

MINUTES OF TELECONFERENCING & BRIEFING SESSION OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 3.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 12th MAY , 2020 IN GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOM, BLOCK A, WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, CARRICKLAWN, WEXFORD.

Attendance (In Meeting Room):

In the Chair: His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Lawlor.

Officials: Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager.
Ms. Joan Murphy, Staff Officer.
Mr. Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer, Environment.

Attendance (Dialled in):

Cllr. J. Hegarty, Cllr. D. Hynes, Cllr. T. Forde, Cllr. M. Bell, Cllr. G. Laffan, Cllr. L. Kelly.

Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services.
Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.
Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Engineer.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY & VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Lawlor advised members that all votes of sympathy and votes of congratulations should be emailed directly to the County Secretary, Mr. Pat Collins, for the period of the current Covid-19 pandemic and all will be issued when the Council resumes in plenary session.

At the outset, Cllr. D. Hynes proposed that consideration be given to holding the Borough meetings in the County Council Chamber, County Hall where members and officials could safely adhere to social distancing or to use the Zoom platform in preference to teleconference meetings.

His Worship the Mayor advised that the use of Zoom is not permitted by the Council's IT Department due to security issues and that there would be concerns for members who are cocooning being asked to attend in person.

The Director advised that a decision was taken to convene all District Meetings via teleconferencing but there may be a move to using MS Teams going forward.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17th February, 2020 copies of which had previously been circulated for consideration of members were noted.

MATTERS ARISING

In response to a query raised by Cllr. Forde in relation to the hosting of a Civic Reception for Wexford Academy of Martial Arts, His Worship the Mayor advised that the correspondence in question would be reissued to the President of Wexford Academy of Martial Arts as requested.

AMENITY / ARTS GRANTS 2020.

The attached grants listing of funding allocated by Members to applicants under the Amenity/Arts Scheme 2020, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by the District Manager for consideration of Members.

The allocations were unanimously agreed noting that payment of grants will be processed as soon as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

TRIAL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CURRACLOE BEACHES

Mr. Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer, Environment, outlined details of revised traffic management proposals, as attached, to be introduced at Curracloe beaches with effect from 29th May on a trial basis for the Summer season.

Mr. Forde advised that the link road between The Raven at Culleton's Gap and Curracloe will be closed to traffic for the summer to ease congestion and to provide a safe area for pedestrians and cyclists. In addition, the road between Curracloe and Ballineskar will be open to one-way traffic only, in the direction from the White Gap/Winning Post car park to Ballineskar.

Mr. Forde advised that the beach car parks would reopen after 8th June when the travel limit is extended by government.

Questions raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Forde.

Members expressed their support of the measures outlined and His Worship the Mayor and Members thanked Mr. Forde for his detailed presentation.

REPORTS

HOUSING

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was discussed and noted. The following matters were raised by Members.

Cllr. Forde again asked that more specific details/breakdown of monthly figures re number of persons accessing homeless services be included in the monthly Housing report as previously requested. Cllr. Forde also sought clarification on whether the timeframe on waiting lists for applications under the Disabled Person Grants and Mobility Aids Grants will be further delayed now due to Covid -19.

Cllr. Hynes sought an update on the redevelopment of two derelict properties in Bride Street and a time frame for when housing allocations would take place again.

Cllr. Hynes also enquired if in light of the increased risks associated with Covid-19 if further facilities could be made available in the unofficial halting site at Carcur. Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer, advised that this is an illegal occupation of Council lands but confirmed that a water connection, portaloos and waste and recycling bins have been provided as an emergency measure.

PLANNING

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

Cllr. Forde sought an update on the testing of the anthrax site at Mulgannon, Wexford .

Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services, advised Members that a new planning application in respect of the development has been received but due to current Covid-19 restrictions site visits are suspended. Mr. Larking advised that the Council will deal with the new planning application in its own right whilst at the same time following up on

previous permissions. He added that there is an agreement in place with the developer as to how development can proceed.

Mr. Larking further advised that as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted decisions on Planning applications will issue in June and July.

