

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Monday 13th February, 2023
in the Council Chamber at 2.30pm (with some remote attendance via Microsoft Teams)****Attendance:****In the Chair:** Cllr. George Lawlor, Cathaoirleach**Councillors:**

BARDEN	PAT	FARRELL	MARY	MURPHY	BRIDÍN (Remote)
BELL	MAURA (Remote)	FLEMING	JOHN	O'ROURKE	JOHN
BOLGER	ANDREW	FORDE	TOM (Remote)	Ó'SÚILLEABHÁIN	FIONNTÁN (Remote)
BREEN	PIP	HYNES	DAVID (Remote)	OWENS	JACKSER
BROWNE	AIDAN	KAVANAGH	WILLIE	SHEEHAN	MICHAEL
BYRNE	CATHAL	KELLY	LEONARD	STAPLES	FRANK
CARTHY	GER	KENNY	DONAL	SULLIVAN	JOE
CODD	JIM	LAFFAN	GARRY	WALSH	OLIVER
CODD-NOLAN	KATHLEEN (Remote)	MCDONALD	LISA	WHELAN	MICHAEL
CONNICK	ANTHONY	MOORE	JIM		
DONOHUE	ANTHONY	MURPHY	BARBARA ANNE		

Officials:

Mr. Eamonn Hore, Deputy Chief Executive
 Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance
 Ms. Carolyn Godkin, Director of Services
 Ms. Elizabeth Hore, Director of Services
 Ms. Sinead Casey, A/Director of Services
 Ms. Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services
 Mr. Michael Drea, County Secretary

Apologies:

Cllr. Diarmuid Devereux
 Cllr. John Hegarty
 Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive

Votes of Sympathy:

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of Thomas Moriarty, father-in-law of Tom Banville, SEO, Planning Department.
- The family of Kitty Corish, mother-in-law of Margaret Corish, I.T. Department.
- The family of John Barry (Dublin), father of Gretta Barry, Rates Department.
- The family of Ronnie Gordon, father of Donal Gordon, Rates Section and Helen Goff, Housing Section and father-in-law of Roberta Gordon, Planning Section.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 County Council Meeting 9th January, 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny, the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the County Council Meeting on 9th January, 2023.

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

2.1 LAC 2212 - Proposed construction of a boathouse and facilities area including new access road at Carrigfoyle, Shelmaliere Commons, Co. Wexford.

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. J. Moore, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the construction of a boathouse and facilities area including new access road at Carrigfoyle, Shelmaliere Commons, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2212, as circulated.

2.2 LAC 2213 - Development of Masterplan Phase 1 lands to include the construction of 173 no. residential units and all associated site works at St. Waleran's Demesne, Ballytegan, Gorey, Co. Wexford.

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. J. Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the Development of Masterplan Phase 1 lands to include the construction of 173 no. residential units and all associated site works at St. Waleran's Demesne, Ballytegan, Gorey, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2213, as circulated.

3. Audit Committee Annual Reports

- Report on consideration of 2021 Annual Financial Statement and LG Statutory Audit Report
- Audit Committee Annual Report on the Audit Committee Programme in 2022
- Audit Committee Programme for 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen, the Council resolved to adopt the Audit Committee Annual Reports.

4. Wexford County Council Fire and Emergency Operations Plan 2022-2027 as per statutory obligations under Section 26, Fire Services Acts 1981 & 2003.

- Fire and Emergency Operations Plan 2022 to 2027 - For Approval

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan, the Council resolved to adopt the Fire and Emergency Operations Plan 2022 to 2027.

Cllr. B.A. Murphy requested figures for the number of staff the Fire Service is down. Ms. C. Godkin agreed to provide information.

5. Wexford County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024, Mid-Term Review

Ms. C. Godkin outlined the requirement to undertake a mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme. Ms. C. Godkin advised that the review proposes an increase from 100 units in the original programme to 126 in the revised programme. The mid-term review has been approved by the Housing SPC.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Connick, seconded by Cllr. W. Kavanagh, the Council resolved to adopt the revised Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024.

