

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of East Cork Municipal District held blended through MS Teams and Mall House, Youghal on 6th November 2023 at 10.30 a.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.
Ms. Helen Mulcahy, Senior Staff Officer.
Mrs. Geraldine O'Connell, Clerical Officer.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd October 2023.

Cllr. McCarthy proposed that the confirmation of the minutes held on 2nd October 2023 be deferred to the December meeting of the East Cork Municipal District. This was seconded by Cllr. Quaide.

2. Matter Arising from Minutes.

2.1. Cllr. Linehan Foley asked if there was any update on the works due to take place in Ashe Street. Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that a road closure has been granted and works will need to take place within this period. The Engineer informed the Members that he has no update on a start date for the proposed works as the contractor is carrying out a lot of emergency works presently.

2.2 Cllr. Hegarty asked if there was any update on motion nos. 5.1.15 & 5.1.16 in relation to safety measures for Ladysbridge Village. Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that Michael Cotter, Road Safety Officer has carried out an assessment and a preliminary report has been received, the Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that he will need to discuss same with the Road Safety Officer and will revert back to the Members in due course.

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

None.

4. Business Prescribed by Statute.

4.1 Proposed extinguishment of public right of way over part of local roadway L-7698-0 at Knockgrifin, (Imokilly), Midleton, Co. Cork, comprising of 0.1648 hectares of public roadway (length of circa. 168m).

Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer circulated the following documentation prepared by Michael Purdon, Executive Engineer & Donald Cronin, Senior Executive Engineer to the Members in relation to the Proposed extinguishment of public right of way over part of local roadway L-7698-0 at Knockgrifin, (Imokilly), Midleton, Co. Cork.

Cork County Council proposes to make an order to extinguish the public rights of way over 'part' of local roadway, L-7698-0. The part comprises 0.1648 hectares of public roadway (length of circa. 168m). and is identified as areas A, B and D on the attached map.

The existing public road L-7698-0 is currently being realigned such that areas A, B and D will no longer be within the public roadway. Existing services will be relocated from areas A, B and D. Access from private premises/lands to the public road network will be maintained.

Next Steps:

- East Cork Municipal District resolution required, 6th November, to commence the statutory process to extinguish public right of way over the relevant lands under Section 73 of the Roads Act 1993.
- Publication of notice in a newspaper circulating in the area (week commencing 13th November).
- Public consultation period (6 weeks).
- Public display of map/notice at Council Offices.
- Assess submissions and prepare a report for consideration by East Cork Municipal District.
- Subject to East Cork Municipal District approval, the extinguishment order is made, and final notice published.

On the proposal of Cllr. McCarthy which was seconded by Cllr. Ahern the Members unanimously agreed to commence the statutory process for the proposed extinguishment of public right of way over part of local roadway L-7698-0 at Knockgrifin, (Imokilly), Midleton, Co. Cork.

5. Notices of Motion.

5.1.1 Cllr. Michael Hegarty, received on 2nd October 2023

“That immediate repairs be carried out on the collapsed walls at Ardavilling on the R629 road Cloyne, an extremely busy roadway from Cloyne to Midleton”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that roadside retaining walls along the stream will be assessed and included in Storm Babet repair programme of works.

5.1.2 Cllr. Michael Hegarty, received on 31st October 2023

“Is there a plan of action to deal with the roads/bridges that were damaged during the flooding?”

Cllrs. McCarthy & Ahern supported this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that a drive over visual inspection has been completed of all public roads in East Cork MD. This was completed over 2 days with 7 Engineers. Damage and issues observed have been logged. Further, more

detailed inspections are ongoing and indeed now issues are arising. Warning signage and safeguarding barriers have been installed in numerous locations. Emergency works and repairs are ongoing (e.g. culvert replaced on Midelton to Dungourney Road, road surfacing at Pynes X, Road collapses and surfacing Inch Village). The Engineer informed the Members that as we move from the response phase to the recovery phase of this extreme weather event a planned programme of works for the permanent repair of damage to roads and road structures will be developed and implemented to the degree that funding is made available.

