

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 19TH JUNE 2023 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, CARRICKLAWN, WEXFORD.

Presiding: - Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell

Councillors: - D. Hynes, G. Laffan, T. Forde, L. Kelly, J. Hegarty, G. Lawlor

In Attendance:

Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive

Ms. Sinead Casey, A/Director of Services

Ms. Eilís Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer

Mr. Anthony Bailey, District Manager

Mr. Diarmuid Houston, Senior Planner

Ms. Catherine McLoughlin, Heritage Officer

Mr. Shay Howell, Senior Executive Architect, Housing

Mr. David Codd, Chief Technician & Road Safety Officer, Roads

Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment

Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Engineer, Water Services

Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer

Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer

Ms. Caroline Crowe, Assistant Staff Officer

At the outset, Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell welcomed attendance of the Chief Executive, Mr. Tom Enright to address the Members.

UPDATE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON LAND ACQUISITION AT BALLYNAGEE & PLANS FOR NEW OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE CENTRE AT CRESCENT QUAY

Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive provided an update to Members on the recent land acquisition at Ballynagee and plans for a new outdoor performance centre at Crescent Quay.

Land Acquisition Ballynagee

Mr. Enright was pleased to inform Members that contracts for the acquisition of 54 acres of land at Ballynagee were signed and the completion of the purchase is imminent. This land will be used to provide approximately 12 acres to the Department of Education for school sites subject to a Section 183 agreement with a significant proportion of the remaining lands to be used for affordable and social housing.

An agreement in principle has also been reached with the Department of Education for the Council to take the 16 acres of land in Clonard as part exchange for the 12 acres at Ballynagee. Mr. Enright added that discussions are taking place with WSPCA to develop a portion of this land in Clonard, for their use.

Mr. Enright stated that the purchase of the Ballynagee lands is hugely important as it will allow new school projects currently stalled to progress and will also provide the Council with a large and very strategically located and serviced site for the development of housing for many years to come.

Mr. Enright thanked Cllr G. Lawlor and the Members for their support and patience over the past number of months as efforts were being made by the Council to secure suitable sites for the development of new schools. He also thanked Bank of Ireland, Receivers Grant Thornton, Savills Estate Agents, Property Unit, Wexford County Council, in particular Mr. A. Bailey for the time and effort to secure this site.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Enright.

- Traffic Management Plan for area
- Surrounding infrastructure and link roads
- Emphasis on Active Travel in any development plans.
- Inclusion of expansion capacity for development.

Outdoor Performance Centre at Crescent Quay

Mr. Enright updated Members on the demolition works underway at the former Tesco building at The Crescent Quay. Mr. Enright informed Members, it is intended to extend this work to include the demolition of the old Dún Mhuire to make way for the construction of a modular 400-seater performance venue with a life span of 30 to 50 years. Mr. Enright confirmed that a modular build would facilitate the venue being in situ for the Fleadh Cheoil in 2024. He further added that a public realm area and car parking is included in the plan.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Enright.

- Funding for the development.
- Possible impact on proposed performance area at Trinity Wharf.
- Update on the vacant tourist office on the quay front.
- Upgrade of the bandstand in St. Peter's Square.

Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell thanked Mr. Enright, on behalf of Members for his attendance and update on these good news projects for the town.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

On the proposal of Her Worship, the Mayor Cllr. M. Bell, a unanimous vote of sympathy was extended to the family of the following:

- Mr. J. Maguire, Mulgannon, Wexford RIP

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 15th May, 2023 copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed, and signed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes.

Matters Arising

In response to a request from Cllr. T. Forde for an update regarding the meeting that was to be organised about the antisocial behaviour at Talbot Green, with relevant stakeholders, Mr. A. Bailey advised that the meeting will be organised in advance of the County Joint Policing Committee meeting, scheduled for September.

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly, it was unanimously agreed that Mr. P. Delaney, Project Coordinator be invited to attend the July meeting, to give a presentation on the services provided by the Cornmarket Project.

MINUTES FROM PROTOCOL MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Protocol Meetings held on Monday, 17th April, and Friday 26th May, 2023 respectively, copies of which had been circulated to Members, were noted.

SECTION 183-TRANSFER OF LAND AT 55 KENNEDY PARK

The attached report regarding the proposed transfer of land at 55 Kennedy Park, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by the District Manager, and unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. T. Forde.

PROPOSAL FOR SITE ON BELVEDERE ROAD

The attached plans for the proposed development of 8 housing units at Belvedere Road was presented by Mr. S. Howell, Senior Executive Architect. Mr. Howell informed Members that the two-storey pitched roof design will incorporate two-bedroom units on the ground floor and one-bedroom units on the first floor. Mr. Howell further advised that the surrounding low wall will be repaired, and while it will not be raised, planting will be carried out to give privacy to the development. He also confirmed that a strong commitment to funding has been received from the Department of Housing and that he is seeking the Members approval to proceed to Part 8 planning for the development.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Howell.

- Repairs to the boundary wall.
- Privacy of associated garden areas.
- Consultation with residents in the area.
- Loss of car parking spaces for the Courthouse.
- Timeline for commencement of works.

Members broadly welcomed the proposal. Her Worship, the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell thanked Mr. Howell, on behalf of Members, for his presentation.