6. Active Travel Study Tour – 21st May, 2023– 24th May, 2023

Mr. E. Hore outlined the detail of a proposed Active Travel Study Tour to the Netherlands, funded by the NTA. The purpose of the tour is to learn from the best of Dutch cycling in terms of expertise, technology and infrastructure.

There was an extensive discussion on active travel with a number of Members expressing their dissatisfaction with the funding allocated to Enniscorthy and Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal Districts.

Cllr. M. Whelan requested that the Executive share the list of active travel projects submitted to the Department for approval, and those approved for funding.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan, the Council resolved to approve the Active Travel Study Tour.

7. Cathaoirleach's visit to Birmingham for Comhaltas UK Convention 17th – 19th February, 2023

Ms. C. Godkin advised that an invite to visit Birmingham for the Comhaltas UK Convention had been received. It is proposed to send the Cathaoirleach to the convention to canvas support for Wexford's Fleadh bid.

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. J. Owens, the Council resolved to approve the Cathaoirleach's visit to Birmingham for the Comhaltas UK Convention.

8. Chief Executive's Report

The Deputy Chief Executive and members of the Management Team responded to a wide range of queries from the Elected Members regarding the following:

- Active travel applications submitted for Enniscorthy.
- Progress in relation to Murphy Floods purchase.
- Average waiting time for pre-planning meetings.
- Safe route to school – Is programme in jeopardy due to increasing costs?
- Distribution of Local Improvement Scheme funding.
- Update on request for funding for roads in New Ross town centre damaged by flooding.
- Scheme of letting priorities to be used to allocate houses.
- Update on proposed New Ross skate park.
- Concerns about planning objections being made in fictitious or bogus names.
- Town Centre First Plan for Enniscorthy.
- Timeline for completion of works on Adoration Convent.
- Update on retendering for Enniscorthy Sports Hub.
- Prospect of N80 becoming a national primary route.
- Issues in relation to wastewater in Rosslare.
- Discharge licence for Grantstown Housing Association extension.
- Issues in relation to delay in handling calls by Voxpro.
- Update on the roofing of Monck St.
- Deterioration of road in Coolcotts due to construction traffic and who is responsible for maintenance of road.
- Has an assessment been carried out on the impact of the works at Raven Point?
- Does Wexford County Council have a migration strategy?
- Request for report on the number of people asked to fix their septic tank but who are unable to do so due to cost issues?
- Plan for how we deal with coastal erosion.
- Council's readiness to act once the outcome of the National Strategic Rail Review is published.
- Concerns re: wording of a condition on a planning application.
- Timeline for delivery of units in Castlelands, Ferns.
- Safe route to school in Enniscorthy – what is the proposal considering funding constraints?
- Timeline for publishing tender for affordable housing units in Gorey.

Cllr. D. Hynes and Cllr. B. Murphy left the meeting at this point.

- Potential impact of proposed new planning legislation on Enniscorthy Town Plan.
- Road safety review outside Tagoat school.
- Mitigation for speeding HGV's through Tagoat.
- Request to proceed with one-way scheme, even if Rosslare greenway doesn't progress due to rail review.
- Request for a list of projects being considered under the Community Recognition Fund.
- Possibility of Market House in Gorey being used as a community centre.
- Update on safety measures at Ballycarney junction and feedback from road survey undertaken.

- Status of flood scheme for Enniscorthy.
- Update on housing programme for windows, doors and kitchens for 2023.
- Overgrown trees on streets of Enniscorthy.
- Pedestrian bridge for river walkway in Enniscorthy needs to be reopened.

The meeting adjourned for a comfort break at this point.

Cllr.'s T. Forde, J. O'Rourke, A. Donoghue, J. Owens and F. Staples left the meeting at this point.

On resumption, Cllr. B.A. Murphy called for a vote of sympathy for the victims of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey. All those present stood and observed a minute's silence in memory of the victims.

