

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting of East Cork Municipal District,
held, blended through MS Teams & Pearse Memorial Chambers, Midleton
on 6th February 2024 at 1.30 p.m.**

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

Leathsceal: Cllr. McCarthy.

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.
Mr. Donald A. Cronin, Senior Executive Engineer.
Mr. A.J. Cronin, Project Manager, Cork Area Commuter Rail Programme.
Mr. Calvin Brannigan, Project Manager, Cork Area Commuter Rail Programme

On the proposal of Cllr. Quaide which was seconded by Cllr. Hegarty the Members unanimously agreed to defer confirmation of the October minutes to the March meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 3rd January 2024.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd January 2024 were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr Hegarty and seconded by Cllr Linehan Foley.

2. Matter Arising from Minutes.

2.1. Cllr. Hegarty asked that an amendment be made to motion no. 5.1.17 to read as Mullane's Cross and not Mullins Cross as stated.

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

3.1 Update on Cork Area Commuter Rail Programme.

Mr. A.J. Cronin, Project Manager, Cork Area Commuter Rail Programme & Mr. Calvin Brannigan, Project Manager, Cork Area Commuter Rail Programme gave the following presentation on the Cork Commuter Rail Programme to the Members.

Network & Services:

- 5,000 train services run weekly.
- Almost 1 million passengers carried weekly.
- 4,500+ employees.
- 629 carriages in our fleet.
- 145 stations served countrywide.
- 348,000 train km weekly.
- 2,200 km in our network.

Current Capital Programme – Decade of Delivery:

Area:	Major Capital Investment Projects.
Dublin:	DART + Programme. East Cork Rail Infrastructure Protection.
Cork:	Cork Area Commuter Rail Programme.
Limerick:	Foynes Line Phases 1 & 2, Moyross Station, Limerick Junction Doubling.
Galway:	Ceannt Station Upgrade, Oranmore Station.
Waterford:	Waterford North Quays Project.
Rosslare:	Berth & Terminal Upgrades, ORE, ECRIPP.
Nationwide:	Train Protection System, Rail Freights Strategy.

Existing Cork Area Commuter Rail Network:

- Existing Commuter service between Kent Station – Cobh & Midleton.
- Some local services serving Kent-Mallow-Tralee.
- A new 30 minute timetable launched 18th July 2022.
- Existing fleet of DMUs maintained in Cork depot which is located parallel to Kent Station.
- Additional services December 2023.

Customer Journey:

During 2022.

- Government reduced rail fares.
- Mallow included in Leap Card zone.
- Young adult card introduced with further fares reduction.

July 2022.

- Increased frequency on Midleton & Cobh routes to 30 minutes service.
- Glounthaune to Cork every 15 minutes.

January 2024.

- Young Adult card extended from 23 years old to 25 years old. Providing a 50% reduction in fares.

Project and Policy Drivers:

- In early 2020, the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport (CMATS) 2040 was launched.
- The heavy rail network is a central component of this strategic vision.
- CMATS aims to support compact urban growth by facilitating modal shift out of private car and into public transport with a more efficient, sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient heavy rail network.

Future Network:

- Deliver a transformative 10 minute service frequency.
- Provide 8 new stations on the network.
- Deliver new electric fleet – replacing life expired diesel commuter fleet.
- New signaling.
- New depot & charging infrastructure.
- Multi-modal integrated transport hub at Ken Station.
- Improvements at existing stations.

The CACR Programme:

1. Kent Station Through Platform.
2. Signaling and Communications Upgrade.
3. Glounthaune to Middleton Twin Track.
4. New Stations, Track Works, Civil & Structures.
5. New Fleet Depot.
6. Electrification.
7. New Rolling Stock.

Project Update Work Packages 1 & 2:

WP 1 Kent Station Through Platform.

- Platform 6 construction commenced in October 2023.
- Expected completion August 2024.
- Total Project Cost €23m.

WP 2 Signaling and Communications Upgrade:

- Design and Build contract awarded June 2023.
- Alstom & Egis teams currently mobilizing in Cork project office.
- Construction works to begin February 2024.
- Total Project Cost €180m.