WEXFORD HERITAGE LED REGENERATION PLAN

The attached Wexford Heritage Led Regeneration Plan, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Mr. D. Houston, Senior Planner and Ms. Catherine McLoughlin, Heritage Officer.

Following a query from Cllr. D. Hynes on the inclusion of the old Hospital building, Ms. McLoughlin confirmed that only assets in the ownership of Wexford Council County are included in the plan. Ms. McLoughlin did clarify that the Old Jail was included but that a feasibility study would be required before any works could proceed.

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell, the Wexford Heritage Led Regeneration Plan was unanimously adopted.

Ms. C. Loughlin extended an invitation to Members to the official launch of the plan by Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell, at 1.30p.m, Friday 23rd June, in Wexford Arts Centre.

ADULT SCHOOL WARDEN POLICY 2023 (DRAFT)

The attached draft Adult School Warden Policy, 2023 was presented by Mr. D. Codd, Chief Technician. Mr. Codd clarified that the process contained therein has been used for the last 20 years, and he is now seeking to formalise and standardise the process across all the districts.

Following a lengthy discussion and concerns raised by Members, Ms. S. Casey, A/Director Services undertook to examine the matrices used to determine the need for wardens, and whether each crossing could be examined on its own merits. In the interim, Ms. Casey asked Members to forward their comments and observations on the draft policy to Mr. D. Codd, Chief Technician.

Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell thanked Mr. Codd, on behalf of Members, for his attendance.

DRAFT WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT TRAFFIC & PARKING BYE-LAWS

The attached recommendation on the Draft Wexford Borough District Traffic & Parking Byelaws, 2023 was presented by Ms. E. Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer. Ms. Furlong outlined to Members the representations received during the public consultation period, which closed the 22nd May, 2023.

Following clarifications, the Draft Wexford Borough District Traffic & Parking Byelaws, 2023 were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell.

Suspension of Standing Orders

It being 4.30pm on the proposal of Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell, it was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow for the remaining business on the agenda to be concluded.

Cllr. D. Hynes gave his apologies and departed the meeting.

SHOPFRONT IMPROVEMENT GRANT SCHEME 2023

The attached proposed shopfront improvement grant scheme, a copy of which was previously circulated, was presented by Mr. A. Bailey, District Manager. Mr. Bailey advised Members that the scheme has been devised to support businesses in the town to renovate the front façade of their building, both ground and upper floors. Mr. Bailey briefly outlined the level of grant aid available and the application process, with the closing date for receipt of applications Friday 28th July, 2023.

Members broadly welcomed the initiative, adding that everything possible should be done to encourage participation in the scheme.

HOUSING

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was discussed and noted.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer.

- Policy on number of absences permissible while resident in Ozanam House.
- Update on conversion the community house in Wolfe Tone Villas to housing stock units.
- List of properties identified for energy retro filling in the district.
- Duty of landlords following H.A.P. inspection and numbers referred for legal proceedings.

- Commencement date for Tenant in Situ Scheme if Notice to Quit issued for future date.

PLANNING

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

In response to concerns raised by Cllr. J. Hegarty about the high rate of planning refusals, 44%, for district, Mr. A. Bailey, District Manager, undertook to raise the issue with the Planning Section.

DISTRICT ENGINEER

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was discussed and noted.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Eilís Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer.

- Update on development plans for old landfill site at Carcur.
- Condition of stone on walkway to the Raven Point.
- Repairs to trip hazards on High Street.
- Poor condition of surfaces at in front of 33-44 Kennedy Park.
- Installation of fully accessible play equipment and adult fitness equipment in Min Ryan Park.
- Extension of the home zone speed limit areas.
- Requirement for signage on Edenvale trail walk.
- Sightlines at entrance to Lus Mór, Whiterock Hill and need for ramps within the estate.
- Grass cutting in Wolfe Tone Villas and Shana Court housing estates.
- Update on outstanding line marking across the district.
- Hedge and verge cutting due to road safety concerns at various locations across the district.
- Under resourced staffing of the rural areas of district.
- Update on the Curraclloe to Wexford Greenway.
- Restricting access to Redmond Park after hours from Hill Street car park
- VMS sign at the roadworks at Kerlogue, displaying incorrection information.
- Accessibility at Oyster Lane and renewal of line markings.
- Update on funding for Active Travel measure between the town and Castlebridge.

Following a query from Cllr. J. Hegarty about availability of information to users on the safe use of Bolt Bikes. Cllr. L. Kelly advised that any evidence of inappropriate behaviour can be directed to Bolt and the user locked out of from using the App.

Cllr. Kelly was pleased to inform Members that 3,000 journeys have taken place covering 8,000 kms and that demand for the service is rising.

It being 5:15p.m., Cllr. T. Forde gave his apologies and exited the meeting.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

ENVIRONMENT

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

Mr. A. Bailey, District Manager agreed to seek an update for Members, from Environment, on the water dispensers on the quay front and Ballinesker beach.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

FIRE SERVICES REPORT

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

MOTION

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. L. Kelly seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty:

“Propose that Wexford Borough District set a speed limit of 50km from Curraclloe Village to all beach car parks in its vicinity”.

Ms. E. Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer recommended that in order to consider this proposal further, it should be included Speed Limit Review process which is currently underway. Mr. Furlong undertook to investigate if additional rural signage could be installed as interim measure to reduce speeds.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 19TH JUNE 2023

MAYOR OF WEXFORD

