

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30P.M. ON MONDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2021 REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS.

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

In Attendance: -

Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services
Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager
Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer, Environment.
Mr. D. Houston, Senior Planner
Mr. Liam Bowe, Executive Planner
Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment.
Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing.
Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer
Ms. Caroline Crowe, Assistant Staff Officer.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

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

- Mrs. Ann Byrne, Carrigeen Street, RIP
- Mr. Jackie Moore, Davitt Road, RIP
- Mrs. Jo Brogan, Rosslare Strand, former teacher Mercy Primary School RIP
- Mrs. Breda Roche, Corish Park, RIP
- Rev. Fr. Murty Byrne, Parish Priest, Ballymore/Mayglass RIP

CONGRATULATIONS

Votes of congratulations were extended to the following: -

- Grant Palmer on his selection to the U18 Ireland's Rugby Club Squad
- Alex Currid on reaching the European U18 Singles Snooker Quarter Finals in Portugal.
- Filip Wasilewski and Kaylem Harnett for their participation in the U15 International Friendly Soccer Tournament.
- Shane McCormack for receiving a Euro Athletics Coaching Recognition Award

- Elizabeth McKiernan and Lucy Small on the launch of their interactive online resource “Once Upon a Time”, which outlines the history of Wexford Festival Opera for children and young people.
- Glynn/Barntown GAA Club for the Minor A Hurling and 2nd Minor teams qualifying for their respective County Semi Finals.

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 20th September 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

Matters Arising:

Following the presentation to Members at the October meeting on the proposed plans for a temporary car park on the former Tesco site at Oyster Lane, Cllr. G. Lawlor suggested that consideration be given to the provision of some bus parking facilities within the car park to accommodate parking of school buses and tourist buses.

Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services, advised the Members that the primary objective is to remove dereliction in the area while also supporting plans for the future for the South Main Street. Mr. Larkin confirmed that a Lease of indefinite duration has been negotiated with the owner of the site and the carpark is an interim measure pending the future redevelopment of the site by the owner. He added that it is envisaged that this will be a medium term arrangement of 5 years or more rather than short term. Mr. Larkin advised that the proposal for the car park development is currently in the planning process and agreed to examine the issues raised by Cllr. Lawlor to see what may or may not be achieved.

Cllr. G. Lawlor enquired as to the position regarding the purchase of the Dun Mhuire site and how it will impact on the overall plan for the South Main Street area. Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services acknowledged that there have been significant delays to the legal transfer of the Dun Mhuire, but it is anticipated that it will be completed within the next 3 months and that he did not have details of the plans to South Main Street to hand.

Cllr. T. Forde requested that the School Transport issues and parking at Talbot Green be listed, separately, as an item on the Agenda for the November meeting, for discussion.

Following the recent site meeting in relation to the proposed outdoor performance pavilion on the quayfront attended by Members and the Senior Planner, Cllr. Lawlor raised his concerns about the new location and the impact on other uses of the

amenity that is Wexford Quayfront. He informed the meeting that he had received numerous representations from members of the Arts/Performance sector advising that there had been minimal consultation and that their views had not been considered in its design.

Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Service, and Mr. D. Houston, Senior Planner, clarified the difficulties arising with the original location which resulted in the decision to alter the position on the quayfront. Mr. Larkin advised that the Part 8 planning consultation process has been completed with just one submission received. He stressed that any further change may require a new planning consultation process which would significantly delay procurement and deliver of the project and potentially risk loss of the grant from the Department which must be drawn down before July 2022.

Following lengthy discussion to which all members contributed, and having regard to the advice of Mr. Larkin and Mr. Houston, it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty to convene a further site meeting on Tuesday, 26th October at 4.30 p.m. to afford Members an opportunity to revisit the proposed altered location and to explore options regarding the possible suitability of other sections of the quayfront. Members unanimously agreed to defer a decision on the matter to the November meeting.

PART 8 – PROPOSED OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE PAVILION ON WEXFORD QUAYFRONT

Following the lengthy debate under 'Matters Arising' above, consideration of the report of the Senior Planner, Mr. D. Houston, was deferred to the November meeting.

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.

- Four vacant property units designated as creche facilities in plans for the Cluain Dara housing estate, Clonard. The Director advised that planning permission would be required to return the units to social housing and this could be looked at should an application be forthcoming.
- Criteria for inspections carried out on Turnkey Developments during the construction phase and prior to handover to tenants.

- Affordable Housing – Need for a Scheme for the Wexford District.
- Delays in progressing works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- 'Housing for All' Plan - To be presented to Members at the November SPC Meeting.
- New regulation requiring applicants to submit payslips for the 52-week period prior to application.
- Emergency Accommodation and Cold Weather Initiative. Placing an advertisement seeking properties willing to facilitate emergency accommodation beds is to be looked at again.
- Allocation of Turnkey Units on medical needs and prior consultation with the Access Officer.
- Clarification on delays with routine maintenance on houses. Ms. Meehan informed Members that delays to the maintenance programme can be attributed to both budgetary constraints and lack of availability of contractors.

