

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of East Cork Municipal District held blended through MS Teams and Mall House, Youghal on 3rd January 2024 at 1.30 p.m.

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

Ag Freastal: Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer.
Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer.
Mr. Sean O' Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer.
Mrs. Geraldine O' Connell, Clerical Officer.
Ms. Sharon O'Connell, Programme Manager, LECP
Ms. Sharon Conroy, Staff Officer, Tourism
Ms. Yvette O'Sullivan, Clerical Officer, LECP

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 4th December 2023.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th December 2023 and the minutes of Special Meeting of Eirgrid held on 4th December 2023 were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr Hegarty and seconded by Cllr Linehan Foley.

2. Matter Arising from Minutes.

No matters arose.

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

3.1 Draft Local Economic and Community Framework Plan.

Ms. Sharon O'Connell, Programme Manager, LECP gave the following presentation to the Members on the Draft Local Economic and Community Framework Plan.

WHAT IS THE LECP?

The LECP will plan for how Cork County Council by itself and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders will promote and support the economic and community development of the County over the next 6 years.

WHAT WILL IT DO?

- It will also provide a framework for the allocation of grants, funding and supports to ensure they are used develop our economy and our communities.
- The LECP will be a roadmap for the economic and community development of Cork County over the next 6 years to enable the county to continue to thrive and prosper.

- Robust and Evidence Based Plan to help secure funding –High Level Goals and Objectives in the Plan are based on quantifiable data, higher level plan objectives and public and stakeholder consultation.

LECP AND COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- LECP is not a spatial plan and will not include zoning or planning policy
- County Development Plan is the Spatial plan for the County
- LECP must be in alignment with the Policies, objectives and zoning in the CDP
- LECP will set out localised actions for implementing objectives of the CDP
- Worked Closely with Planning Policy Unit to ensure consistency

ROLE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

Consultation with the Municipal District members is required to ensure:

- Consistency between the economic and community elements of the plan;
- Consistency with the core strategy and objectives of the statutory Development Plan,
- Adoption of a draft of the LECP by the Municipal District members is a reserved function.

Two Phases

Strategic Framework LECP:

- Stages 1 – 4
- Framework LECP due for Adoption in March

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Stages 5-6
- Lifetime of the Plan

HOW WAS IT DEVELOPED?

- Commissioned a comprehensive Socio-Economic profile of Cork County
- SCOT Analysis – Updated at each stage of development
- Review of all the relevant plans and statements of government
- Significant input by the Local Community Development Committees and Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee at each stage of development
- LECP Advisory Group – 32 Key community and economic stakeholders
- Public Consultation Period May 2023

STRUCTURE OF THE LECP

LECP FRAMEWORK (STRATEGIC PLAN)

- 6 HIGH LEVEL GOALS
- OBJECTIVES UNDER EACH HIGH LEVEL GOAL

- OUTCOMES

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- ACTIONS – LINKED TO HIGH LEVEL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

COMMUNITY

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 1: SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES AND PLACES

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 2: A SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE COUNTY

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 3: A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE COUNTY

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 4: A LOW CARBON AND CLIMATE RESILIENT COUNTY THAT PROTECTS BIODIVERSITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ECONOMIC

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 5: A COUNTY THAT SUPPORTS ENTERPRISE

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 6: A SMART AND INNOVATIVE COUNTY

OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

OBJECTIVES

EACH HIGH LEVEL GOAL IS SUPPORTED BY A LIST OF SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

OUTCOMES

SUMMARISE WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE UNDER EACH HIGH LEVEL GOAL

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- First 2 years of Implementation
- Series of Actions
- Linked to an Objective
- KPI
- Lead Partner/Other Partners
- Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Targeted
- Dynamic Plan
- 16 teams/directorates within Organisation and LECP Advisory Group
- Projects/Initiatives plan undertake over next 2 years which would work towards achieving the objectives.
- Annual Progress Report.

High Level Goal 3:

Healthy and Active County

Objective:

Support and promote participation in recreational activities to increase wellbeing and reduce isolation for all ages and abilities.

Action/Project	KPI (Measurement)	Lead Partner(s)	Partners
Provision of funding for Cork Cultural Companions - which is a programme that builds local networks of people aged 50+ interested in arts and culture who accompany each other to events in and around the county.	Total value of funding provided	Cork County Council Age Friendly team	Munitir Na Tire, HSE and Cork City Council
Provide financial support to deliver the Lets Play Cork initiative to promote place-making, social inclusion and healthy lifestyles.	Position funded	Healthy Ireland (Lead), CCC (Community) and CCC (Town Regeneration).	
Aim to reduce social isolation through Social Prescribing Creative Engagement; and programmes such as Arts for Health West Cork Arts Centre; Bealtaine; Helium.	Number of programmes and initiatives undertaken to reduce social isolation.	Cork County Council (Library and Arts Service)	

Outcome:

- Reduction in social isolation.
- Promotion of recreational activities and wellbeing.

