

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30P.M. ON MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2021 HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS.**

**Presiding:-** His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly  
**Councillors:-** G. Lawlor, J. Hegarty, M. Bell, G. Laffan, D. Hynes, T. Forde

**In Attendance:**

Mr. Tony Larkin, Director Services.  
Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager.  
Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.  
Mr. Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer, Planning.  
Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment.  
Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing.  
Ms. Annette Dupuy, Healthy County Coordinator  
Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer,  
Ms. Caroline Crowe, A/Assistant Staff Officer.

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

On the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, a unanimous vote of sympathy was extended to the family of the following:

- Mrs. Virginia Meyler, Ferrybank, Wexford, RIP

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Votes of congratulations were extended to the following:

- Conor Hearne, Glen Malone and Richard Lawlor on being called up to the Senior Hurling Team Panel.
- Rhianna Jarrett on her recent performance scoring for Brighton F.C, in the FA Cup.
- Evan Dunbar – Finalist in Young Enterprise Ireland competition.
- Robert Agar for his uplifting and motivational videos during lockdown.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. M.Bell, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes.

### Matter Arising

In response to Cllr. M. Bell query regarding further detailed presentation on the proposed lightship restaurant on Wexford Quayfront, Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager, advised that the presentation has been deferred to the June meeting, to allow the investors additional time to prepare the detailed drawings.

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH HERITAGE SUB COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Wexford Borough Heritage Sub Committee Meeting, held on the 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, copies of which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Cllr. M. Bell thanked Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager, for facilitating the very informative site visit to the Westgate Heritage Centre, on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.

Cllr. D. Hynes welcomed the recent announcement of €12,000 funding secured towards the restoration of the Old Town Wall adjacent to Mary Street.

### **HEALTH WEXFORD – PRESENTATION BY ANNETTE DUPUY, HEALTHY COUNTY COORDINATOR.**

Ms. Annette Dupuy, newly appointed Healthy County Coordinator, delivered a detailed presentation to the Members on the Healthy Wexford County Pan 2020 – 2022, developed in line with the Healthy Ireland Framework 2013 - 2025. Ms. Dupuy outlined the 6 Strategic Priority Areas, together with some of the proposed planned initiatives. Following discussions, Ms. Dupuy urged the Members to put forward suggestions for these initiatives, for consideration.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly, and Members thanked Ms. Dupuy for her comprehensive presentation. Cllr. J. Hegarty as Chair of the Healthy Wexford Committee invited Members to submit suggestions or ideas through the District Manager before the June Monthly Meeting.

### **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT TO BE TAKEN IN CHARGE - ARD NA SLÁINE, NEWTOWN ROAD.**

The attached report and recommendations regarding the Taking in Charge of Ard na Sláine, Newtown Road, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly.

## **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT TO BE TAKEN IN CHARGE - THE CHASE COOLCOTTS**

The attached report and recommendations regarding the Taking in Charge of The Chase, Coolcotts, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly.

## **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT TO BE TAKEN IN CHARGE – STONEY PARK, CARCUR**

The attached report and recommendations regarding the Taking in Charge of Stoney Park, Carcur, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly.

In response to a query from Cllr. J. Hegarty re the Taking in Charge of Rectory Hall, Castlebridge, Mr. T. Banville confirmed that, while the taking in charge process is on target for this year, he would revert to Cllr. Hegarty with a more detailed update.

## **REPORTS**

### **HOUSING**

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

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer.

- Illegal dumping at the 6 apartment units recently allocated at the Quay and need to investigate arrangements for refuse disposal.
- Status of available emergency accommodation, in the absence of the Foggy Dew B & B.
- Vacant properties attracting anti-social behaviour in a Wexford Town housing estate. An update/presentation on the Vacant Homes Strategy is to be presented to the next meeting.
- Resumption of inspections of HAP properties. Ms. H. Meehan confirmed that no update has been received from the LGMA when inspections are likely to recommence.

- Backlog of Housing Maintenance issues - Ms. H. Meehan clarified that emergency repairs are being carried out, as necessary and routine repairs, as soon as the lifting of restrictions allows based on available funding.
- Recent reports in local media outlining proposed plans for 150 social housing unit by Remcoll Ltd. including accommodation for the Peter McVerry Trust, on the old Loreto site at Spawell Road were discussed at length. Mr. T. Larkin assured the Members while he was aware that the site had been sold and would be regarded as a prime development site, no formal contact has been made with senior officials in the Council's Planning or Housing Departments regarding any development.

