the R634 from the Youghal Bypass at Rhincrew into and up Cork Hill back to the bypass is pretreated as a P2 route. The Engineer informed the Members that the R634 approach to Youghal from the Cork side is not listed as a priority route, this road would be treated as local resources permit when a prolonged period of snow/icy conditions occur, the road was treated during the prolonged cold weather period in December and stated that it is not safe to post treat Windmill Hill.

5.1.13 Cllr. Liam Quaide, received on 20th December 2022

“That the East Cork MD would pursue the development of a segregated pathway / cycleway linking Trabolgan to Whitegate addressing current dangers on the road for residents and visitors, and adding to the tourism appeal of this side of East Cork”.

Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer will forward this motion to TII for consideration.

5.1.13 Cllr. Michael Hegarty, received on 22nd December 2022

“When will work commence on the car park in Ladysbridge”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that he will seek quotations on same and will revert back to the Municipal District Officer.

5.1.15 Cllr. Michael Hegarty, received on 22nd December 2022

“Due to the frost and recent icy conditions on our roads what works are planned to address same”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that roads that have been damaged by the recent cold weather are being assessed and will be taken into account when listing roads for 2023.

5.1.16 Cllr. Michael Hegarty, received on 22nd December, 2022

“As discussed previously that steps be taken to address the inadequate bus time frequency in East Cork”.

Cllrs. Twomey, McCarthy & Linehan Foley supported this motion.

Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer informed the Members that he has received no update from Bus Eireann and proposed that the Members take this opportunity to send him a detailed list of concerns to send off to Bus Eireann for consideration.

6). Correspondence.

No correspondence was received.

7). Any Other Business.

1. Cllr. Hegarty raised the issue of the flooding on the L7678 road at Cloyne which needs to be addressed as it is in very poor condition and is frequently used by joggers and walkers.
2. Cllr. Linehan Foley raised the issue of defects on the road from Bawnmore to the Island at Kilcoran Road and asked if this could be investigated.

The next meeting of the East Cork Municipal District will take place on Tuesday 7th February at 1.30 p.m. at Mall House, Youghal.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