High Level Goal 4:

A Low Carbon and Climate Resilient County that protects Biodiversity and the Environment.

Objective:

Enable key stakeholders to identify opportunities to support the retrofitting of the existing housing, business, community and municipal buildings.

Action/Project	KPI (Measurement)	Lead Partners	Partners
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Developing a living lab for community engagement around the subject of decarbonisation under the HYBES -NPA project (Decarbonisation for communities) The HYBES project will pilot & monitor renewable energy generation tools such solar PV, Heat pump other retrofit techniques in rural and peripheral areas.	Number of participants in pilot initiatives	Cork County Council (EDET	HYBES -NPA project
Roll out of Green For Business programme, which helps small businesses take the first step towards becoming more sustainable and giving them access to a green consultant. Roll out of Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme, which aims to reduce the impact of enterprises on the environment through the provision of a grant.	Number of businesses undertaking these programmes/schemes	LEO Offices	Enterprise Ireland
Support information campaigns with regards to retrofitting	Running of SEAI information clinics in branches	Running of SEAI information clinics in branches	SEAI
Retrofitting and upgrades of Municipal Buildings	Number of Retrofitting projects in County Library Buildings.	Cork County Library and Arts Service	
	Number of Municipal buildings retrofitted.	Cork County Council MDs	

Outcome:

Increase in levels of retrofitting of existing housing, businesses, community and municipal buildings.

High Level Goal 6:

A Smart and Innovative County

Objective:

Collaborate with key stakeholders to identify the competitive advantages of Cork County to develop new economic opportunities.

Action/Project	KPI (Measurement)	Lead Partners	Partners
Creation of a working group to explore how communities can be supported to grow their economies	Formation of a working group	LECP Advisory Group	Cork County Council, IDA, SWREP PM, IBEC, SRA, MTU, EI, LEO, IDA Tech Industry Alliance, Cork Chamber
Proactively engage with the South West Regional Enterprise Plan's SO1 Working Group to enhance the enterprise eco-system in Cork County through innovation, entrepreneurship and digitalisation.	WG attendance.	Cork County Council (EDET)	SWREP PM
Continued support and augmentation of partnerships established through the EDF to improve the enterprise ecosystem.	Number of partnerships supported	Cork County Council (EDET)	

Cllr. McCarthy thanked Sharon for her presentation and stated that she was very interested on the High Level Goal 3. Cllr. McCarthy requested that a copy of the presentation be circulated to all Members.

Cllr. Hegarty also thanked Sharon and all involved in the presentation and asked if there would be a review process provided.

Sharon informed the Members that any amendments the Members have will be taken on board before going to full Council in March and asked for a proposer and seconder for the adoption of this plan.

On the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley which was seconded by Cllr. Ahern the Members unanimously agreed to the adoption of Draft Local Economic and Community Framework Plan.

3.2 Extinguishment of Road at Knockgriffin.

1. At the East Cork Municipal District Meeting held on the November 2023, Members agreed to commence procedures to extinguish the public right of way over road No. L7698-0 at Knockgriffin (Imokilly) Midleton, Co. Cork.

2. An advertisement was placed in the Evening Echo Publication, Wednesday 8th November 2023. Written submissions were invited and the public advised of its right to request an oral hearing, by 20th December, 2023.

3. Maps and particulars were put on display in the Planning Department, County Hall, Cork; in the Municipal District offices at Midleton Lodge, Youghal Road Midleton and in the Mall House, Youghal, Co. Cork, until 6th December 2023. Documentation was also available on the Cork County Council's website at www.corkcoco.ie.

4. Site Notices were erected on Wednesday 8th November 2023 at either end of the public right of way, and were kept in place for an aggregate period of not less than 14 days.

5. No submissions were received by the closing date of Wednesday 20th December, 2023. No written submission(s) were received.

It is hereby recommended that an Order be made to extinguish the Public Right of Way over road no L7698-0 at Knockgriffin (Imokilly), Midleton, Co. Cork – 168 linear metres, and Members approval is requested for same.

On the proposal of Cllr. McCarthy which was seconded by Cllr. Ahern the Members unanimously agreed to the extinguishment of the Public Right of Way over road no L7698-0 at Knockgriffin (Imokilly), Midleton, Co. Cork.

