

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2019 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.
- Mr. James Lavin, Senior Executive Planner.
- Mr. David Codd, Road Safety Officer.
- Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing.

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

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

- Mrs. Elsie Busher (nee Reck), Whiterock Avenue, Whitebrook, R.I.P.
- Mr. Shane Roche, Ashfield Drive, Wexford R.I.P.
- Mr. Cormac Ó'Braonáin, Chairperson, Labour Youth R.I.P.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. D. Hynes seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

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

The attached Draft Road Traffic Special Speed Limit (Amendment) Bye-Laws, 2020 were presented by Mr. David Codd, Road Safety Officer, Wexford County Council. Questions raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Codd.

Following discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. Bell, it was agreed that the Draft Bye Laws proceed to public consultation stage.

**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, with a recommendation to proceed to public consultation stage in early January.

During discussion on the Draft Bye Laws and the revised traffic proposals, it was agreed to defer the matter to a Special Meeting in January having regard to a number of areas of concern raised by Members and submissions received from the business/retail sector and the general public during the trial period.

### **PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF LAND AT HARRISTOWEN LITTLE & HARRISTOWN BIG, HARRISTOWN, BARTOWN.**

The attached report from the National Roads Liaison Office in relation to the disposal of .57 hectares of land at Harristown Little and Harristown Big, Bartown, in connection with the Rathskillagh to Harristown Little CPO, 1997, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services.

On the recommendation of Mr. Larkin it was agreed to defer consideration of the matter to the January meeting.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **HOUSING**

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

- Update on timeline for 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 monthly figures re number of persons accessing homeless services.
- Update on demolition of 2 derelict houses at Lower Bride Street.
- Lack of service for persons presenting as homeless over a weekend.

#### **PLANNING**

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

In response to query from Cllr. T. Forde with regard to the installation of the Old Water Fountain at The Bullring and the installation of water dispensers at suitable locations, the Director advised that an exact location for the installation of the old water fountain has not yet been decided due to the scale and size of the fountain. Mr. Sean Kavanagh advised that suitable sites will be finalised in the new year.

#### **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:-

- Update on meeting with the Gardai/Road Safety Officer with regard to safety issues in relation to the parking of school buses in the busy built up residential area of Talbot Green as discussed at the October meeting.
- Safety concerns re speed of traffic coming down Corish Park and into Kennedy Park which has resulted in damage to parked cars.
- Provision of bus shelters at Beechlawn/Ashfield Drive to service the 2 bus stops on either side of the road.
- Update on provision of a new pedestrian crossing at Clonard Village/Whitemill Industrial Estate.
- Request for road markings on Mulgannon Hill to be reinstated.
- Following the installation of new public lighting on Newtown Road, the need to improve visibility/safety at the entrance to Coill Aoibhinn housing estate, Newtown Road was highlighted.
- Provision of new signage at public car park to the rear of Wexford Courthouse.
- Provision of a pedestrian crossing at Ferrybank in the vicinity of the new Memorial Gardens.
- Provision of public lighting on laneway to the rear of Avondale Drive/Pinewood used by pupils as an access route to the new Loreto School.
- Safety issues on Oldtown Lane, Castlebridge and need to discourage access for HGV's.
- Public lights on access road into Pairc Charman sports complex not working.
- Need for public lighting on Carcur Road from Seamus Kelly roundabout to Parkside housing estate.
- Update on taking in charge of Pineridge housing estate, Summerhill.

## **COMMUNITY**

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

Cllr. J. Hegarty highlighted the absence of any reference to activities under the Healthy Ireland Programme and requested that this be included in the Community report going forward.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

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

Noting the litter statistics contained in the report, Cllr. T. Forde expressed disappointment at the increase in and extent of littering.

### **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.

### **MOTIONS**

#### **MEETING WITH TOWN TRADERS RE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS**

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

“In advance of any final discussion or decisions on the trial traffic management proposals, a meeting will be facilitated with traders in the town to discuss the trial (and other matters in relation to Wexford town) as was originally envisaged and reported”.

The motion was put forward earlier in the meeting by Cllr. Hegarty during discussion in relation to the Draft Traffic & Parking Bye Laws, 2019. Mr. T. Larkin advised that a meeting with traders could be considered as part of the public consultation process. On the basis of the decision that a Special Meeting of Members be convened in January to discuss the traffic proposals/Draft Bye Laws, no vote on the motion was taken.

