

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020 IN GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOM, BLOCK A, WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, CARRICKLAWN, WEXFORD.**

**Presiding:** - His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Lawlor.

**Councillors:** - J. Hegarty, D. Hynes, T. Forde, G. Laffan, M. Bell, L. Kelly.

**In Attendance:-**

- Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services.
- Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager.
- Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.
- Ms. Joan Murphy, Staff Officer.
- Mr. David Minogue, Senior Executive Officer.
- Mr. Liam Bowe, Executive Planner.
- Mr. Michael Doyle, Executive Engineer, Housing.
- Ms. Michele Bridges-Carley, Administrative Officer, Housing.
- Mr. Philip Knight, Senior Staff Officer, Environment.

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

On the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, unanimous votes of sympathy were extended to the families of the following:-

- Mrs. Maura Carty, Bishopswater, Wexford. R.I.P.
- Mrs. Ann Browne, Belvedere Grove, Wexford. R.I.P.
- Mr. Jimmy Hayes, Newbay, Wexford - Former Mayor of Wexford - R.I.P.
- Mr. Pat Donohoe, O'Connell Avenue, Wexford. R.I.P.
- Ms. Evelyn Kehoe, St. Ibar's Villas Castlebridge. R.I.P.
- Mr. John Pierce, Castlebridge, Co. Wexford. R.I.P.
- Mrs. Annie O'Gorman, Coil Aoibhinn, Barntown R.I.P.
- Mr. Jim (Thatcher) Murphy, Garrylough, Castlebridge. R.I.P.

**VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

- To Mr. Derek Kent, Chairman Wexford GAA County Board, on his appointment as Vice-Chairman of the GAA Leinster Council.
- To all the Candidates who ran in the General Election 2020.
- To Brian Malone on receiving his 164<sup>th</sup> cap for Wexford Senior Footballers.
- To Stephen Murphy on his election as President of the Irish World Kickboxing and Karate Association.

In response Cllr. Forde's request for the hosting of a Civic Reception for the successful members of the Wexford Academy of Martial Arts, His Worship the Mayor advised that, having regard to the budget and the increasing number of requests for such receptions, it is considered appropriate to have the

achievements of such groups and individuals recognized and honored by Wexford County Council under the proposed new County Awards Scheme to be launched by the County Council Chairman.

Following discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly, it was agreed that if this Awards Scheme is not launched within two months, a Wexford District Awards Scheme should be established.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty seconded by Cllr. D.Hynes.

## **Matters Arising**

Arising from the minutes Cllr. L Kelly sought clarification with regard to the removal of the 2 disabled person's parking spaces at Selskar Street from the Bye Laws asking if Members had agreed to their removal when 2 alternative spaces are provided elsewhere. In reply, the Mayor confirmed that the priority was public safety and the removal of both spaces albeit that further spaces may be provided into the future in a more suitable area.

Members also requested that the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads be requested to attend the March meeting to update Members on the options/proposals that are being developed in relation to Kyle Cross.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL SERVICES DELIVERY PLANS.**

The Community Development Annual Services Delivery Plan outlining services and activity was presented by Ms. Amanda Byrne, S.E.O., Community Section.

Questions raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Byrne.

His Worship the Mayor and the Members thanked Ms. Byrne for her detailed presentation.

Ms. Byrne also informed members that the Draft Alcohol Bye-Laws have been prepared and are currently with our legal advisors Solicitors and an Garda Síochána for consideration.

## **ROADS PROGRAMME 2020**

Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer, circulated details of the 2020 Road Grant allocations. Mr. Kavanagh advised Members that the Wexford District has a reduced allocation for 2020 due to the new electoral area boundaries arising from the creation of a 5<sup>th</sup> District.

In presenting the detail of the 2020 programme, Mr. Kavanagh advised members that the schedule of works for 2020 was prepared having regard to the Department Guidelines & Pavement Management Rating System.

Areas of concern raised by Members included School Street, Whitemill Road (in the area of Corish Park/Kennedy Park), King Street drop kerbs, old Ferrycarrig Road, roads within Pineridge housing estate and taking in charge of this estate.

Director of Services, Mr. T. Larkin, outlined the position in relation to Pineridge and agreed to bring a report to Members at the March meeting.

Following discussion, the Roads Programme 2020, as presented, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes.

#### **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FOR TAKING IN CHARGE- EDENWOOD (PHASE1)**

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated, was then considered and following discussion, unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

#### **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FOR TAKING IN CHARGE-CROMWELLSFORT GROVE.**

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated, was then considered and following discussion, unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

#### **PROPOSED BROADBAND CONNECTION POINTS IN THE WEXFORD DISTRICT**

Mr. David Minogue, Senior Executive Officer, advised Members that the contract for the National Broadband Plan was signed in November, 2019 and that under this 7 year programme the Department of Rural and Community Development has agreed to install connection points offering free public access to high speed broadband in two centres in the Wexford District where fibre optic broadband is currently not available.