PLANNING

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

WATER SERVICES

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

Cllr. J. Hegarty expressed concern that some areas in the town are still serviced by old lead pipes such as Bishopswater, Glenna Terrace, Spawell. Mr. S. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer, advised that the replacement of lead piping was shelved in 2019 due to a lack of funding but agreed to raise the issue with the Water Services section.

COMMUNITY

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

Cllr. J. Hegarty and Cllr. M. Bell, extended congratulations to Ms. Annette Dupuy, Healthy County Coordinator on the successful launch of the "Not Around Us" campaign which asks groups and organisations to provide a network of healthy areas, chosen in consultation with young people, where they can be free from smoking and vaping.

Cllr. M. Bell also congratulated all those involved in organising events for Positive Ageing Week.

ENVIRONMENT

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. G. Forde, Senior Engineer and Mr. H. Maguire, Administrative Officer.

- Update on the installation of a permanent public convenience facility on the quay front.
- Littering on Mallin Street
- Littered areas at The Knock, Bishopswater.
- Clean up of the Horse River.

Mr. G. Forde, Senior Engineer, confirmed that a presentation will be made to Members at the November meeting on the review of Beaches Plan 2021 and the 2022 Summer Plan including proposed traffic management measures.

Mr. H. Maguire, Administrative Officer, asked that Members raise public awareness on the 'School Bikes for Africa' Scheme being run by Rotary Ireland and advised that the Recycling Centres are the designated drop off points for the second-hand bicycles.

DISTRICT ENGINEERS REPORT

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. S. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.

- Timescale for works on the dangerous wall at Cromwellsfort and reopening of the road.
- Clean up of 'The Knock', Bishopswater and the top section of the bank which is in Council ownership.
- Need for additional lighting at 'The Knock' in view of recent assault in the area.
- Need to prioritise Cycle Lanes and footpaths for the R741 from Castlebridge to Wexford Town under Active Travel.
- Japanese Knotweed on private lands, in public areas and within L.A. housing estates.

- Interim works to provide improved linkage between Educate Together School and Clonard Village Junction, pending the construction of the new road in this area.
- Update on the Rainbow Crossing in the vicinity of Redmond Park.
- Ongoing issues with ponding at Liam Mellows Park
- Update on the closure of the Right of Way at Talbot Green.
- Installation of additional bicycle stands and shelters around the town.
- Low Cost Safety works at Castlebridge school.
- Surface water drainage on the R730 at the Heritage Park
- Review of the effectiveness of the left turn only at the R730 & Ferrycarrig Bridge Junction
- Drainage issues at Cromwellsfort Heights.
- Timeline for Active Travel measures at Beechlawn/Clonard.
- Progression of Monck Street Pedestrianisation.
- Update on works at the Mechanics Institute.
- Public Consultation on the proposed one-way traffic system at School Street.
- Repairs to lighting under the archway between Redmond Square and McCauleys Car Park.
- Communication to the public on responsibilities of landowners regarding cutting of roadside hedgerows.
- Upgrade works at Carraig Graveyard referred to the Community Section.
- Opera Festival banners on the bridge and along the quay front.

Suspension of Stand Orders

It being 4.30p.m, on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow for the remaining business on the agenda to be concluded.

Cllr. D. Hynes extended congratulations to Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager and Mr. K. Jones, Executive Engineer, on the recent redevelopment of the play area at Redmond Park.

Having extended the road closure on Henrietta Street at the September meeting to facilitate outdoor dining, following a further lengthy discussion on the matter, it was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Cllr. D. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor, to reopen Henrietta Street to vehicular traffic when remaining Covid restrictions are lifted on 22nd October, 2021.

Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager, confirmed to the Members that an overall review of the Outdoor Dining will be carried out before the 2022 season commences.

On the recommendation of Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager, the Members unanimously agreed to allow the current road closure arrangement on Mallin Street to remain in place to facilitate outdoor dining pending the above mentioned review.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS

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.

MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM

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

MOTIONS

CPO Buildings at Johns Gate Street and John Street.

The following motion proposed by Cllr. T. Forde seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes, and following discussion was unanimously adopted.

“We call on Wexford County Council to put Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) on the building/apartments on John’s Gate Street and John Street that have been left idle for many years”.

Traveller Accommodation Programme.

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

“We call on Wexford County Council to honour the goals and targets of the Traveller Accommodation Programme regarding the Wexford District and within the lifetime of the current programme”

Following discussion on the motion a vote was taken which resulted as follows:

In Favour: Cllr. G. Laffan, Cllr. T. Forde, Cllr. D. Hynes, Cllr. G. Lawlor,
Cllr. M. Bell, (5)

Abstained: Cllr. J. Hegarty (1)

The motion was therefore declared carried.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2021

MAYOR OF WEXFORD.