

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 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, L. Kelly.

Apologies from Cllr. M. Bell for her inability to attend the meeting were noted.

**In Attendance:-**

- Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services.
- Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager.
- Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.
- Mr. Tom Banville , Senior Executive Officer
- Mr. Liam Bowe, Executive Planner.
- Mr. David Codd, Road Safety Officer.
- Ms. Michele Bridges-Carley, Administrative Officer.
- Ms. Joan Murphy, Staff Officer
- Ms. Geraldine Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

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

- Mrs. Margaret (Peg) Whelan, Crory, Crossabeg. R.I.P.
- Mr. Darren Killeen, Boolabawn Glynn. R.I.P.
- Mrs. Anne (Nance) Browne, Big Barn, Ballycogley, Bridgetown. R.I.P.
- Ms. Sarah Patricia Nolan, Ard Uisce, Whiterock Hill. R.I.P.

**VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

Votes of congratulations were extended to the following:

- Andrew Bolger on his co-option to Wexford County Council representing the Gorey – Kilmuckridge Municipal District.
- Curracloe Beach on winning Ireland's Favourite beach at the Independent Readers Travel Awards 2020.
- To all the Emergency Services, including the Fire and Rescue workers, for their work over the Christmas period.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly seconded by Cllr. G Lawlor.

## **WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL (WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT) DRAFT TRAFFIC & PARKING BYE LAWS, 2019 .**

The attached Draft Traffic & Parking Bye Laws, 2019 were presented by the District Manager, Angela Laffan, for approval to proceed to public consultation stage. Copies of submissions/observations received from the public during the 'trial period' with regard to traffic management issues were also circulated for information of Members.

Amendments to the Schedules to the Draft Bye Laws were outlined by the Senior Executive Engineer, Sean Kavanagh, under the individual headings and discussed as follows:

- Disabled Bays

The Schedule of Disabled Persons Parking Bays was unanimously agreed subject to the removal of the 2 new spaces recently provided at Selskar Street (outside Burgermac). Members raised safety concerns deeming these spaces to be unsuitable due to the adjacent bollards and passing traffic on this narrow section of roadway. Following discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly, it was agreed to remove these 2 spaces from the Bye Laws in the interest of public safety.

- Electric Vehicle Charging Bays – Agreed.
- Bus Parking Bays – Agreed.
- Taxi Ranks – Agreed.
- Loading Bays – Agreed.
- Age Friendly Bays - Agreed.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty, it was agreed to erect signage and to launch a publicity campaign to highlight these new parking bays.

- Set Down Only Areas – Agreed.
- One Way Systems

The one way system on Common Quay Street/The Bullring, which has operated on a temporary basis since 2018, was discussed at length. Mr. Sean Kavanagh outlined the positive benefits of the system in terms of pedestrian safety at The Bullring and traffic movement on the quays. Members highlighted the negative impact of increased traffic on High Street/Allen Street/Mary Street/Henrietta Street being the only arteries connecting upper areas of the town to the quays.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Lawlor, suggested that the direction of traffic be reversed down to the Quays on a trial basis so as to allow access to the quays and alleviate pressure on Rowe Street/High Street.

Following lengthy discussion, to which all members contributed, it was unanimously agreed that the Senior Executive Engineer will review these

areas and revert to Members at the February meeting with a report/recommendations on the impact of reversing the direction of the one way system.

Following consideration of the above amendments to the Schedules to the Traffic Bye Laws, the traffic management issues raised in the submissions from the public were discussed including the following:

Closure of Monck Street/Charlotte Street:

Noting the comments from business owners and the public, all Members were of the view that the closure of Monck Street and Charlotte Street to traffic during the hours of pedestrianisation on Main Street was not working and prohibited access to the disabled parking spaces on Charlotte Street, the Post Office, Bank and other services in the area.

Cllr. G. Laffan suggested that bollards or similar structures be installed to regulate illegal parking by the general public in the vicinity of Ulster Bank.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Lawlor, asked officials to revisit the 2006 decision to pedestrianize this section of Main Street on the basis of practice over the past 14 years.

Following lengthy discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. G Laffan, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes it was unanimously agreed that the section of North Main Street from Monck Street to Charlotte Street be de-pedestrianised with immediate effect.