4. Business Prescribed by Statute.

None.

5. Notices of Motion.

As Cllr. Hegarty had to leave the meeting early he requested that his motions be heard first, the Members were in full agreement with this request.

5.1.15 Cllr. Michael Hegarty received on 21st December 2023

“Roads in the Cloyne area need to be repaired ASAP”.

Cllr. Hegarty will forward list of roads onto Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer.

5.1.16 Cllr. Michael Hegarty received on 21st December 2023

“Update on the wall at the Bride in Garryvoe”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that Brian Lawlor, Executive Engineer is still on annual leave and will follow up with him on his return, the Engineer informed the Members that this bridge is still on the list for Bridge Rehabilitation Works.

5.1.17 Cllr. Michael Hegarty received on 21st December 2023

Roads in the Dangan area of Killeagh need to be repaired asap”

Cllr. Hegarty asked if the road from Sullivans Cross to Mullins Cross be included as it is covered in potholes.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that a lot of staff are currently on annual leave after the effects of Storm Babet and will investigate this matter.

5.1.1 Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern received 11th December 2023

“Can extra signage or necessary works be carried out in reference to the bridge on Bailick Road which is causing now very regular impacts with heights for large road vehicles”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that this location will be reviewed and will also forward the motion onto his colleagues in the National Roads Design Office.

5.1.2 Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern received 13th December 2023

“Can the R626 from East Cork Oil to Midleton Educate Together be added to the road repairs with any interim works carried out on the pedestrian crossings where they are in disrepair”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer will investigate this matter which will be considered for the Roads Programme 2024, these works will be considered in light of Storm Babet damage and available funding.

5.1.3 Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern received 15th December 2023

“Can a revision of the parking in the town of Midleton be carried out to advise how many spaces have been lost due to public realm works and what plan is forthcoming to replace the loss of parking spaces which is affecting footfall and businesses on the Main Street”. Cllr. Ahern also requested that the outdoor seating on the main street be added to this motion.

Cllr. McCarthy seconded this motion and asked if we could approach full Council to takeover the multi storey car park in Midleton Town for additional car parking spaces.

Mr. Seán O' Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer informed the Members that parking will always continue to be an issue and stated that he does not see any prospect of Cork County Council buying into a non viable project such as the multi storey car park in Midleton as there is no possible source of funding and also reminded the Members that the Active Travel Intervention went through the Part VIII Process and was passed by the Members and also stated that Government Policy is to promote other modes of transport. The Senior Executive Officer stated that he will get information on lost spaces due to public realm works and will liaise with Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer regarding the renewal of outdoor dining licences in place in Main Street, Midleton and stated that the Members can look at reducing these spaces before they are due to be renewed.

5.1.4 Cllr. Susan McCarthy received on 18th December 2023

"Requesting details of proposed upgrade of a Connolly Street/ Drury's Avenue as per previous motions".

Mr. Seán O' Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer informed the Members that there are no provisions currently in the Public Realm Plan for any major interventions in Connolly Street and he is not aware of any suggested proposals for public realm works in Connolly Street. The Senior Executive Officer informed the Members that he will look at this matter through the Active Travel Intervention but stated that no funding is available presently and suggested that the Members look at securing funding through the Town Development Fund.

5.1.5 Cllr. Susan McCarthy received on 18th December 2023

"Requesting an update on Midleton Main Street Public Realm Scheme as well as progress on securing funding for the cupola on the roof of Midleton library".

Mr. Seán O' Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer informed the Members that funding has been set aside from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund for the Public Realm Scheme for Midleton with a detailed design completed, however sufficient funding is not available to proceed with these works and stated that the Department have been contacted to secure a top up of URDF funding, the Department came back to Cork County Council in mid December looking for a report on cost saving efforts which has been updated and is due to go back to the Department.

In relation to the Cupola the Senior Executive Officer informed the Members that there is a 5 Year Library Capital Programme for the refurbishment of the Midleton Library and stated that Cork County Council has yet to receive communication regarding the provision of funding, as soon as this is received the Senior Executive Officer will revert back to the Members.

5.1.6 Cllr. Susan McCarthy received on 18th December 2023

“That Council install a height barrier at the car park to the lane towards Ballyannan Woods. This will prevent unauthorised overnight stays in an ecologically sensitive area”.

Mr. Seán O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer will investigate same and revert back to the Members.

5.1.7 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley received on 19th December 2023 “Asking that speed bumps or some form of Road safety measures be looked at for Front Strand area from Prom to Pitch and Putt onto Claycastle”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer will conduct a speed survey at this location and also informed the Members that there is a high level of demand for projects under the Low Cost Safety Scheme.

