

**Minutes of the Rosslare Municipal District Monthly Meeting  
held on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 10:30hrs in  
the Council Chamber, County Hall, Carricklawn**

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- Presiding:** Cllr Jim Moore– An Cathaoirleach
- Councillors:** Cllr Lisa McDonald - Leas Cathaoirleach  
Cllr Ger Carthy  
Cllr Jim Codd
- Officials:** Nóirín Cummins – District Manager  
Lynda Lacey – District Director  
Michael Brazzill – District Engineer (Roads)  
Caroline Creane – Administrative Officer (Housing / Community)  
Sharon Ryan – Senior Staff Officer (Housing)  
Sonia Hunt – Executive Planner  
David Wall – Assistant Planner  
Gerry Forde – Senior Engineer (Environment)  
Sean Meyler – Senior Engineer (Special Projects)  
Rory Curtis – Executive Engineer (Special Projects)  
Johanna Somers – Assistant Staff Officer  
Dean Waters – Staff Officer
- Remote:** George Colfer – Executive Engineer (Environment)  
Barry Dunphy – Nicholas O’Dwyer Consulting Engineers  
Sharon Pettit on behalf of Verona Murphy TD - Oireachtas Member
- Apologies:** Cllr Frank Staples

Due to the delayed arrival of An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, Leas-Cathaoirleach, Cllr Lisa McDonald, took the chair, welcomed all those in attendance and commenced the meeting.

Leas-Cathaoirleach, Cllr Lisa McDonald, recommended the suspension of standing orders to facilitate the presentation on Coastal Erosion and the Flood Relief Scheme in Rosslare Strand & the Burrow. On the proposal of Cllr Ger Carthy, seconded by Cllr Jim Codd, standing orders were duly suspended.

**8. Special Business (*Internal / External Presentations etc*).**

*8.1 Coastal Erosion & Flood Relief Scheme – Rosslare Strand & The Burrow / Nicholas O’Dwyer Consulting – Barry Dunphy, Operations Manager*

Barry Dunphy, Operations Manager, of Nicholas O’Dwyer Consulting Engineers, proceeded to deliver his presentation.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, arrived and took the chair.

A discussion followed.

Following comment from Cllr Lisa McDonald, Barry Dunphy confirmed that the scheme was following *Best International Practice* guidelines with live and current data and a 200yr event being used in design.

The S.E Environment confirmed that this scheme was connected to coastal erosion & flood relief of the coastline and not to the instances of recent land flooding which was caused by excessive rainfall.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, requested advance notice of the public consultations planned as part of the process, before thanking the Operations Manager for his presentation and the information provided. The S.E Environment fully supported these comments and agreed to give the members advance notice as requested.

Barry Dunphy confirmed that the scheme would be operational in 2027, with monitoring to continue until 2029. He then thanked the members for the opportunity to present, apologised for being unable to attend in-person on this occasion, and then departed from the meeting.

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

### ***1.1 Monthly Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023***

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of October 25<sup>th</sup> 2023, were proposed by Cllr Ger Carthy and seconded by Cllr Lisa McDonald.

### ***1.2 Matters Arising***

The responses and information provided in relation to queries from the previous meeting were noted and it was agreed they would be revisited as necessary under the appropriate agenda items.

## **2. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members**

None

## **3. District Manager Report**

### ***3.1 District Managers Report***

The District Manager delivered her monthly report and highlighted the following information;

#### ***Community Monuments Fund 2023***

Silvermine project in Barrystown €100,000 – Works are complete and an event to acknowledge the completion of this phase of works, funded by the grant and Wexford County Council, has been organized by the Bannow Historical Society for tomorrow at 15:00hrs on-site and afterwards in Colfer's, Carrig.

