

**WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council  
held on Monday 12 February, 2018 – 2.00 p.m.  
in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford.**

**Attendance:**

**In the Chair:** Cllr. J. Hegarty, Cathaoirleach.

**Councillors:**

P. Breen	M. Byrne	G. Carthy	K. Codd-Nolan
A. Connick	T. Dempsey;	A. Donohoe,	M. Farrell
W. Fitzharris	J. Fleming	D. Hynes	T. Forde
G. Lawlor;	L. McDonald	J. Moore	O. O'Connell
B.A .Murphy	M. Murphy;	J. Mythen	L. O'Brien
F. Ó Súilleabháin	M. Roche;	M. Sheehan	O. Walsh
F. Staples	J. Sullivan;	J. O'Rourke	Tony Walsh
R. Ireton	P. Kavanagh	M. Whelan	

**Officials:** Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive  
Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services  
Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services;  
Mr. P. O'Gorman, A/Director of Services;  
Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance;  
Mr. D. Minogue, Senior Executive Officer

**Apologies:** Councillors: Willie Kavanagh, Keith Doyle  
Officials: Mr. John Carley, Director of Services  
Mr. Pat Collins, County Secretary

**1. Healthy Cities and County**

Ms. Fiona Donovan, National Healthy Cities and Counties Coordinator and Dr. Cate Hartigan, Head of Health Promotion and Improvement at the HSE attended the meeting and presented a Report to the Members in PowerPoint format.

There followed a Question and Answer session with comments and queries from the Members responded to by Ms. Donovan and Dr. Hartigan.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Donovan and Dr. Hartigan for their professional and comprehensive presentation. Ms. Donovan and Dr. Hartigan then withdrew.

## 2. Bucanier Project

Mr. Tom Banville, Head of Enterprise at Wexford County Council and Ms. Siobhan Gethings, Bucanier Project Officer attended the meeting and presented a Report to the Members in PowerPoint format, which outlined the main purpose and objectives of the Bucanier Project.

There followed a Question and Answer session with comments and queries from the Members responded to by Mr. Banville and Ms. Gethings.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Banville and Ms. Gethings for their informative presentation. Mr. Banville and Ms. Gethings then withdrew.

### Expressions of Sympathy:

The Members expressed their sympathy to the families of the following recently deceased:

- Ms. Rita Poole, Mother of Mr. Leonard Poole, Assistant Resident Engineer, WCC
- Ms. Dorothy Donovan, Mother of Mr. Donal Donovan, Community Warden, WCC
- Mr. Patrick McGuire, Father of Ms. Tracey McGuire, Staff Officer, WCC
- Mr. Philip Casey, Irish Poet and Author
- Mr. William Codd, Churchland Stables, Mayglass
- Ms. Sue Furlong, County Wexford School of Music
- Mr. Barry Purcell, Foulksmills
- Mr. Dermot (Derry) Fitzgerald, New Ross

### Vóta Comhghairdeas

Déan na Comhairleoirí comhghairdeas ar na ghrúpaí/dhaoine liostaithe thíos:

- Wexford Sinfonia celebrating 25 years of its existence
- Wexford ICA celebrating 75 years of its existence
- St. Patrick's Fife and Drum Band celebrating 25 years of its existence
- Fethard St. Mogue's GAA following their gallant performance and narrow defeat in the recent AIB All-Ireland Club Junior Hurling Final.
- Councillor Larry O'Brien recently elected as Chairman of the Southern Assembly
- Kilenerin GAA following their gallant performance and narrow defeat in the recent AIB GAA Football All-Ireland Intermediate Club Championship Semi-Final

**3. Confirmation of Minutes:**

**3.1 County Council Meeting - 8th January, 2018.**

Proposed by Councillor Malcolm Byrne, Seconded by Councillor Anthony Connick and agreed.

**3.2 Matters Arising**

Cllr. J. Mythen requested an amendment to the "Votes of Sympathy" portion of the Minutes to reflect the address of the late Mr. Sean Chapman as Enniscorthy.

**4. Proposed disposal of land under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:**

**4.1 Proposed lease of land at Creagh Gorey to the Trustees of Gorey Hockey Club.**

The Council considered the Notice circulated under Section 183 of the Local Government Act.

In reply to a query from the Members, Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services, advised that following transfer, the lands must continue to be used for the purposes as set out in the lease.

Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive assured the Members that the proposed disposal would not adversely impact the Council's social housing programme in the Gorey district.

On the proposal of Councillor Fionntáin ÓSuilleabháin, seconded by Councillor Anthony Donohoe and agreed by all, the proposed disposal was agreed.