#### **OLD GARDA STATION BUILDING, ROCHES ROAD.**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. D. Hynes and seconded by Cllr. T. Forde.

“That Wexford Borough District call upon the OPW to furnish us with details of their plans for the old Garda Barracks and that this council be authorised to explore the possibility directly with the OPW of either a voluntary housing body or the council itself taking a long term lease of the building with a view to providing emergency housing”.

During discussion, Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services, advised that previous discussions with the OPW concluded that the building is not suitable for housing. Mr. Larkin suggested that the motion be amended to remove the reference to emergency housing. On the proposal of the Mayor the following amended motion was agreed and unanimously adopted.

“That Wexford County Council engages with the OPW to explore solutions and potential suitable uses for the old Garda Barracks at Roches Road”.

### **ERECTION OF PLAQUE TO HONOUR EX BOXERS**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. D. Hynes, seconded by His Worship the Mayor and unanimously adopted.

“Following a request from the group representing ex boxers, the Protocol meeting considers having a plaque erected in Redmond Park or another suitable site to honour the Ex Boxers in Wexford Town and District”.

### **ADMISSION PRICES – JOHNSTOWN CASTLE AND GARDENS**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly and unanimously adopted.

“Regarding last year’s dramatic increase of admission prices for Johnstown Castle, I ask that this Council write to the Irish Heritage Trust, and ask them to review admission prices for visitors for the year ahead stating that these increases have placed the historic grounds and castle out of the reach of local families who have enjoyed and supported for many years”.

### **DUN MHUIRE (PARISH HALL)**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly.

“This council recognizes the important contributions of all the groups that use the Dun Mhuire to the social and artistic fabric of this town and opposes any demolition of the Dun Mhuire while these groups do not have an alternative and satisfactory home”.

Following lengthy discussion, and on the advice of the Mayor and Director of Service, it was agreed to defer the matter until February to allow the ongoing negotiations between the Council and the Parish for the proposed acquisition of the building to be concluded.

### **BUDGET FOR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT STUDY**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde.

“Wexford Borough District request a dedicated ring fenced budget for the purpose of instigating a fully costed and resourced Traffic Management Study. This study

should include pedestrians, cyclists, commercial, and all other means of public and private transport and a detailed public consultation”.

The motion was put forward earlier in the meeting by Cllr. Kelly during discussion in relation to the Draft Traffic & Parking Bye Laws, 2019.

Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Service, advised that, while he had no objection in principle, such a study could cost in the region of €100,000 and would be a multi annual project to be funded over a number of years and would have to be considered in the context of the Roadworks Programme for 2020.

Following discussion to which all members contributed, a vote on the motion was taken which resulted as follows:

In Favour: Cllr. L. Kelly, Cllr. T. Forde (2)

Against: Cllr. G. Lawlor, Cllr. M. Bell, Cllr. G. Laffan (3)

Abstaining: Cllr. J. Hegarty, Cllr. D. Hynes (2)

The motion was declared defeated.

## **DELEGATION OF RETAILERS FROM WEXFORD TOWN**

The following motion put forward by Cllr. L. Kelly was withdrawn in the context of earlier discussion and the planned Special Meeting with regard to the traffic proposals and Draft Traffic & Parking Bye Laws in January.

“We could like to invite a delegation of independent retailers from Wexford Town to attend the January meeting to discuss the challenges being faced by them, and how in partnership with Wexford County Council we can help them maintain a strong presence in the commercial areas of Wexford Town”.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **Civic Reception – Wexford Handballers.**

In response to Cllr. D. Hynes, His Worship the Mayor advised that a new initiative is to be launched by Wexford County Council in early 2020 to recognize and honour sporting achievements and following discussion with the Council Chairman, Cllr. M. Sheehan, it is intended that the achievements of the Wexford Handballers will be included in this ceremony.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **1.Mattress/Sofa Amnesty:**

The attached email communication dated 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 from Mr. Hugh Maguire, Environment Section, in relation to the 2019 mattress/sofa amnesty and plans for 2020 in this regard was noted.

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

**SIGNED THIS 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2020**

**MAYOR OF WEXFORD.**