### *Community Green Flag Awards*

The Green Flag Community Award brings the award to community initiatives such as Community Gardens, Community Parks, and Tidy Towns Projects. Acknowledging the work done by local groups the Community Award helps empower community groups to improve their local area and environment. The 2023/24 Green Flag Award Scheme was open to candidate parks and gardens across Ireland. This year RMD again assisted the entry of 3 community parks in the 2023/24 Green Flag Community Awards;

- *Rosslare Harbour Memorial Park & Gardens*
- *Our Lady's Island*
- *Foulksmills Community Park.*

Following site visits and the completion of the An Taisce judging process, I am delighted to report that all 3 parks have been accredited "Green Flag" status for 2023/24, retaining the accreditations for a second year following last year's successful initial applications.

The scheme is only open to freely accessible public green spaces and is enthusiastically received by Park and Garden Management as it delivers major wins for the delivery of quality green spaces by respective parks and park departments.

It is important to acknowledge the achievement of the 3 communities involved with the excellent management and delivery of these fantastic public spaces.

### *Wexford County Council Estates Competition*

Congratulations to all those that participated in the recent Wexford County Council Estates competition. The awards ceremony took place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, in the Street, Carricklawn.

The award for the Best Garden category in the Rosslare District was won by Mary Tubritt, St James Drive, Tomhaggard, and the award for the Best Estate category in the Rosslare District was won by St Brendan's Estate, Rosslare.

### *SS St Patrick - Memorial Service*

Following an invitation from Cllr William Shaw, Deputy Mayor in Fishguard and Goodwick and the also the Chairman of the local Branch of the Royal British Legion, to the Members to attend a memorial service on the Ferry and in the port of Fishguard on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November for those who died aboard the St Patrick passenger ferry on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 1941 12 miles from Fishguard, Wales, the trip went ahead as planned.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, and I were accompanied by WCC Cathaoirleach, Cllr John Flemming, WBC Deputy Mayor, Cllr Leonard Kelly, members of the Rosslare Maritime Society, and members of the Pierce family.

In Fishguard we met Cllrs from Fishguard and Goodwick Council and Royal British Legion for a ceremony ashore. The ferry then stopped on the return

journey above the wreck site and we joined in a commemorative service on the helicopter deck.

For the return journey our party of 18 were joined by a party of 41 from the other side of the Irish sea.

We would like to thank Stena for their hospitality and support in the facilitation of this event.

#### *Meeting with District Officer, Superintendent James J. Doyle*

Dialogue continues between An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, and District Officer, Superintendent James Doyle, in an effort to arrange a suitable date for the meeting between the RMD Members and Garda representatives to discuss policing matters within the District.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, confirmed that the provisional time and date agreed was the morning of Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and confirmation would follow shortly.

#### **4. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, requested the reports as required with the order of business to be reflected in the minutes.

##### ***4.1 Roads Report***

The Members commended the District Engineer and his team for the recent flooding in the Rosslare Strand area.

The District Engineer undertook to pass on the sentiments to all those who had assisted with the emergency works.

A discussion followed.

The District Engineer confirmed works were ongoing to mitigate future floods and that the canals were being reviewed to ensure there was capacity. The District Engineer further confirmed that M&T were currently surveying the network in Rosslare Strand to get a better understanding of the system.

The District Engineer delivered the report before responding to questions from the Members, agreeing to log the general maintenance issues raised, whilst also confirming or updating on the following items;

- *Kilmore Quay Reinstatement Works / WWTP*
- *Rathaspeck Signage*
- *District Drainage Works*
- *Trinity to Taghmon – Road Surface / Signage*
- *Solar Farm Reinstatement Works*
- *Line Marking*
- *Tagoat – Safety Survey*
- *Forth Mountain - Flood Assessment*

whilst also agreeing to investigate the following matters;



- *Flood Signage – Hodges Mill*
- *Pickets Cross - Sightlines*
- *Barrystown Lane / Little Sea Junction - Sightlines*
- *Regional Roads – Line Marking*

#### *Deerpark Road – Forth Celtic*

Following comment by Cllr Lisa McDonald in connection with the issues surrounding the road surface and the need for the ESB to keep the community informed of their intentions and schedule for re-surfacing works, the District Engineer committed to contacting **ESB Networks** regarding the current status.