Cllr. Aherne asked if the list for the planned programme of works could be circulated to the Members. The Engineer will circulate this report in the coming weeks.

5.1.3 Cllr. Michael Hegarty, received on 31st October 2023

“Is there a plan in place to address the recent flooding in Whitegate Village?”.

Cllr. McCarthy asked if the motion no. 5.1.11 she has raised in connection with seeking a written report on the cause of the repeated flood events in Whitegate village and Mogeely be included with Cllr. Hegarty’s motion. Cllr. Hegarty was in full agreement with this proposal. Cllr. McCarthy stated that the public realm works undertaken in Whitegate Village are a disgrace and if Seán O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer could investigate same.

Mr. Dave Clarke, senior Executive Engineer stated that a road safety audit is due to be completed in the village.

Cllr. Hegarty asked who carries out these audits, the Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that they are carried out by an external consultant during both daytime and nighttime hours to observe driver behaviour.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that a number of properties in Whitegate Village were severely affected by recent flooding events and were flooded several times. There was pluvial flooding by direct runoff from agricultural land onto roads and down into the village during the Storm Babet event. Subsequently during the very high tides over the Bank Holiday weekend the village suffered tidal flooding and flooding from surcharging of Uisce Eireann sewers. It is understood that Uisce Eireann is actively investigating the events which occurred in relation to their infrastructure. East Cork Roads is separately inspecting the culvert and inlets from Barrack Hill into the stream. Local reports is that the culvert took the full flow during Storm Babet – the issue being the sheet runoff from agricultural land travelling down the road into the village. The Roads Department is reviewing what measures can be permanently put in place to mitigate this risk a similar event. The Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that the County Engineers department advise that there is no flood relief scheme approved by the OPW for Whitegate.

5.1.4 Cllr. Danielle Twomey, received on 17th October 2023

“Can the seating area in Church Lane be removed now it is not being utilised and the Disability parking reinstated”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that this will be reinstated once the outdoor dining licence has expired.

Cllr. Hegarty informed the Members that the premises in question has been taken over by new tenants in the past few days which wish to have the outdoor dining licence retained.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that based on this new information he suggested that the new occupants make contact with Cork County Council in relation to having the outdoor dining licence retained and in the meantime he will look at the accommodating the provision of a disabled parking bay space on the Main Street side of the outdoor dining area.

5.1.5 Cllr. Danielle Twomey, received on 17th October 2023

“Can the engineer please look at the junction of Ballycarnane Road and in particular from Woodview Estate onto the N25. There is a serious issue occurring where cars in particular are finding it difficult to access the N 25 because of lack of clear vision to the left due to the existing wall”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that he will refer this matter to Sean Callery, Senior Engineer, NRDO for consideration.

5.1.6 Cllr. Danielle Twomey, received on 17th October 2023

“Can this MD write to the minister for education requesting that a centralised application system for secondary school applicants be introduced for east cork. That it would encompass schools contained within catchment areas”.

Cllr. Linehan Foley supported this motion.

5.1.7 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 24th October 2023

“Asking for signage to advertise the 10 min grace for paid parking in Youghal Town”.

Cllrs. McCarthy, Hegarty, Twomey & Ahern supported this motion and also requested that free car parks are highlighted also.

Cllr. Ahern proposed that paid parking in Youghal be reversed.

Mr. Seán O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer informed the Members that the Traffic Warden operates with discretion on the 10 minute grace period and suggested that Helen Mulcahy, Senior Staff Officer engage with the Traffic Warden on this matter.

Helen Mulcahy, Senior Staff Officer informed the Members that the Traffic Warden does operate on a discretionary basis on the 10 minute grace period and stated that the only tickets given out without a grace period are for disabled parking bay, yellow lines, parking on a footpath & parking in a bus stop & loading bay.

Cllr. Linehan Foley also requested that parking in Youghal remain free for the Christmas Period.

Mr. Seán O' Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer informed the Members that free parking for the Christmas period for all paid parking towns within the East Cork area will be finalized and advertised in the coming weeks.

5.1.8 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 24th October 2023

"Asking that Culverts be looked at St Coran's Well Area and Millfield Abbey area Youghal".