Glounthaune to Midleton Two Track Project Update:

WP 3 Glounthaune to Midleton Twin Track:

- Railway Order granted October 2023.
- Procurement for Construction Contract Q1 2024.
- Construction to Commence Q2 2024
- Total Estimate Project Cost €80m.

Programme & Impact on Rail Services:

2024:

Mid Week Works:

- July to December: Reduced nighttime service Cork – Midleton, Monday to Wednesday.
- Last train: 19.45 Midleton./Cork.
- Bus replacement service.

2025:

Weekend Blockades:

- Required for larger works: IDA Culvert, Owenacurra River Bridge works.

2026:

Commissioning Period:

- Approximately 2 Week Closure of Glounthaune to Midleton line to complete track works, re-signaling works and commission into service.

Project Update Word Packages 4, 5 & 6:

WP 4: New Stations, Track Works, Civil & Structures:

- Reconfiguration of the operational track layouts.
- Construction of 8 new Railway Station.
- Strategic Park & Ride at Blarney & Dunkettle.
- Accessibility Upgrades to some existing stations.
- Associated civil engineering and structural works.

WP 5: New Fleet Depot.

- Installation of New Depot.
- Progress Preliminary Design.
- Design & Build Contract.

WP 6: Electrification Overview:

- Electrification of the CACR Network.
- Installation of New Substations.
- Installation of charging facilities at Platform and sidings at Mallow, Kent & Midleton.

New Stations:

Stations Design Principles.

- Access from two sides.
- Overbridge between platforms.
- Ramps, Stairs and Lifts (if necessary).
- Integrated with car parking and access.

The design of access for new stations will prioritise users in order:

- Walking
- Cycling
- Other personal mobility
- Bus
- Taxi
- Drop-off/pick up.
- Car parking.

Infrastructure – New Electric Fleet.

1. 2nd Order Fleet placed with Alstom December 2022.
8 no. Battery Electric Multiple Units (BEMU).
To deliver 15-minute service for Cork Network.
2. CACR Deliver Supporting Infrastructure New Fleet.
New Fleet Depot.
Charging Infrastructure.
Timetable Resilience Measures.
3. Network Capacity Fit for Purpose.
Add fleet to increase frequency (10 minute service)
Drop-in new stations as required.

The Members thanked Mr. A.J. Cronin & Mr. Calvin Brannigan for their presentation.

Cllr. Linehan Foley asked if there would be a possibility of the reopening of the Youghal to Midleton Railway line. Mr. A.J. Cronin informed the Members that this could be reviewed at some point in the future for a railway line or a bus rapid transport route, however this would involve multiples of millions and would take a number of years to complete.

Cllr. Quaide asked if he could get some broad sense on the scale of the cost of the project in practical terms. Mr. A.J. Cronin informed the Members that heavy rail projects are not cheap and take quite some time to put in place.

Cllr. Hegarty asked what the journey time will be from Midleton to Cork once the project is complete. Mr., A.J. Cronin informed the Members that the increased frequency of trains from Midleton to Cork is every 15 minutes and 10 minutes once the project is completed in 2025/early 2026 will see the average journey remain at approximately 23 minutes.

Cllr. Hegarty raised the issue of a section of the railway line which was flooded during Storm Babet. Mr. A.J. Cronin informed the Members that 1 or 2 locations on the route from Glounthaune to Midleton were flooded but stated that there was no significant impact on infrastructure and also stated that Iarnrod Eireann are in full support with Cork County Council and the OPW on the flood scheme.

Cllr. Hegarty asked if there will always be a period of downtime at the Mill Road crossing at Midleton when trains arrive. Mr. A.J. Cronin informed the Members that they are conscious of minimizing the impact of closing this area to motorists and cyclists while design and development of two tracks between Glounthaune to Midleton are being undertaken. They will look at the removal of the level crossing before the Mill Road crossing which should help minimise or reduce the time the Crossing remains closed to the public.