## **PLANNING**

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

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. L. Bowe, Executive Planner.

- Effective date of changes in the new County Development Plan
- Review of the preplanning process and resumption of face to face meetings.

## **DISTRICT ENGINEERS REPORT**

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

The following matters raised by the Members were addressed by Mr. S. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.

- Preparations for Summer Outdoor Dining and expected impact on bin / litter collections.
- Update on the Monck Street Public Realm Scheme.
- Large pothole at Larkins Cross
- Update on the Consultants appointment for works on Killurin Bridge
- Update on works required at Carrigmannon Bridge.
- Resurfacing work on Red Bog Lane is to commence end of May/early June.

- Beechgrove Estate, Castlebridge – Remedial works to footpaths required to eliminate trip and fall hazards.
- Fluctuations in the water pressure in housing estates on Whiterock Hill.
- Bus Transport System - Areas around the town are being examined to assess where pickups can be distributed away from the Talbot Green area. Consideration will need to be given to the most suitable routes for the buses entering the town. Further information on possible sites will be presented to Members at the June meeting.
- Roadmarkings on Mulgannon Hill will be refreshed early June.
- Coastal Path funding is to be sought for the area used by Ferrycarrig Rowing Club to make it accessible wheelchair users. The Environment Section will lead on this.
- Consultation with cyclists on the proposed Beechlawn/Clonard Cycle Scheme.
- Illegal parking on the cycle lane at Ufucoffee, Clonard.
- Overgrown areas and illegal dumping at The Knock / Horse River at the back of Casa Rio.
- Update on the one-way traffic flow system at School Street
- Additional public lighting from Seamus Kelly roundabout to Carcur, and at Mulgannon
- Provision of a defibrillator at Wexford Bridge
- Resurfacing and line marking at car park at Ballinesker Beach.
- ESB Networks upgrade works and upcoming road closures commencing at the junction of South Main Street and Lower Bride Street.

Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager, clarified for the Members, the legal position regarding the loss of trading spaces within the Bullring Market following the sale of the 1<sup>st</sup> unit in the Market by the current owners. She also stressed that the 'Green Room' will not be made available to the traders but will continue to be used by Wexford Town Tidy Towns, to support their invaluable work carried out around the town.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr L. Kelly thanked Mr. Kavanagh and his staff for all the preparation work being carried out to assist the businesses with their reopening and the installation of temporary public toilet facilities on Commercial Quay.

## **COMMUNITY**

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

Cllr. M. Bell complimented Mr. L'Estrange and his team on the recent distribution of the Age Friendly Packs.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

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

The following matters raised by the members, were addressed by Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer.

- Draft Beach Bye Laws on public display. Final date for submissions is 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.
- A list of opening times for the Public Conveniences.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly welcomed the recent launch of the Rewilding Wexford Initiative.

### **LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS REPORT**

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

### **FIRE SERVICES REPORT**

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

In response to a query from Cllr. Maura Bell, Mr. T. Larkin agreed to seek an update from Ms. C. Godkin A/Director of Services, on the roll out of the Fire Service First Responder programme.

### **MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM**

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

Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services agreed to seek clarification following, Cllr. D. Hynes concerns, whereby answers to queries involving a Section 40 form, can only be provided by a Grade 5 or above.

### **Suspension of Standing Orders:**

It being 4.30 p.m., on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow for the remaining business on the agenda to be concluded.

### **MOTIONS**

#### **Public Toilets**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly, and following discussion unanimously adopted:-

“I ask that this Council install public toilets at a location in the town centre and that they be made free to use”

### **COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IN COMMITTEE)**

On the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly, it was unanimously agreed to proceed with discussions on the Draft County Wexford Development Plan, in Committee.

Mr. D. Houston, Senior Planner, afforded Members an opportunity to raise matters on the Draft County Development Plan relative to the Wexford District. Issues raised were addressed by Mr. D. Houston, Senior Planner, Ms. Deirdre Kearns, Senior Executive Planner and Ms. Fiona Fenlon, Assistant Planner.

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

**SIGNED THIS 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2021**

**MAYOR OF WEXFORD**