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that the County Engineer's Department will liaise with the Roads Directorate with regard to investigating same.

5.1.9 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 24th October 2023

"Put pressure on OPW to finalise works for Quarry Road and release funding ASAP".

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that the County Engineer's department acknowledges the elected members representation in relation to the Quarry Road and stated that a minor works application was submitted in November 2018, to extend existing culvert and construct new inlet structure and screen. The OPW requested further information on this application. A response was issued to the OPW. Cork County Council followed up with the OPW on 19th September 2023 and are now awaiting a response from OPW.

5.1.10 Cllr. Susan McCarthy, received on 31st October 2023

"That Council undertakes to repair and make good to sections of boundary wall destroyed by the recent catastrophic flooding caused by the Owennacurra at Tir Cluain and Willowbank estates, and to assess the damage to concrete fences and berm at Millbrook estate. To engage with Residents' Associations who have undertaken interim works on this issue".

Cllr. McCarthy requested that Beechwood be added to this motion and that it be sent as a motion to full Council.

Cllr. Ahern supported this motion and raised the issue of Gleann Fia and The Meadows Estates in Mogeely and asked if it could be checked that these developed sites have not breached planning measures and could it be investigated to see if any preventative measures be put in place for these estates. Cllr. Quaide echoed Cllr. Ahern's comments.

Cllr. Hegarty also fully supported this motion and requested that repairs get underway as soon as possible in particular to Beechwood.

Cllr. Twomey also supported this motion and asked if the river at the back of Willowbank be added to this motion and investigated as the river seems to have taken a different course due to the presence of debris. Cllr. McCarthy was in full agreement with this request.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer gave the following response received from the County Engineers office:

Cork County Council is currently reviewing and investigating what interim measures can be done in advance of the main flood relief scheme, based on the risk profile of affected properties and will prioritise this work when viable measures are identified. An assessment of the impacts of Storm Babet is also underway. Any recommendations arising from this assessment will be actioned, where possible, as a matter of urgency.

All of the above estates will be included in the post Storm Babet assessment. However, please note that Cork County Council is not responsible for any estates not taken in charge.

Cllr. McCarthy stated that Cork County Council needs to ensure that every estate is looked after and will raise this at full Council.

In relation to the debris in the river at the back of Willowbank this area and other areas of the Owenacurra River will be assessed.

5.1.11 Cllr. Susan McCarthy, received on 31st October 2023

“Seeking a written report on the cause of the repeated flood events in Whitegate village and Mogeely. Whitegate has been flooded 7 times in the last two weeks with devastating consequences for properties particularly on the Main Street in the village. Also seeking completion date for works on treatment plant, pump station and rising main throughout the village”.

This motion has been dealt with under motion no. 5.1.3.

5.1.12 Cllr. Susan McCarthy, received on 31st October 2023

“MD Roads department to put in place interim measures for Bonnog residents whose estate entrance has been flooded repeatedly over the last two weeks, cutting off access, for residents, trapping them in their homes and most importantly for emergency vehicles who would not be in a position to reach residents homes in the event of such emergency. Also emergency repair works to road at Top Cross, severely damaged and again trapping residents from all sides”.

Cllrs. Hegarty & Ahern supported this motion and asked if works are still going ahead at Top Cross.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer gave the following response received from the County Engineers office:

Cork County Council is currently reviewing and investigating what interim measures can be done in advance of the main flood relief scheme, based on the risk profile of affected properties and will prioritise this work when viable measures are identified. An assessment of the impacts of Storm Babet is also underway. Any recommendations arising from this assessment will be actioned, where possible, as a matter of urgency.

All of the above estates will be included in the post Storm Babet assessment. However, please note that Cork County Council is not responsible for any estates not taken in charge.

5.1.13 Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern, received on 31st October 2023

“Can the Main Street of Midleton and nearby lanes/streets be sanitized again following the floods on 18th October and if the lines and junction boxes be reinstated on the Main Street, The Rock, Aisling Road etc”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that Cork County Council Fire Service have sanitized the streets with detergent, therefore no further action is proposed. The request for refreshing road lining at the locations listed will be investigated.