Cllr. Ahern asked if any discussion had taken place with Eirgrid regarding the route for cable laying from Youghal to Knockraha and stated that Eirgrid informed her that they had received a copy of paperwork between Eirgrid, Iarnrod Eireann & TII in relation to the proposed route for the laying of the Celtic Interconnector Electricity Cable

Mr. A.J. Cronin will investigate this to provide the Members with an answer and asked if Cllr. Ahern email her request to him.

Cllr. Healy asked if a location has been secured for the Station proposed for the north of Carrigtwohill. Mr. A.J. Cronin informed the Members that no locations are in place presently

3.2 Update on Water Rock LIHAF Project.

Water Rock UEA Part 8 Planning Approved (March 2019):

- Services Corridor Link Road including access road to proposed railway station (LIHAF Contract/BAM)
- Surface Water Drainage System (LIHAF Contract/BAM)
- Junction Upgrade – Cork/ Middleton Road and Northern Relief Road (LIHAF Contract/BAM)
- Water Rock Road Traffic Management Measures (LIHAF Contract with BAM)
- Upgrade/ Realignment of Water Rock Road (Detail design/Land Acquisition)
- New Railway Over Bridge (Design Stage)
- Wastewater Pumping Station (Uisce Eireann at Delivery Stage)

Project Scope:

- Acquisition of c. 20 acres of land from multiple landowners
- LIHAF works comprise approximately 1.7km of link road type construction.
- And 1.2 km of trunk surface water sewers (600/1050mm diameter), and attenuation facilities.

Completion of LIHAF Works

- Based on approval of the Water Rock Development Contribution Scheme in April 2021 by the East Cork MD, the land acquisition was concluded and the LIHAF works contract was tendered in 2021/2022. • BAM Civil Ltd. was awarded the Contract in August 2022, and is expected to request confirmation of “Substantial Completion” under the conditions of contract in the coming weeks (anticipated before the end of February 2024), subject to weather conditions.
- Subject to confirmation of grant of certificate of substantial completion under the contract by the Employers/Representative, the new LIHAF Road, will become a new public road in the charge of Cork County Council (Area Roads Engineers). The value of new roads/assets is c. €10 million (Incl. VAT).
- During 2022/2023, planning permissions have been granted along the new link road for potential residential development of more than 1,400 units over the next 10 years. House building is anticipated to commence in the coming months.

Other HIIT Related Projects

- Non-LIHAF (Water-Rock Road Upgrade):
- Currently at Detail Design/Land Acquisition stage;
- Enabling works and fencing contract on Water Rock Road completed.
- Design includes connection works for future vehicular access to/from New LIHAF Road.
- Proposed Water Rock Linear Park:
- Cork County Council lodged the plans and particulars on 10th July 2023.

- Currently awaiting a decision from An Bord Pleanála with an expected decision date on the ABP website of 28.03.2024.

Cllr. Ahern thanked the Senior Executive Engineer and all involved in the completion of this presentation.

4. Business Prescribed by Statute:

None.

5. Notices of Motion.

5.1.1 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 21st January 2024

“Update on upgrade works footpath for Golflinks Road and Dermot Hurley Est Youghal and inclusion of New footpath for Spa Hill onto Raheen Road. Also update on Footpath from Summerfield cross to Claycastle , and update on New line to Pobail Scoil and info on funding for same”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that areas referred to will be considered in the East Cork Footpath Programme 2024 and stated that the provision of new footpaths is generally not feasible under the Footpath Programme having regards to the level of funding available and the need to carry out repairs/replacements of existing footpaths. New footpaths are generally funded under the NTA active Travel or Low #cost Safety Scheme funding.

5.1.2 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 21st January 2024

“Update on Phase 2 of works on Ashe Street to De Valera St”.

Cllr. Ahern seconded this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that Cork County Council will continue to seek funding to advance Phase 2 works but as of this time funding is not available, works to complete Phase 1 works include some minor amendments to bollards installed, installation of additional bollard and application of contrasting road surface material to visually narrow the road and create a shared surface.