#### *Roads Programme 2023*

The Executive Engineer gave an update on the delivery of the Roads Programme 2023.

##### **4.1.1 Bus Shelter Progress Report**

The District Engineer gave a progress report / update on the following outstanding works;

- *Progressing – Bridgetown (#2)*
- *Progressing - Killinick*
- *Active Travel - Wellingtonbridge x2*
- *Active Travel – Kilrane x2*
- *NTA Application – Tagoat x2 (North & South)*
- *NTA Application – Drinagh x2 (North & South)*

##### **4.2 Housing Report**

The Administrative Officer introduced her housing replacement Sharon Ryan, Senior Staff Officer, to the Members before delivering her previously circulated report.

##### **4.2.1 Rosslare MD Specific**

The Administrative Officer delivered the Rosslare MD specific housing report and responded to queries from the Members.

#### *Data Accuracy / Relevance*

Referring to *Matters Arising item 1.2.1*, Cllr Ger Carthy voiced his frustration and again highlighted the importance of the accuracy and relevance of current data supplied and insisted on the removal of previously delivered houses from the Rosslare MD Specific housing report as proposed and seconded at the October monthly meeting.

The Administrative Officer agreed to relay this request to the Housing Capital team for actioning.

The District Director agreed to request at director level also to ensure completion of task.

*Housing Adaptation Grants (People with Disability – Housing Adaptation Grant / Housing Aid for Older People Grant / Mobility Aids Housing Grant).*

Cllr Ger Carthy, noted the response under Matters Arising Item 1.2.1 again reaffirming his request for data in relation to these applications – to include the number of applications, the number of applications assessed, the number of applications awaiting assessment, the number approved, and the number actioned or awaiting actioning.

*Homelessness / Osman House Emergency Accommodation*

Following comment from the Members, the Administrative Officer confirmed that the Social Care Worker and Homeless Coordinator assist all those presenting as homeless and followed certain processes and procedures.

A discussion followed.

It was agreed that a visit to Osman House could be proposed and arranged through a meeting of the full council.

*Tagoat Social Housing – Sod Turning*

The District Manager confirmed that following an update from the Housing Capital team, WCC were expecting approval for stage 4 over the next few days with a sod turning ceremony to be in December.

*Energy Upgrade Retrofit Programme*

In reference to a response under *Matters Arising item 1.2.1*, regarding Tenants who are declining works under the programme, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, expressed concerns that misinformation was a factor in tenant reluctance to proceed with retrofitting, and asked if we had a leaflet or other measures in place to counter such misinformation.

The Administrative Officer agreed to investigate and revert.

*Croi Conaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant*

The **Croi Conaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant** District figures under *Matters Arising item 1.2.1* were noted, before the scheme was again discussed at length.

The District Director advised the Members of the new reporting structure of the Vacant Homes team.

Following comment from the Members, an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, requested the attendance of Mick McCormack, A/Senior Executive Officer, at the next monthly meeting. The District Director agreed to arrange the attendance of the A/Senior Executive Officer as requested.

#### *The Buy and Renew Scheme*

Following comment from the Members the Administrative Officer agreed to investigate the current District figures and revert.

#### *Derelict / Vacant Properties*

It was noted that the previously discussed 2 unfinished properties in Clongeen would be sold by public auction the following day, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>.

The District Manager confirmed that she had opened dialogue with the owner of 2 unfinished properties in Carrig-on-Bannow.

#### *Choice Based Lettings*

Following comment from the Members the Administrative Officer agreed to confirm the number of houses currently offered on the system.

#### **4.2.2 Housing Capital Project Report**

Noted.

#### **4.3 Planning Report**

The Executive Planner introduced the previously circulated report before clarifying some matters for the Members.