**5. Part XI of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8, of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended):**

**5.1 LAC1709 – Proposed development of 7 no. housing units with associated site works at Coolcotts, Wexford.**

The Council considered the Report of the Chief Executive on the proposed development.

On the proposal of Councillor Malcolm Byrne, seconded by Councillor Davy Hynes and agreed by all, it was agreed that the proposed development proceed as proposed in the Report.

## 6. 2016 Audited Accounts and Statutory Audit Report

The Members considered the Report as circulated and noted its contents.

## 7. Borrowing Requirements

Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance presented a comprehensive report (previously circulated) to the Council outlining the Council's borrowing requirements under a number of headings now required to progress the proposed capital programme.

The Report summarised the current borrowing requirements as follows:

House Loan Programme	€5,500,000
Public Lighting	€5,000,000
Economic and Community Development	€40,000,000
<b>Total Anticipated Borrowing Requirement</b>	<b>€50,500,000</b>

In response to Members queries, Ms. O'Neill advised that the borrowings will be drawn down in stages as the Programme progresses. Repayment periods will range from 20 to 25 years with annual repayments estimated to peak at between €1.8m and €2m.

Ms. O'Neill advised that the increase in LPT and Commercial Rates in 2018 will facilitate the budgetary provisions for the resulting loan charges.

In accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001, and on the proposal of Councillor Sheehan, seconded by Councillor Byrne, the Members unanimously resolved to borrow €50.50 Million as outlined in the Report.

## 8. Annual Service Delivery Plans 2017

The Members noted the Report as circulated.

It was agreed that the Council's Homelessness Protocol will be circulated to all Elected Members for their information.

## 9. Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2018

Mr. Eddie Taaffe, Director of Services advised the Members that the Wexford 2018 Draft Service Delivery Plan is currently under preparation and will shortly be brought before the Members for their consideration.

## 10. Ambassador Programme

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor John Hegarty updated the Members regarding proposals by the Council to renew the Wexford Ambassador Programme. Councillor Hegarty advised that a copy of the proposals for the renewed programme will be circulated via 'Minute Pad' to all Members for their information.

The Cathaoirleach further advised that responsibility for the Programme was now transferred to the Director of Corporate Services while the day-to-day operation of the programme is managed by the Council's Communications Officer.

The Members welcomed the renewal of the Programme as outlined.

## 11. Ratification of Wexford PPN Representatives to Committees of Wexford County Council

The Members were notified of the following recent appointments by the Wexford Public Participation Network to committees of Wexford County Council:

Committee	Position	Representative
Economic Development and Enterprise SPC	PPN Social Inclusion Representative	Ms. Mary B. O'Leary
Joint Policing Committee	PPN Community and Voluntary Representatives	Ms. Tina Smith
		Mr. David Doyle
Courtown / Riverchapel Local Policing Fora	PPN Community and Voluntary Representative	Mr. Tony Clyne

On the proposal of Councillor Ger Carthy, seconded by Councillor Willie Fitzharris, the Members ratified the above appointments.

## 12. County Wexford Vacant Homes Strategy and Action Plan 2018 - 2021

Mr. Pdraig O'Gorman, A/Director of Services presented the Plan to the Members for their consideration and responded to queries raised.

The Members welcomed the Strategy and Action Plan and looked forward to its implementation.

### **13. Proposed Amendment to Article 53 and 54 of Standing Orders**

Mr. Eddie Taaffe presented the proposed amendments, as recommended by the Protocol Committee.

#### **13.1 Article 53**

Following discussion, it was agreed to further amend the proposed wording of Article 53 as follows:

53. No cameras of any kind, or sound recording or communication equipment, or social media may be used during “in committee” meetings of Wexford County Council.

This includes “in committee” meetings of the Members of Gorey, New Ross and Enniscorthy Municipal Districts and Wexford Borough District and also extends to “in committee” meetings of committees of Wexford County Council.

On the proposal of Councillor Oisín O’Connell, seconded by Councillor John Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed to amend Article 53 of the Standing Orders as outlined above.

#### **13.2 Article 54**

In view of the discussion that took place in relation to Article 53, and the resulting amendment of that Article as described above, the proposal to amend Article 54 was not considered by the Members at this time.

Councillors John O’Rourke and Mick Roche made their apologies to the Cathaoirleach and left the meeting at this point.

### **14. Report of Corporate Policy Group**

On the proposal of Councillor Anthony Connick, seconded by Councillor Tony Dempsey the Members approved the Minutes of the Meeting of the Corporate Policy Group of Monday, 5 February, 2018.