Mr. E. Hore acknowledged the upcoming one-year anniversary of Billy Kinsella's passing and informed the meeting that there is a mass on 24th February to mark Billy's anniversary.

- Concerns around the allocation of the active travel funding.
- Timeline for completion of public lighting in Gorey Town Park.
- Request for report on pyrite and mica in Wexford.
- Update on odour issues at Ballyminaun, Gorey.
- Update on plans and timelines for the Ahare river.
- Minister's response to request for additional funds for roads.
- Issue of overhanging branches on the Newline Road.
- Target figures for Buy & Renew.
- Possibility of transferring water from Mayglass to Newtown Road, due to lime in Wexford town water supply.
- Plans for old Wexford dump.
- Request for signage in relation to dogs being required to be on leads in a public place.

9. Minutes of CPG Meeting 7th February, 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen, the Council resolved to adopt the Minutes of the meeting of the CPG of 7th February, 2023.

10. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting):

10.1 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 14th December, 2022

10.2 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 14th December, 2022

10.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 19th December, 2022

10.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 21st November, 2022 & 19th December, 2022

10.5 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 20th December, 2022

10.6 Planning & Building Control SPC 29.09.2022

The minutes of the above meetings were noted.

11. Correspondence and Communications

- 11.1 Letter from Meath County Council re: resolution dated 03.01.2023**
- 11.2 Letter from Monaghan County Council re: resolution dated 15.12.2022**
- 11.3 Email from Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice re national domestic violence register dated 18th January, 2023**
- 11.4 Letter from Tipperary County Council re: motion Dogs Act Legislation in Ireland dated 20.01.2023.**
- 11.5 Letter from Cavan County Council re: resolution passed at January meeting.**
- 11.6 Letter from Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage re motion dated 31st January, 2023**

The Members noted the above correspondence.

12. Councillor's Conferences and Training

12.1 List of Conferences/Training – List Attached

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. J. Sullivan, the Council approved attendance for the following training and conference:

Training:

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| 23.02.23 | AILG Elected Member Training Programme Module 1 – “A Briefing on the Electoral Reform Act”,
The Tullamore Court Hotel for Northern/Western/Eastern & Midlands Regional Assemblies (Out of Region for Wexford) |
| 25.02.23 | AILG Elected Member Training Programme Module 1 – “A Briefing on the Electoral Reform Act”,
The Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick for Southern Region i.e. Wexford |
| 2 nd –4 th March '23 | LAMA Spring Seminar,
West Lodge Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork. |
| 19 th –20 th April '23 | AILG 2023 Annual Training Conference – Hotel Kilkenny |

Conference:

- | | |
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| 3 rd –5 th March '23 | Celtic Conferences “Protecting your mental health as a Public Representative”
O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork. Fee €100 |
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12.2 Councillor's Conference Reports:

- Conference Report - Cllr. Garry Laffan - The Finance Act, January, 2023**
- Conference Report - Cllr. John Fleming - The Finance Act, January 2023**
- Conference Report - Cllr. Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin - The Finance Act, January 2023**
- Conference Report - Cllr. Ger Carthy - The Finance Act, January 2023**

The Members noted the reports above, as circulated.

13. Notices of Motion

13.1 Cllr. M. Sheehan & Cllr. P. Breen

“That this Council reaffirms our support for the Greyhound industry locally and welcomes the continued funding from the Government to uphold and maintain the standards, employment and recognises the economic benefit and return on investment. Furthermore, we call on our Oireachtas members to support the Industry and notes the opposition by three of them to ensure the passage of funding and jeopardising the future of the sport. “

Response of the Executive:

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, for consideration.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. P. Breen and seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan.

Cllr. G. Lawlor proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly.