5.1.3 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 21st January 2024.

“Any update on road relining for Ardan Na Mara road safety Stop Signage and residents have asked that speed bumps be looked at as a safety measure”.

Cllr. Ahern seconded this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that Ardan na Mara has not been taken in charge by Cork County Council and stated that Cork County Council has

previously installed a stop sign and road markings at the junction with the main road which are in good condition.

5.1.4 Cllr. Michael Hegarty, received on 25th January 2024

“Urgent road repairs to Knockaheem road from the Glen Road to Leamlara road L7694”.

Cllrs. Ahern, Quaide, Healy & Linehan Foley supported this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that this road will be inspected and added to the repair list.

5.1.5 Cllr. Michael Hegarty, received on 25th January 2024

“That a review of priority roads to be gritted during frost and icy conditions be undertaken so noted black spots are included in priority 1 and 2 roads”.

Cllr. Ahern seconded this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that the Winter Service Plan is reviewed annually, requests to include additional roads in the P1 & P2 categories can be considered in the review of the 2024/2025 plan.

5.1.6 Cllr. Michael Hegarty, received on 25th January 2024

“That the footpath from Lisgoold village to the church be repaired/replaced”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that this section of footpath will be considered in the East Cork Footpath Programme 2024.

5.1.7 Cllr. John Healy, received on 25th January 2024

“Cllr. John Healy is calling on the council to carry out remedial work to the road at Kathleen Doyle Hill due to the large potholes and damage caused by recent rain. Also, can the road be added to the works program for a full resurface”.

Cllrs. Ahern, Quaide & Hegarty supported this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that the road will be inspected and added to the repair list. The road will also be considered for inclusion in future roads programmes, in order of priority as funding permits.

5.1.8 Cllr. John Healy, received on 25th January 2024

“Can I have an update on repairs at The Meadows, Tír Cluain, Midleton as this estate has had problems since its development”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer will forward this onto Gillian Vaughan, Senior Engineer.

5.1.9 Cllr. John Healy, received on 25th January 2024

“I have been contacted by a resident of Westbrook Court Midleton who is concerned that the roads and sidewalks there are slippery due to moss. Can the area be inspected and made safe for walkers”.

Cllr. Ahern supported this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that this area has been inspected and the removal of moss which is limited to shaded areas under trees will be carried out.

5.1.10 Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern, received on 29th January 2024

“Following the recent notice of the Riverside Way road closure, can Cork County Council please advise the Municipal District Office and MD Councilors of any road closures which will affect the access to businesses, parking and traffic in line with the notices being placed online or advertising”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that they can be included on the email circulation list for proposed and confirmed road closures and stated that Members can directly request this by emailing roadclosures@corkcoco.ie

5.1.11 Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern, received on 29th January 2024

“Can L-7696-0 at Knockeen, Leamlara (between L7696-0 and L3604-25) be added to the roads programme for resurfacing works and any interim repairs carried out”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that this road will be inspected and added to the repair list, the road will also be considered for inclusion in further roads programmes in order of priority as funding permits.

5.1.12 Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern, received on 29th January 2024

“Can L7831 from N25 through to Kilmountain Cross, up to Ballynona Hill and over to Ballinacole Cross be added to the list of road works with interim repairs carried out”.

Cllr. Hegarty seconded this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that this road will be inspected and added to the repair list, the road will also be considered for inclusion in further roads programmes in order of priority as funding permits.

5.1.13 Cllr. Liam Quaide, received on 30th January 2024

“That the East Cork MD would repair as a matter of urgency the many potholes on the L7695-0 in Knockaheen, Leamlara between L-7696-0 and 3604-25, and include this road in the resurfacing programme for a more sustained solution”.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that this road will be inspected and added to the repair list, the road will also be considered for inclusion in future roads programmes in order of priority as funding permits.

5.1.14 Cllr. Liam Quaide, received on 30th January 2024

“That the East Cork MD would provide some safety measures on the Ballinacurra pedestrian crossing in advance of works proposed there under the Ballinacurra - Water Rock cycleway given the ongoing safety risks posed by some motorists who are declining to stop and allow pedestrians to cross”.