#### *Planning Enforcement Case 047/2021 - Tamer Metal Recycling Limited, Kilrane Business Park / An Bord Pléanala Decision 312172-21*

The **An Bord Pléanala (ABP)**, decision detailed under *Matters Arising (item 1.2.2)* was noted by the Members.

The Assistant Planner clarified the processes leading to and following the ABP decision. Further confirming that enforcement had issued and legal proceedings for the operating of an unauthorised business would follow as necessary.

Cllr Lisa McDonald requested that a “Cost Order” be sought to cover any legal costs incurred by Wexford County Council in connection with the enforcement of the case.

Cllr Ger Carthy requested that Ensor O’Connor Solicitors be asked to attend a meeting to explain a detailed plan of action of enforcement.

The assistant planner agreed to relay this request to Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer.

The S.E Environment confirmed that legal advice was being sought in regard to the Waste Disposal Licence granted on the basis of historic planning.

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Following acknowledgment from the Chair of the current time being 12:30, Cllr Frank Staples proposed the suspension of Standing Orders. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Ger Carthy and the meeting continued.

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#### *Great Southern Hotel – Rosslare Harbour*

Following observations from the Members, the Assistant Planner confirmed that the Enforcement Section were looking at any deviations from Planning Permission, which may potentially include use.

The need for advice and extra support from Senior Counsel was also suggested and discussed.

The Assistant Planner agreed to seek clarity on Wexford County Council's position on the matter.

#### **4.3.1 Planning Decisions – Grants**

Noted.

#### **4.3.2 Planning Decisions – Refusals**

Noted.

#### **4.4 Libraries Archives & Arts Report**

The content of the previously circulated report was noted.

#### **4.5 Community Development Report**

The content of the previously circulated report was noted.

#### *South East Flag (BIM) – Public Meeting*

An Cathaoirleach. Cllr Jim Moore, expressed concern at receiving less than 6 hours' notice of the **Southeast Fisheries Local Action Group** public meeting regarding the opportunity for Tourism and other sectors of the Blue Economy, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Community Groups to benefit from funding under the Priority 3 Section of the **European Maritime Fisheries & Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)**.

It was acknowledged that the notice had been issued by the WCC Economic Development and Tourism Team.

An Cathaoirleach. Cllr Jim Moore, requested that **Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)**, be invited to a meeting to discuss these opportunities for funding.

The Administrative Officer agreed to organise this meeting as requested.

#### **4.6 Environment Report**

The S.E. Environment delivered the previously circulated report before responding to the queries raised by the Members, whilst also confirming or giving updates on the following items:

#### *Arterial Waterways*

Following comment from the Members, the S.E. Environment again confirmed that Wexford County Council had responsibility for 3 arterial waterways, none of which were in the Rosslare District.



### *Coastal Path / Walkway - Rosslare Harbour*

Following comment from Cllr Lisa McDonald, regarding the dangerous nature of the walkway following the ongoing coastal erosion, the S.E Environment agreed to investigate the matter further whilst acknowledging that the pathway may need to be pulled back from the cliff face with the permission of the landowner

### *Piggery, Killluger*

The S.E Environment updated the Members on the latest position and confirmed that the EPA issued a letter on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 stating that *“the activities at Premier Pigs Limited do not fall within the scope of Class 6.2 of the First Schedule of the Environmental Protection Act 1992, as amended, and therefore do not require an Industrial Emissions (IE) license at this time”*.

The S.E Environment advised the meeting that monitoring was continuing with an update to follow next month.

### *Cliff Road - Cullenstown*

The S.E. Environment confirmed that a plan to address the issues on the Cliff Road in Cullenstown would be available shortly.

### *Brexit Adjustment LA Marine Infrastructure (BALAMI) Scheme 2022 - 2023*

The S.E. Environment updated the Members on the 13 projects funded under the scheme totalling € 765,000, advising that 8 project were now fully complete with the remainder nearing completion.

The Members welcomed the works in coastal areas which were funded under this scheme.