“That this Council believes that the funding model under section 12 of the Horse and Greyhound Racing Act 2011 is in urgent need of review and replacement, and calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to carry out such a full and independent review of the fund, including in particular with recommendations on:

- How best to support these sectors, those involved in it, and rural communities,
- Measures needed to ensure the highest standards of animal welfare are implemented and complied with,
- How the rights of workers in the sector can be improved and an employment regulation order introduced to set minimum rates of pay and conditions,
- Whether and how funding for these sectors and other sports should be aligned.”

The Cathaoirleach advised that there would be a roll call vote on the amendment to the motion. The outcome was the motion fell with 9 in favour and 16 against. The voting was as follows:

BARDEN, PAT	F	FLEMING, JOHN	A	SULLIVAN, JOE	A
BELL, MAURA	F	KAVANAGH, WILLIE	A	WALSH, OLIVER	A
BOLGER, ANDREW	F	KELLY, LEONARD	F	WHELAN, MICHAEL	A
BREEN, PIP	A	KENNY, DONAL	A		
BROWNE, AIDAN	A	LAFFAN, GARRY	A		

BYRNE, CATHAL	A	LAWLOR, GEORGE	F
CARTHY, GER	F	MCDONAL, LISA	F
CODD, JIM	A	MOORE, JIM	A
CODD-NOLAN, KATHLEEN	A	MURPHY, BARBARA ANNE	A
CONNICK, ANTHONY	F	Ó'SÚILLEABHÁIN, FIONNTÁN	F
FARRELL, MARY	A	SHEEHAN, MICHAEL	A

The Cathaoirleach advised that there would be a roll call vote at the request of Cllr. C. Byrne on the original motion submitted by Cllr.'s P. Breen and M. Sheehan. The outcome was the motion carried with 24 in favour and 1 against. The voting was as follows:

BARDEN, PAT	F	FLEMING, JOHN	F	SULLIVAN, JOE	F
BELL, MAURA	F	KAVANAGH, WILLIE	F	WALSH, OLIVER	F
BOLGER, ANDREW	F	KELLY, LEONARD	A	WHELAN, MICHAEL	F
BREEN, PIP	F	KENNY, DONAL	F		
BROWNE, AIDAN	F	LAFFAN, GARRY	F		
BYRNE, CATHAL	F	LAWLOR, GEORGE	F		
CARTHY, GER	F	MCDONAL, LISA	F		
CODD, JIM	F	MOORE, JIM	F		
CODD-NOLAN, KATHLEEN	F	MURPHY, BARBARA ANNE	F		
CONNICK, ANTHONY	F	Ó'SÚILLEABHÁIN, FIONNTÁN	F		
FARRELL, MARY	F	SHEEHAN, MICHAEL	F		

On the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. C. Byrne and agreed by all, the Council agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue past 5.30pm.

13.2 Cllr. T. Forde and Cllr. L. Kelly

"We call on the Department of Education and Minister Norma Foley to provide a clear commitment and timeframe for a new, and necessary, school building for Wexford Educate

Together National School. We ask that the Department begin to engage meaningfully with the school leaders throughout all stages of the project where they have failed to do so to date"

Response of the Executive:

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the Minister for Education, for consideration.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor and carried.

13.3 Motion passed at Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment SPC 17.11.2022

"Requesting a Special Meeting of the Full Council on the whole issue of coastal erosion, flooding and rising sea levels as most districts have a problem in this regard with land being lost or flooding problems. "

Response of the Executive:

If passed, the Executive will liaise with the Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment SPC and the Environment Department to facilitate a special meeting, as outlined.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Farrell, seconded by Cllr. J. Moore and carried.

13.4 Cllr. J. Fleming

"I am calling on Wexford county council to implement the following policy, when Wexford county council purchase turn key developments or lease from an approved housing body that at least 15% of the properties have disability (wheel chair accessible) bathrooms on the ground floor ."