## **15. Chief Executive's Report**

The monthly Management Report of the Chief Executive prepared under Section 136 of the LG Act 2001 in respect the month of January 2018 was presented to the Members and considered by them.

The Chief Executive and members of the Management Team responded to Members queries arising from the Report, including the following:

### **15.1 National Broadband Rollout**

The Chief Executive advised that the Council identifies the provision of fibre Broadband in the four main towns as a key element of the Council's Economic and Community Investment Programme.

The Council will await the outcome of the current tender process regarding rural broadband provision, before considering how it might best assist in the provision of broadband to other parts of the county.

### **15.2 Litter Management**

The Members expressed concern regarding the scale of illegal dumping and asked that the Council consider a range of measures, particularly in the enforcement area, to combat the problem.

It was agreed to consider the impact (if any) of the Council's recently introduced recycling charge on quantities of materials being recycling and to report to the Members on the findings.

Councillor John Fleming made his apologies to the Cathaoirleach and left the meeting at this point.

### **15.3 "Old" Wexford Hospital**

In response to Members concern regarding the dilapidated nature of the building, Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services advised that the building's current designation as of architectural importance was not necessarily a barrier to its redevelopment. He undertook to discuss the matter with the building's owners, the HSE at an early opportunity.

### **15.4 Roundabout under construction at junction of Campile Road and N25**

Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services advised that notwithstanding the complexities and difficulties of managing traffic during the construction of a large-scale roundabout on a heavily-trafficked national route, the Council acknowledged the existing traffic management issues at the site and would seek to address these as a matter of urgency in cooperation with the contractor.

## **16. Conferences / Training**

The Members considered the list of conferences and training events as circulated, including an invitation from Mayor of Fleurus to Wexford Borough District

On the proposal of Councillor M. Byrne, seconded by Councillor BA Murphy the Council unanimously approved all events for attendance.

## **17. Minutes of Meetings:**

The following Minutes were considered for adoption:

- 17.1 Gorey Municipal District 19.12.17
- 17.2 New Ross Municipal District 13.12.17
- 17.3 Borough District of Wexford 18.12.17
- 17.4 Third Level Education Committee Meeting 08.01.17
- 17.5 Planning and Building Control SPC Meeting 30.11.17
- 17.6 Protocol Committee Meeting 05.02.17

Proposed by Councillor B.A. Murphy, seconded by Councillor P. Breen and agreed.

Councillor T. Forde queried the recommendation of the Protocol Committee regarding lobbying in respect of Motions to be put before the Council. It was clarified that the proposal sought to discourage lobbying before the Elected Members has opportunity to see and review a Notice of Motion.

## **18. Notices of Motion:**

### **18.1 Cllr. J. Mythen:**

**“That this Council calls on the Irish Government to ratify the U.N. Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities”**

**Acknowledging, Ireland is the only E.U. Country that hasn't ratified the U.N.C.R.P.D.**

**Acknowledging that there are 20,134 people with disabilities in Co. Wexford (14% of the population) with 528 on the social housing list.**

Proposed by Councillor J. Mythen, seconded by Councillor D. Hynes, and agreed unanimously

## **Suspension of Standing Orders**

It being 5.30pm, the Council considered suspending Standing Orders until 6.00pm to allow the meeting to continue

Proposed by Councillor M. Sheehan, seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh and agreed.

**18.2 Cllr. F. Ó' Súilleabháin:**

**"Wexford County Council notes that *Irish Rail* plans to change to a hybrid fleet and extend the *Dart* network northwards to Balbriggan or westwards to Maynooth. It further notes that there is no mention of any extension south of Bray.**

**This Council calls on Irish Rail to include the line south of Bray in its planned extension of the *Dart* network, which would facilitate the many daily commuters from counties Wicklow and Wexford."**

In proposing the Motion, Councillor ÓSuilleabháin amended it to read as follows

"Wexford County Council notes that *Irish Rail* plans to change to a hybrid fleet and extend the *Dart* network northwards to Balbriggan or westwards to Maynooth. It further notes that there is no mention of any upgrade south of Bray.

This Council calls on Irish Rail to include the line south of Bray in its planned upgrade of the *Dart* network, which would facilitate the many daily commuters from counties Wicklow and Wexford."

Proposed by Councillor F. ÓSuilleabháin, seconded by Councillor J. Moore, and agreed unanimously.

At the suggestion of Councillor J. Moore, the Council agreed to reference the Council's recent submission to Irish Rail in any correspondence with Irish Rail arising from this Motion.