### *WCC Annual Environment Awards – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023*

The S.E. Environment advised the meeting that the WCC Annual Environment Awards were held at Ferrycarrig Hotel and proved to be a tremendous celebration of the environment and voluntary effort, confirming that over 250 children, community groups, volunteers, resident groups, and individuals had attended the ceremony.

The Members congratulated all the winners and participants from across the District and commended the Environment Section for encouraging so many entrants in each category and also the District Manager and Staff for actively working with community groups across the District.

#### **4.6.1 Seaview / Coastal Erosion - Update**

The S.E. Environment updated the Members on the coastal erosion schemes and responded to questions from the Members.

Referring to correspondence (*item 5.1*), an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, confirmed that as unanimously agreed at the previous meeting, correspondence had been issued to **Deputy Patrick O'Donovan, Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief** requesting that he attends and facilitates a meeting with his senior officials in the **OPW** and a delegation from **Rosslare Municipal District** to discuss the longstanding

concerns of residents across the District such as coastal erosion and arterial drainage issues.

#### **4.7 Fire Services Report**

Noted.

#### **4.8 Special Projects – Greenway Update**

Following comment from the Members, Seán Meyler, Senior Engineer Special Projects, advised the Members that although reporting to the same directorate, the Special Projects team and the Housing Capital team were separate entities. Also clarifying that he was head of the Special Projects team, whilst Shay Howell, County Architect, was head of the Housing Capital team.

The Members requested confirmation of this structure be circulated.

Seán Meyler, Senior Engineer and Rory Curtis, Executive Engineer, gave an update on the Rosslare Strand to Rosslare Harbour Greenway and the Wexford Town to Rosslare Strand Greenway, before responding to the questions of the Members.

The Senior Engineer confirmed that phase 1 and phase 2 of the Rosslare Harbour to Wexford Town Greenway were being advanced in parallel, before outlining the realistic completion timelines of Q4 2026 for the Rosslare Strand to Rosslare Harbour Greenway and 2028 for the Wexford Town to Rosslare Strand Greenway.

The Senior Engineer also suggested that, based on historic quotes, the current cost of the 6 km stretch from Rosslare Strand to Rosslare Harbour could be approximately 12-13 million, whilst agreeing to obtain a more accurate estimate for the Members before the next meeting.

A discussion followed.

The Members expressed their disappointment and frustration with the timeframe outlined and envisaged.

The Senior Engineer advised the meeting that public consultation would be commenced in Q1 2024 in connection with the route change for the Rosslare Strand to Rosslare Harbour Section.

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Cllr Jim Codd made his apologies and departed from the meeting.

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## **5. Correspondence**

### **5.1 Outgoing Correspondence - Deputy Patrick O'Donovan, Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works & Flood Relief**

The correspondence was noted earlier in the meeting.

**5.2 Incoming Correspondence - Kilmannon Graveyard**

Noted.

**6. Notice of Motion/s –**  
None

**7. Any Other Business**

*Meeting with District Officer, Superintendent James J. Doyle*

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, confirmed that he had now received confirmation that meeting would take place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 in the Council Chamber.

*RMD Monthly Meeting*

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, recommended to the Members that the December Monthly meeting would take place at the later time of 14:00 hrs.

The Members unanimously approved this recommended change of time.

*Fire Services – Flooding Rules of Engagement*

Cllr Ger Carthy, requested clarity be provided by the Chief Fire Officer with regard to the Fire Services rules of engagement surrounding flooding events.

*Congratulations*

Violinist Eve Donohoe was congratulated by Cllr Lisa McDonald on her recent success as a finalist in the **2023 Top Security Frank Maher Classical Music Awards** narrowly missing out on being named Ireland's best young classical musician and requested correspondence be issued to acknowledge her achievements.

**THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

Signed on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023

  
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**Cllr Jim Moore**  
**An Cathaoirleach**  
**Rosslare Municipal District**