Increased Traffic on High Street/Mary Street/Allen Street/Henrietta Street:

Members raised concerns at the increase in traffic in the above areas since the closure of Lower Rowe Street during pedestrian hours. Coupled with the one way system on Common Quay Street, Cllr. Hynes pointed out that this is now the only available artery to the Quays from the greater town area and the increased traffic is of concern to residents on these narrow streets.

It was agreed that the Senior Executive Engineer, Sean Kavanagh, would review the situation and revert to the February Meeting with his findings and recommendations.

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT - DRAFT COUNTY WEXFORD ROAD TRAFFIC SPECIAL SPEED LIMIT (AMENDMENT) BYE-LAWS, 2020.**

The attached Public Consultation Report in relation to the Draft Road Traffic Special Speed Limit (Amendment) Bye-Laws, 2020 was presented by Mr. David Codd, Road Safety Officer, Wexford County Council

Mr. Codd outlined the results of the Public Consultation phase of the process during which a total of 189 submissions were received of which 99.53% were in favour of the proposed amendment. Mr. Codd advised that 2 submissions from Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the National Roads Liaison Office have resulted in changes to the Draft Amendment previously presented to Members and deemed appropriate by the Roads Department.

Mr. Codd confirmed that the contents contained within the proposed Amendment will now be presented to the full Council meeting in March 2020 for adoption.

Questions raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Codd.

### **DERELICT SITES UPDATE JANUARY 2020 - WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT**

The attached Derelict Sites Report in relation to Wexford Borough District was presented by Mr. Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer, Planning.

Members welcomed the progress made in relation a number of long standing properties and the increase in the Derelict Sites Levy with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2020.

Questions raised by Members were addressed Mr. Banville and Ms. Geraldine Ellis.

### **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.

- The provision of facilities for traveller families at Park in accordance with Motion adopted by Members at the September Meeting of Wexford Borough District.
- Request for more specific detail/breakdown in monthly figures re number of persons accessing homeless services.
- Request for an update on the Council's Vacant Home Strategy.

Ms. Bridges-Carley also circulated Site Location Map/Plans for a proposed 2 storey housing development comprising 2 No. 2 bed apartments on a derelict site at King Street for information of Members and for further discussion at the February meeting.

#### **PLANNING**

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

On Page 2 of the report, Mr. Bowe corrected the date for receipt of submissions on the National Marine Planning Framework to 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

Other matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Bowe.

#### **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.

Particular areas of concern raised by members included the following:-

- Damage to a raised kerb at the recently completed works at Crescent Quay.
- Safety concerns at the pedestrian crossing at TK Max Paul Quay and need to slow down traffic particularly traffic approaching from the Crescent.
- Gritting of roads during cold spell in particular at Mulgannon Hill.
- Damage to new footpaths on Hill Street due to the ongoing Irish Water works to replace backyard services.
- Update on provision of a new pedestrian crossing at Clonard Village/Whitemill Industrial Estate.
- Provision of pedestrian crossing on Clonard Road.
- Provision of a pedestrian crossing at Ferrybank in the vicinity of the new Memorial Gardens.
- Poor state of repair of footpaths in Pinewood Estate and road surface in Pineridge housing estate
- Need for a full assessment of Killurin Bridge to include drainage and safety improvement works.
- Lack of signage on approach roads for Opera House
- Condition of the concrete surface on Ferrycarrig Road on the approach towards the railway bridge.
- Need for public lighting on Mulgannon Hill, in new car park in Castlebridge and on entrance road to Pairc Charman.
- Poor condition of road surface at junction of Wexford Bridge and Quays.
- Need for additional signage at new temporary roundabout at junction with Sinnottstown Lane.
- Criteria for selection of projects under the Local Improvement Scheme.

### **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.

Cllr. J. Hegarty raised concerns over the hazards and potential risks associated with coastal erosion at Ballineskar.

Cllr. L. Kelly asked if something could be done to prevent "black plastic mesh" buried in the infill at Ferrybank being exposed and washing out to sea.

### **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.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **KYLE CROSS JUNCTION.**

The attached letter of reply dated 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020, from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to the Kyle Cross Junction on the N11, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was noted.

Noting the content of the reply, it was agreed to invite the Senior Engineer, Roads, to attend the February meeting to update Members on the options/proposals that are being developed to reinforce the no overtaking message at Kyle Cross junction.

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

**SIGNED THIS 17<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2020**

**MAYOR OF WEXFORD.**