

**WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council  
held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 – 1.30 p.m.  
in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford.**

**Attendance:**

**In the Chair:** Cllr. K. Doyle, Cathaoirleach.

**Councillors:**

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

**Officials:** Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive;  
Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services  
Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services;  
Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services;  
Mr. E. Taaffe, Director of Services;  
Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance;  
Mr. P. Collins, County Secretary.

**Apologies:** Councillors B.A. Murphy; F. Staples.

**1. Matt Shanahan, PRO, HEFSE:**

Matt Shanahan, PRO, HEFSE, introduced his team of Dr. Aidan Buckley and Dr. Ray Griffin, Lecturer in Strategy, WIT. The attached presentation which is a review by Dr. Ray Griffin, of "the independent clinical review of the needs of the region" was shown to the Members of the Council.

All three speakers highlighted the defects/inequality in the south east region with regard to the timely treatment of cardiac patients. Furthermore, they highlighted the lack of a second cath lab to deal with cardiac patients at University Hospital Waterford.

The speakers outlined the background to this issue and set out the problems which are present in the south east region including County Wexford. The strategic under investment in the south east was also set out in the presentation.

The speakers referred to the Herity Report which recommended that all cardiac patients from the south east be transferred to Cork.

The Herity Report is flawed in so far as it was based on a UK standard with regard to the time taken to bring cardiac patients from the South-East to hospital. The time taken to get to a hospital to deal with cardiac care is critical –the speakers noted that the longer it takes to get to hospital the worse the outcome for the patient.

The Herity Report states that the critical time is the first 90 minutes following cardiac incidents - of the 196 patients transferred out of the region between 2015 and 2018 only 3 got to Cork in 90 minutes. The standard time for dealing with cardiac issues is 60 minutes and not 90 minutes as set out in the Herity Report.

Matt Shanahan pointed out that what the region needs now is a budget to provide a second cath lab in Waterford and a budget for staff to be recruited to facilitate the extension of the lab hours.

Following a wide-ranging discussion involving many of the Members of the Council, it was agreed that the Council would write to the Minister to seek a cross party meeting with him with regard to the issues raised.

## **2. Glenn Carr and Barry Kenny, Rail Freight & Rosslare Europort:**

Glenn Carr, General Manager of Rosslare Port presented the Strategic Plan for Rosslare Port, as circulated, advising the Council of an investment of €15m to transform Rosslare Europort. The Plan set out an overview of Rosslare Europort business, its market and a layout of the port.

Following consideration of an environmental and SWOT analysis, a Recommended Strategy has been arrived at, as follows:

- To build up the port's capacity
- To progress 12 recommendations to achieve growth, improved efficiencies, mitigate market risks and position for future growth
- To prioritise the exploration of medium term intentions of key customers, the progression of efficiency discussions and the validation of capital investment requirements
- Brexit related engagements and preparations to continue in parallel.

Mr. Carr emphasised the need for an upgrade of the road into Rosslare Harbour, a new entrance into the port and a new customs building. He also highlighted a plan to extend the existing berths.

The Chief Executive T. Enright welcomed both Glenn Carr and Barry Kenny to the meeting to brief the Council. He paid tribute to Glenn Carr and with regard to investment proposals and profits being ploughed back into Rosslare Europort. He noted that he had met with the Chairman of the Irish Rail recently to discuss Rosslare Europort and the rail service to Dublin.

The Chief Executive noted that Glenn Carr dispelled a number of myths with regard to Rosslare Port in his presentation. He also noted that he was looking forward to the Ernst & Young Report being published.

Barry Kenny, Irish Rail, updated the meeting on Irish Rail's position with regard to the Rosslare Europort to Dublin railway line. He advised that there are no plans for any major changes to the line. However, there are plans to introduce extra intermediate rail cars.

He also highlighted a 9% increase of rail passengers in 2018, primarily due to a substantial reduction in fares over the summer period. Mr. Kenny also expressed concerns about the potential effects of coastal erosion on the rail line, calling for a medium to long term strategy to deal with the matter. He also confirmed that there is no plan to close the Gorey to Rosslare line.