**18.3 Cllr. M. Byrne:**

**"That, for environmental reasons, Wexford County Council would cease to provide single use plastic or paper cups as well as plastic cutlery at County Hall and other Council premises and require contractors not to use such items".**

Upon discussion, the Members agreed that the use of bio-degradable single-use cups is not considered to be in conflict with the Motion.

Proposed by Councillor M. Byrne, seconded by Councillor D. Hynes, and agreed unanimously.

**18.4 Cllr. G. Lawlor:**

**"Wexford County Council, whilst acknowledging some good elements to the Government's 'Rebuilding Ireland Homeloans Scheme', calls on Minister Eoghan Murphy to revisit the deposit requirement. The scheme allows borrowers to borrow up to 90% leaving a 10% deposit requirement. This council believes this figure to be too high and urges the Minister to restore it to the former maximum of 97% lending".**

Proposed by Councillor G. Lawlor, seconded by Councillor M. Sheehan, and agreed unanimously.

**18.5 Cllr. J. Sullivan:**

**“That this Council calls on Minister Eoghan Murphy to waive the 10% deposit charge on the new 2% interest Mortgage Loans, in favour of a 3% deposit along with verifiable records from a financial institution (eg. Bank statement/direct debit records) showing 3 years consistent rent payments of the same value or more of the proposed mortgage monthly repayments”.**

Proposed by Councillor J. Sullivan seconded by Councillor M. Sheehan, and agreed unanimously.

**18.6 Cllr. D. Hynes:**

**“The Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan, recently announced and came into effect this month, which is welcomed as a low interest rate, fixed term loan but the 10 % deposit will put it out of reach of the very people it seeks to support in acquiring their first home. The Minister needs to urgently address this issue and allow the same deposit terms that the current LA mortgage allows for”.**

Proposed by Councillor D. Hynes, seconded by Councillor M. Sheehan, and agreed unanimously.

**18.7 Cllr. M. Roche; Cllr. J. Mythen; Cllr. O. O’Connell; Cllr. F. ÓSúilleabhain; Cllr. T. Forde:**

**“That this Council recognises that homes to rent and to purchase are becoming increasingly unaffordable and calls on Government to:**

**immediately introduce ambitious affordable rental and purchase housing schemes led by Local Authorities, and where appropriate, Approved Housing Bodies and Housing Co-operatives with clear annual targets for all local authorities and**

**design the Home Building Finance Ireland fund to prioritise loan finance to small and medium sized builders participating in Council led affordable housing schemes”.**

Proposed by Councillor M. Roche, seconded by Councillor J. Mythen and agreed unanimously.

Councillor Tony Dempsey made his apologies to the Cathaoirleach and left the meeting at this point

**18.8 Cllr. T. Forde:**

**"I propose that Wexford County Council write to Minister for Education, Richard Bruton, urging him to accelerate the provision of a new school building for Wexford Educate Together National School, which has been identified as a school that is to benefit from the capital investment programme".**

On the proposal of Councillor J. Moore, seconded by Councillor G. Lawlor, and noting no objection from Councillor T. Forde, it was agreed to amend the Motion as follows:

**Wexford County Council shall write to Minister for Education, Richard Bruton, urging him to accelerate the provision of all schools in County Wexford that have been identified for investment under the Schools Capital Investment Programme".**

Proposed by Councillor T. Forde, seconded by Councillor G. Lawlor, and agreed unanimously.

**18.9 Cllr. M. Murphy:**

"I call on Wexford County Council to put a plan in place to establish "Dog Free Zones" in our urban centers, in an attempt to deal with the issue of dog fouling. Develop a model possibly using Wexford town first, to be rolled out to the other urban centers later".

Councillor M. Murphy agreed to withdraw the Motion, pending the development of an action plan by the Council to address the issue of dog fouling in County Wexford

**18.10 Cllr. D. Hynes:**

**"This Council calls on the Dept of Justice to insure that the 'Spent convictions' under the 'Criminal Justice (Spent convictions and Certain Disclosures) Act 2016, that the measures are followed through for people who are applying for employment and are need Garda vetting"**

The meeting time being expired, Councillor D. Hynes suggested he withdraw this Motion, and re-present it at the next monthly meeting of Wexford County Council, where adequate time could be allotted to its proper consideration. This was agreed.

**19. Sealing of Documents**

Proposed by Councillor L. O'Brien, seconded by Councillor M. Sheehan, and agreed unanimously.

**20. Correspondence and Communications**

The Members noted receipt of the correspondence as circulated.

**21. Any Other Business**

None.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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County Secretary

Daingithe ar an                      lá de Márta, 2018.

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Cathaoirleach