5.1.14 Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern, received on 31st October 2023

“Can Bus Eireann rename some of their stop points as they are causing confusion regarding their location”.

Cllr. McCarthy supported this motion.

Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer requested that Cllr. Ahern submit a list of the proposed stop points and he will then write to Bus Eireann regarding same.

5.1.15 Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern, received on 31st October 2023

“That a motion be put forward to full council requesting all energy companies supplying affected homes, businesses and community/sports hubs in East Cork be granted discounts/allowances on their utility bills due to the high costs of running dehumidifiers and electric heating to dry out their properties after the severe flooding”.

All Members fully supported this motion.

Mr. Seán O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer proposed that the Municipal District write directly to the relevant energy companies to expedite same.

5.1.16 Cllr. Liam Quaide, received on 1st November 2023

“That the East Cork MD would discuss any contingency measures that may be considered to improve preparedness for weather warnings that carry risk of flooding in the local area”.

All Members fully supported this motion and requested that this request be sent to Met Eireann and Central Government as they were of the opinion that the alert for Storm Babet should have been a red alert.

6. Correspondence.

No correspondence was received.

7. Any Other Business:

1. Cllr. McCarthy stated that she was contacted by residents of McDermott Street & Drury’s Avenue regarding a drain that appears to be covered over and asked if this could be investigated.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that if there is a localized issue at this location it will be investigated.

2. Cllr. McCarthy raised the issue regarding a pump which was placed from Lauriston down to McDermott Street and stated that the residents were very distressed by this matter and asked if information could be put out to the Members in the event of this taking place in the future.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that Lauriston was flooded in the severe flooding event in 2015 in the middle of the night by ground water flooding and stated that a pump was installed on a preventative basis through the flood response plan for Midleton, the Engineer informed the Members that the pump was not used on this occasion as ground water levels were monitored.

3. Cllr. Ahern raised the issue of a couple of drains in McDermott Street which have 2 inch pipes installed instead of 4 inch pipes and asked if the Engineer could investigate same. Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer will review this matter.
4. Cllr. Ahern raised the issue of works being carried out under the Active Travel Measures to construct a cycle way, following Storm Babet Cllr. Ahern had requested that the works be temporarily suspended because of the flooding which was causing considerable distress to both residents and businesses in the Coolbawn area and stated that as the works were still ongoing, Cllr. Ahern felt it was disrespectful to people who suffered as a result of the floods and asked that works be suspended immediately. Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer suggested that Cllr. Ahern raise this matter with Mr. James Rigney, Senior Executive Engineer, Traffic & Transportation Section.

5. Cllr. Ahern raised the issue of culverts blocked on sections of the MY Greenway and asked if a report could be issued on the remedial works at Ballintotis Road. Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer will refer this matter to the Greenway Team.
6. Cllr. Ahern raised the issue of Eirgrid who undertook trial holes on a flooded plain at Carrigogna Bridge and asked if this could be investigated. Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that he would anticipate that a road closure application licence will be submitted for same and he will then review this situation.
7. Cllr. Ahern raised the issue of surface water on the L7655-18 and asked if this could be added to the list of priorities.
8. Cllr. Linehan Foley asked if there was any update on the opening of the MY Greenway. Mr. Seán O' Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer informed the Members that it was intended to open the section from Midleton to Mogeely by the end of this year and to have the remainder open by the summer of 2024, but stated that a large section of the Greenway has been impacted by the devastating floods and was being assessed last week. The Senior Executive Officer will revert back to the Members with a further update.
9. Cllr. Linehan Foley raised the issue of funding for public toilets for the Strand area for the winter period. Ms. Helen Mulcahy, Senior Staff Officer informed the Members that the public toilets in Claycastle are open 7 days a week.
10. Cllr. Hegarty raised the issue of the road from the Glen Road to Leamlara which is closed off presently and asked if anything could be done re have this road re-opened. Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that this road is severely damaged since Storm Babet, the road will be assessed but stated that no update is available presently.
11. Cllr. Hegarty asked if the Estuary in Ballincurra could be considered for dredging and stated that this was assessed in the Midleton Flood Relief Scheme.