5.1.8 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley received on 19th December 2023

“Asking that all playgrounds in East Cork area have ASD signage erected motion passed few months back”.

Mr. Seán O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer informed the Members that 10 signage boards have been received in the East Cork Area and stated that 5 have been erected with the remaining 5 due to be erected in the very near future.

5.1.9 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley received on 19th December 2023

“Asking if an event/ Festival be looked at for Youghal area and surrounds for the weekend of cancelled Iron Man in August 24”.

Mr. Seán O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer suggested that any group wishing to hold an event on this weekend liaise with Cork County Council.

5.1.10 Cllr. John Healy received on 19th December 2023

“Cllr John Healy is asking the council to recruit and train staff for the maintenance and cleaning of the Greenway”.

Mr. Seán O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer informed the Members that 2 additional staff will be recruited once the Greenway opens.

5.1.11 Cllr. John Healy received on 19th December 2023

“Cllr John Healy is asking the council to provide adequate Road Speed Signs across the Midleton MD area”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer suggested that Cllr. Healy contact him directly on this matter. The Engineer informed the Members that a 30 kph speed limit has been

introduced into the centre of both Youghal and Midleton towns which has had some positive aspects.

5.1.12 Cllr. Liam Quaide received on 19th December 2023

“Could we have an update please on when works will commence of the People's Path from Whitegate to Rostellan after €100,000 funding was secured for improvements through the Communities Integration Fund in May 2023”.

Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer informed the Members that the figure secured for the People’s Path is actually in the amount of €200,000.

Mr. Seán O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer informed the Members that the People’s Path is in a queue of projects being dealt with by Cork County Council and stated that a survey on these works are currently ongoing, a definite timeline cannot be given presently but stated that it should be delivered in the coming months, once procurement options are known Seán will revert back to the Members.

5.1.13 Cllr. Liam Quaide received on 19th December 2023

“Could we have an update please on exact plans to address the collapse of Moore's Bridge in Midleton following the flood of October 18th and details of the Council's engagement with the Dept of Environment, following a recommendation for same from Inland Fisheries Ireland, regarding the removal of significant deposits from the river nearby and collapse of the riverbank close to exposed properties along a private laneway near Tir Cluain estate on the Mill Road”.

All Members supported this motion and proposed that it be sent to the Department of the Environment to have a licence granted for the removal of this debris.

Mr. Seán O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer will refer this matter to the County Engineer for an update.

5.1.14 Cllr. Liam Quaide received on 19th December 2023

“Could the East Cork Cllrs consider contacting as a collective the owners of iconic buildings in Youghal with significant heritage value that have fallen into disrepair due to stalled plans for re-development with a view to problem-solving impasses with bringing these buildings back into use”.

Cllrs. McCarthy & Linehan Foley supported this motion.

Mr. Seán O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer informed the Members that Cork County Council have engaged with owners of both properties through the Derelict Sites Act and stated that it would be quite a huge step to bring these buildings into public use, the Senior Executive Officer suggested that Cork County Council will engage once again with the developers of these properties if they so wish.

Cllr. Linehan Foley informed the Members that there is a move on works at the former Loreto site and also stated that once planning is applied for the upgrade of these buildings objections may hold up the process. Cllr. Linehan Foley suggested that the public need to know the reasons that the upgrading of these building are held up.

Cllr. Ahern stated that all derelict sites within the entirety of the East Cork area need to be addressed and requested an update on Derelict Sites within the East Cork area at the March Meeting of the ECMD.

Mr. Seán O' Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer will seek an update on same.

6. Correspondence.

No correspondence was received.

7 Any Other Business.

1. Cllr. Quaide informed the Members that he was approached by the residents of Gleann Fia, Mogeely to express their appreciation for the inclusion in the flood study as they had a near miss flood event on the 27th December last. Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that emergency crew responded to this incident on the 26th into the 27th of December.
2. Cllr. Quaide commended Cllr. Twomey on her contribution as a Councillor to the East Cork Municipal District and wished her the very best with her future plans. Cllr. Twomey thanked Cllr. Quiaide for his comments but informed the Members that she is now serving out her time until June 2024.
3. Cllr. Linehan Foley asked if the Members could be updated at the February or March Meeting of the ECMD on the new Youghal Library, Moll Goggin's Corner and the Greenway. Cllr. Linehan Foley wished everyone a very happy New Year. Mr. Seán O' Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer informed the Members that he will have an update on same at the February meeting.

The next meeting of the East Cork Municipal District will take place on Tuesday 6th February at Pearse Memorial Chambers, Midleton.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.