

Mayor & Members,

I refer to the following Notice of Motion from the Members of the Municipal District of West Cork which is on the Agenda for the Council meeting on the 12th of October

“Following the extensive damage to the road network of West Cork, as a result of the recent bad weather events, that emergency funding would be made available to carry out necessary repairs and resurfacing work”.

Response

Significant damage was caused to roads in the West Cork Municipal District as a result of the flooding event on 11th & 12th September last and in particular across the three West Cork peninsulas. The Council's supervisory and outdoor staff worked long hours, over that weekend and again over the following weeks, carrying out clean up, repairs, and remedial works to make all the roads passable for locals. However, the roads cannot be returned to a satisfactory standard with proper surfaces until the necessary funds are made available. A report on progress of the repairs was furnished to the meeting of the West Cork Municipal District Committee on Monday 5th October.

The estimated cost of the road and associated bridge/structures damage is €2,341,165. The Chief Executive wrote to the DTTAS on 21st September last requesting funding in order to respond to these exceptional circumstances (copy attached) and a response to this request is awaited.

A number of structures were badly damaged and will need to be replaced or require extensive remedial works. This has resulted in a number of strategic roads being closed, for example – A tidal culvert on the LP 4402 at the causeway in Dough, near the beach at Barley Cove, has collapsed. The closure of this road has had a big impact on local traffic due to the length of the diversion route and for tourist traffic accessing Mizen Head. To complicate matters this structure is located in a Special Area of Conservation.

A short section of seawall near the bridge on the R597, between Leap and Glandore / Union Hall, has collapsed. An inspection carried on Thursday 8th October revealed that the ground conditions have deteriorated further in recent weeks and that it is necessary to close the

regional road to all traffic, which will cause inconvenience to those living and working in the vicinity.

The Council is currently in the process of procuring a Consultant to progress the bridge/structure remedial works should the necessary funding become available.

Tom Stritch,
Director of Services,
9th October 2015.