In response to a query from Cllr. T Forde with regard to the Trinity Wharf Project and the urban regeneration in the south end of town including the Dun Mhuire site, Mr. Tony Larkin advised members that Wexford County Council has agreed to buy the building from the Parish of Wexford and are pursuing arrangements with adjoining landowners to buy into the overall proposals for the revitalisation of South Main Street in order to increase the commercial and amenity value of the area.

Mr. Larkin added that he expects to finalise the purchase of Dun Mhuire Theatre in South Main Street shortly and confirmed that he has met the majority of the user groups at the old theatre building and most of the groups are happy with the arrangements made while discussions are still ongoing with one or two other groups with a view to securing accommodation for these groups elsewhere.

In reply to a request from Cllr. L. Kelly to see drawings of the plans Mr. Larkin advised that there are no architectural drawings as yet which could be brought into the public domain but he would hope to have an update with timeframes etc. for the June meeting.

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:

Cllr. T. Forde sought an update on plans to re-install the water fountain in the Bullring area.

Cllr. J. Hegarty asked for an update on the installation of public lights on the access road to the rugby/gaa grounds at Pairc Charman and that broken lights in the area be repaired.

Mayor, Cllr. G. Lawlor again asked that public lights be installed on the section of road at Carcur from Seamus Kelly roundabout into Parkside housing estate.

Cllr. Hegarty expressed his thanks to all Council staff who continued to work in providing essential/emergency services during Covid and thanked them for their efforts.

Cllr. D. Hynes outlined the need for road markings at speed ramps etc. in the heavily populated Whitebrook housing estate, Whitemill.

Cllr. L. Kelly asked if pollinator friendly signs will be erected in areas recently identified for this purpose in parks and open spaces.

Cllr. L. Kelly also queried when repair work on the damaged railings on Wexford Bridge would be completed.

Cllr. Kelly also advised that people have expressed their concern over the removal of bollards on the Main Street hence allowing traffic to drive through the normally pedestrianised town centre during Covid.

Cllr T. Forde advised that the plaque displaying the name of the train station "O' Hanrahan Train Station" had been removed from outside the station and requested that a letter be sent to Iarnrod Eireann asking for the plaque to be reinstated.

Cllr. G. Laffan requested that the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads attend the June meeting to update Members on the options/proposals that are being developed in relation to Kyle Cross.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

In view of the financial burden on businesses who are struggling due to Covid -19 his Worship the Mayor requested that private landlords waive rents and urged Wexford County Council to offer its full support to Wexford businesses.

Cllr. J. Hegarty requested that formal meetings be arranged with the business sector to offers support and assistance to ensure that we offer the best possible response to this crisis.

Cllr. D. Hynes acknowledged the great community spirit and paid tribute to the indoor and outdoor staff and their ongoing work to help Wexford overcome this crisis.

Cllr. L. Kelly asked if there were any plans for further pedestrianisation or closure of streets in the town on a trial basis to allow restaurants and coffee shops avail of outside space for table and chairs to assist with social distancing.

Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services, advised Members that Wexford County Council and the Economic Development Department will work

closely with the tourism and hospitality industry to support local business at this time of need and would hope to bring details to the June meeting.

ENVIRONMENT

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

Concerns raised in relation to overgrown/ abandoned private garden and recycling at Holmestown Recycling Centre were addressed by Mr. Forde.

Queries in relation to dog fouling and particular problems with ongoing "litter black spots" were addressed by Mr. Sean Kavanagh, SEE.

LIBRARIES / ARTS / ARCHIVES

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

Cllr. J. Hegarty praised the work of the Library Service in adjusting to the new ways of providing such a valuable service.

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.

Curracloe Beaches

- Additional measures May 29th

Curraclloe (White Gap) temporary Road Closure



Culleton's Gap Additional Coned areas



Culleton's Gap Additional Coned areas



Culleton's Gap Additional Coned areas



Culleton's Gap Additional Coned areas



Ballinesker temporary road closure