Response of the Executive:

Wexford County Council has included the following priority in our Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with Disabilities 2021-2026, County Wexford Housing and Disability Steering Group:

"Local Authority Turnkey acquisitions have increasingly become a method of social housing delivery in recent years. Where Wexford County Council acquires an entire development, 20% of units are required to be adaptable in line with the County Development Plan. Where only a percentage of units are being acquired the Local Authority should seek to acquire adaptable units where possible (subject to unit size and cost). There should also be an increased awareness relayed to developers around the need for adaptable units".

Policy objective 9 of the Housing Strategy in the Wexford County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 states "To promote Universal Design and Lifetime Housing standards in new homes built in the County in accordance with best practice. Significant developments of new homes shall ensure that a minimum of 20% of dwellings are suitable to accommodate or are adaptable to provide accommodation for people with disabilities. Developers will be

required to show an accessible route to the residential units from the boundary of the property. Proximity and access to local services must also be considered relative to the units which are accessible”.

Wexford County Council has to be cognisant of the current housing demand and the available supply of turnkey properties when assessing proposals. The Housing Department also works closely with AHB's, many of whom specialise in the delivery of accommodation for people with disabilities.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan and carried.

13.5 Cllr. J. Hegarty

"Wexford County Council has previously expressed its full support for the Healthy County Committees "Not around us" campaign to discourage smoking or vaping in any outdoor area used by children and young people. In support of the next phase of the "Not around us" campaign, I propose that any event organised by, funded by, supported by or on Wexford County Council property which engages children or young people would be designated a "Not around us" supporting event and would display the "Not around us" logo and signage in promotion of the event and at the event itself. This requirement will then be included in any event support or funding agreements, as standard. Soft copy graphics will be included on WCC website and the signage and banners available for events through WCC MD offices. "

Response of the Executive:

The Executive believes that this motion is a natural progression from the following motion which was passed in November 2021:

"Wexford County Council commits to include all Council playgrounds, parks, beaches and areas designed for children and young people as part of the initial phase of the Healthy County Committee "Not around us" campaign. This will establish a series of places and spaces all over County Wexford where children and young people can enjoy themselves in a smoke and vape free environment”.

Currently there are 32 playgrounds, 5 libraries and 8 beaches with Not Around Us signage, in addition to the Community sign ups. The Community Department will work with the Healthy County Committee and other relevant stakeholders to embed this practice within the organisation.

This motion fell as the proposer wasn't present to move the motion.

13.6 Cllr. T. Forde and F. O Súilleabháin

"This council welcomes the tax free Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP) of €800 per month to persons who provide a property used to accommodate refugees from

Ukraine. We ask that such initiative be extended/implemented in an effort to accommodate all homeless people in Ireland. "

Response of the Executive:

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the Minister for Housing, for consideration.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. F. O Súilleabháin, seconded by Cllr. J. Codd and carried.

13.7 On behalf of all Councillors in the New Ross District

"In light of the ongoing housing crisis, I call on the Minister for Housing to amend the Social Housing Allocation Regulations 2011 to increase the suspension period from 12 to 24 months for applicants who refuse an offer of a new property on unreasonable grounds.

Refusals on certified medical grounds or on the basis of a report from An Garda Síochana are not deemed to be unreasonable."

Response of the Executive:

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the Minister for Housing, for consideration.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. A. Connick, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan and carried.

13.8 Cllr. M. Sheehan

"This this Council calls the Government to amend the Oil emergency contingency and transfer of renewable transport fuels 2023 bill to ensure that any future measures or actions taken by the Minister for the Environment to direct essential fuel and oil supplies in times of a declared Crisis or Emergency is subject to robust committee oversight and approval of the Oireachtas. "

Response of the Executive:

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and Minister for Transport, for consideration.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen and carried.

14. Any Other Business

Mr. M. Drea circulated a copy of all Members political donation statements in accordance with the requirements of the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donation and Expenditure) Act 1999.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUISNESS OF THE MEETING

Daingithe ar an

lá de Márta, 2023.

Cllr. George Lawlor
Cathaoirleach

Susan Doran,
A/County Secretary