Cllr. Ahern seconded this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that significant safety measures have previously been completed at the location; such measures included the installment of bollards to narrow the roadway and highlight the crossing, the addition of flashing lights to the pelican poles and provision of a driver feedback sign on the approach from the Whitegate side. The Senior Executive Engineer also informed the Members that James Rigney, Senior Executive Engineer, Sustainable Travel Unit, Roads and Transportation advises that the timescale for the replacement of the crossing under the Ballinacurra to Midleton Cycleway Scheme is currently late 2024/early 2025.

5.1.15 Cllr. Liam Quaide, received on 30th January 2024

“That the East Cork MD would address damage to the passageway surface near Moore's Bridge, sustained during Storm Babette which is potentially contributing to increased flood risk to properties along the river bank in that area of particularly high exposure. The passageway appears to be at risk of further wearing away. In the event that this falls outside the MD's remit as a private passageway that we would appeal to the Council Executive to intervene”.

Cllr. Ahern seconded this motion.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that this laneway is a private road, grants provided to Cork County Council from the Department of Transport can only be used for public roads, a Local Improvement Scheme is a scheme for carrying out

improvement works on private/non-public roads, Cork County Council may carry out the works subject to the Department of Rural & Community Development providing the necessary funding for the Scheme. Full details of the scheme and eligibility criteria are available on the website.

6. Correspondence.

No correspondence was received.

7. Any Other Business:

- Cllr. Ahern raised the issue of the Pontoon Bridge in Midleton and asked if there was anyway a small bin could be provided here. Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal district Officer informed the Members that waste regime is based on a particular budget and the number of staff and number of bins does not provide for any extensions.
- Cllr. Ahern asked if there was any update on land for a graveyard in Midleton. Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer, informed the Members that he has no update presently and suggested the matter be raised at County level. Cllr. Linehan Foley asked if Youghal could be included.
- Cllr. Ahern asked if there was any update on speed issues on the Killeagh Road, Mogeely. Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer will revert back to Cllr. Ahern on this issue.
- Cllr. Ahern asked if there was any update on road drains and the road surface at Lissany, Cloyne. Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that no consideration has been given to this area yet but stated that some localized drainage works may take place and suggested that this matter be brought back on the Agenda.
- Cllr. Linehan Foley requested that Youghal Soccer Club attend the March Meeting to showcase future plans for the club. Mr. Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer informed the Members that the club should apply in writing.
- Cllr. Linehan Foley asked if the Senior Executive Engineer investigate the possibility of the layout of additional parking within the estate and stated that there is a tree in the middle of the green area in this estate which needs to be looked at regarding its roots.
- Cllr. Linehan Foley raised the issue of overgrown hedging coming down Windmill Hill at Prospect Farm which needs to be cut back. Ms. Helen Mulcahy, Senior Staff Officer informed the Members that this wall is not in good condition and will discuss same with Cllr. Linehan Foley.
- Cllr. Linehan Foley asked if playgrounds within the East Cork area be washed down before the fine weather sets in. Ms. Helen Mulcahy, Senior Staff Officer informed the Members that there is a maintenance programme in place to ensure playgrounds are cleaned each year but stated that it is a bit early yet to carry out sanitisation cleaning.
- Cllr. Hegarty raised the issue of the condition of the road at Aghada GAA Pitch and the road from Cloyne Cross to Castlemartyr.

- Cllr. Hegarty asked if there was any update on the extension to the Lisgoold Cemetery. Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that this project is on a list to procure a consultant.
- Cllr. Linehan Foley raised the issue of a sinkhole outside Dr. Twomey's in Kilcoran Road which is very deep and asked if a cone could be provided here as a temporary measure.

8. Vote of Sympathy.

The Members unanimously proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late former Taoiseach, John Bruton.

The next meeting of the East Cork Municipal District will take place on Monday 4th March at 10.30 a.m. at Mall House, Youghal.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.