Mr. Minogue further advised that proposed connection points should preferably be close to buildings such as a community centre or sports club where public lighting and car parking is readily available. Areas identified as possible locations at present include the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve at Ardcahan and in the area of the new Carrigfoyle Activity Centre.

To assist in the process, it was agreed that Members would actively consider possible sites in the District and revert to Mr. Minogue no later than 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

#### **KING STREET APARTMENTS INFILL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

Draft Plans for a proposed infill housing development on a derelict site at King Street were presented by Ms. Michele Bridges-Carley, A.O., Housing. Ms. Bridges-Carley

advised Members that, having regard to the location and scale of the site and concerns expressed by Members in relation to a previous proposal, a revised plan comprising of 2 x 2 bed apartments is now being proposed.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde, approval to move to public consultation stage was unanimously agreed.

## **REPORTS:**

### **HOUSING**

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Ms. Michele Bridges-Carley and noted. The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Bridges-Carley.

- Request for more specific detail/breakdown in monthly figures re number of persons accessing homeless services.
- Update on the redevelopment of two derelict properties in Bride Street
- Ongoing efforts being made to ensure that Homeless services reach all rough sleepers.
- Tenants Handbook and responsibility for housing repairs causing difficulty for elderly persons and others in difficult circumstances.

### **PLANNING**

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Mr. Liam Bowe, Executive Planner, and noted.

In response to query from Cllr. D. Hynes with regard to the acquisition of Dun Mhuire and the urban regeneration in the south end of town, Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Service, advised members that negotiations for the proposed acquisition of the building are ongoing and contracts are awaited from the Parish Solicitors.

### **DISTRICT ENGINEERS REPORT**

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer, and noted.

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

- Inadequate advance notification of resurfacing work at Killeens and the resulting disruption to residents and business owners.
- Rodent problem on waste ground at the rear of Kennedy Park.
- Provision of bus shelters at Beechlawn/Ashfield Drive to service the 2 bus stops on either side of the road.
- Closure of pedestrian access onto the quayfront at the Talbot Hotel following the recent installation of new railings by Iarnrod Eireann beside the railway line at Paul Quay.
- Completion date for installation of public lighting on Newtown Road.

- Update on traffic proposals for Rowe Street/High Street/Mary Street and one way system on Common Quay Street.
- Provision of a pedestrian crossing at Ferrybank in the vicinity of the new Memorial Gardens.
- Opening of vested graveyards to the general public.  
The District Manager confirmed that plans were in place to have daily opening introduced in St. John's Graveyard in the first quarter of 2020 and others will be looked at subject to ground conditions and public safety.

Cllr. L. Kelly raised the need for more cycle lanes in outlying areas as highlighted in a letter sent to all Members by Caoilfhionn Roche, a 5<sup>th</sup> class pupil in Barntown NS and a member of the Student Council. Members commended Caoilfhionn for her sense of civic responsibility and for engaging with the Council. Sean Kavanagh, S.E.E. said the Council would acknowledge the correspondence.

### **COMMUNITY**

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

### **ENVIRONMENT**

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

In response to Cllr. J. Hegarty's concerns raised at the January meeting in relation to risks associated with coastal erosion at Ballineskar, Mr. Philip Knight, Senior Staff Officer, confirmed that the erosion was caused by man-made short cuts and not wave action. Mr. Knight advised that landowners have been requested to reinstate fencing and that planting will take place.

Cllr. T. Forde asked if the release of balloons into the atmosphere could be prohibited under bye laws. Mr. Knight to check if this activity is already prohibited under the most recent Litter Management Bye Laws and confirm at next meeting.

In response to Cllr. G. Laffan regarding the installation of CCTV cameras in litter black spots, Mr. Knight confirmed that the General Data Protection Regulations have impacted on the way CCTV footage is captured and stored. In storing data it should be encrypted and most manufacturers do not supply encrypted cameras.

Cllr. J. Hegarty highlighted areas, including Pinewood Estate to St. Joseph's Community Centre and around Wexford Park as black spots for dog fouling and asked if wardens could patrol these areas.

### **Wexford to Curracloe Greenway Project.**

Following discussion at the County Council meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> February, Members expressed their concern that the proposed Greenway from Wexford to Curracloe might not proceed following an Bord Pleanála's decision to refuse planning permission due to the ecologically sensitive sites in question and possible disturbance of bird habitats.

Having regard to the Independent Readers Travel Awards 2020 recently awarded to Curracloe Beach, the important economic and social role tourism plays in the County and the opportunities this project will bring in the enhancement and diversification of the tourism product, along with the health benefits to the area, all Members pledged their support for the development of a greenway from Wexford to Curracloe.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes, Wexford Borough Members unanimously agreed to request the Chief Executive and the Head of Special Projects to keep this project to the forefront and to seek a resolution to the issues to ensure the development of this Greenway is prioritised.

### **LIBRARIES /ARTS / ARCHIVES**

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

### **FIRE SERVICE**

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.

### **THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**

**SIGNED THIS DAY OF MARCH 2020**