The Chief Executive responded to Mr. Kenny stating that the Council had made a submission to Irish Rail last year with recommendations to improve the rail service to Dublin, including passengers disembarking to the Dart service at Bray, bypassing smaller stations to improve journey times, having more frequent train services, including an express service, and the upgrading of rail cars. He also referred to the potential risk to the rail line from coastal erosion

Members then raised a number of issues referring to both presentations including the following:

- Expansion of berths
- The Indecon Report
- The operation of the rail network
- The inclusion of the port's development in the National Development Plan 2040.
- The impediments to usage of the Port
- The opportunities arising from Brexit.
- Future Investment in the Port
- Draft restraint issues in the Port
- British Government view of making improvements to port at Fishguard
- Rebranding needs to be done
- Not too late to get haulers' back on the Rosslare/Fishguard route
- Cruise ships – need input from the tourism board
- Rail freight and the need for change of government policy
- Price focused marketing to increase the travel between Rosslare Harbour and Dublin.
- Privatising berths

The Cathaoirleach then thanked Glenn Carr and Barry Kenny for their presentation and Glenn Carr advised that he would be happy to come back to the Members and update them on any further future progress in Rosslare Europort.

### **3. Confirmation of Minutes:**

#### 3.1 County Council Meetings – 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2018.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. P. Breen and agreed by all, the Council approved the minutes of the meetings as outlined above.

### **Votes of Sympathy:**

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

- the family of Jack Sharkey, father of Anne Griffin, Library Service and grandfather of Ronan Griffin, Housing and Laura Griffin, Environment.
- The family of William Robinson, partner of Angie Parle, Library Service.
- the family of John O'Connor, father in law of Deputy Paul Kehoe
- the family of Danny Beary Belvedere, Wexford
- the family of Mary Bradley Lús Mór, Wexford
- the family of May Dempsey Corish Park, Wexford
- the family of Micheal Smith Liam Mellows, Wexford

### **Vóta Comhghairdeas:**

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

- Naomh Eanna Hurling Team from Gorey
- Niall Kennedy, Boxer, Gorey
- Library Service, WCC for their work on the Wexford War Dead website
- Wexford Youths Women's Team on their success in the becoming Women's National League Champions– the Cathaoirleach advised that a civic reception is being proposed for Wexford Youths to take place in 2019
- Saoirse McGarrigle who was nominated for a national award for Journalism
- The organisers of Wexford Science Festival "WexSci"
- Michael D. Higgins on his appointment as President of Ireland
- Fethard Intermediate Hurlers for their recent success
- Cody O'Connor who won a gold medal in martial arts
- Rackard league champions, St. Martins, Piercestown.

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

- 4.1 Proposed lease Coolcotts Community Centre, Wexford.
- 4.2 Proposed lease of 8 Lee Heights, Wexford.
- 4.3 Proposed lease of the Community Building at Rosslare Harbour.
- 4.4 Proposed disposal of 16 Greenore Park, Rosslare Harbour.
- 4.5 Proposed lease of additional lands at Trespan Rocks, Maudlintown, Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan seconded by Cllr. M. Byrne, the proposed disposals, as submitted to the meeting, were approved.

**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 LAC1805 - Creagh, Creagh Demesne, Gorey Rural**

Proposed development of existing site to provide 12 no. social housing units to include 2 no. 3 bed semi-detached two storey units, 2 no. 2 bed semi-detached single storey units & 8 no. 2 bed apartments in 2 no. two storey block, and all auxillary and associated site works.

**5.2 LAC 1806 – Crescent Quay, Wexford**

Public Realm Improvements to Crescent Quay and along the waterfront promenade between Anne Street and Oyster Lane, and to Henrietta Street from Crescent Quay to Main Street, including: provision of bus stop, disabled parking space and access for delivery vehicles. New and enhanced pedestrian crossing points. New seating, planting, street furniture and street lighting. Undergrounding of existing overhead services and removal of existing poles. Reducing the existing road carriageway width to increase pedestrian space on both sides of the road. Raising of flood wall to enhance flood protection. High quality surface materials. Other miscellaneous works.

On the proposal of Cllr. R. Ireton seconded by Cllr. J. O'Rourke, the proposed developments, as submitted to the meeting, were approved and agreed by all.

**6. Borrowing**

- Bank Overdraft Accommodation 2019

Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance had circulated a report with regard to the Council's overdraft requirements for 2019 and advised that approval was being sought for borrowing by way of temporary overdraft accommodation of €13m for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019.

On the proposal of Cllr. R. Ireton, seconded by Cllr. A. Donohoe, the Members approved borrowing by way of temporary overdraft of €13m to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001.

- Increased Borrowing Requirement for Publicly Funded Housing Mortgages

Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance had circulated a report with regard to increased borrowing requirement to facilitate the completion of the Housing Mortgage Programme.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. A. Donohoe, the Members approved additional borrowing of €1.5m for the 2018 Housing Mortgage Programme, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001.

## **7. Audited Account and Statutory Audit Report for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

The Audited Account and Statutory Audit Report for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December was proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan seconded by Cllr. A. Donohoe and agreed by all.

## **8. Naming of N25 By-Pass Bridge**

Proposed by Cllr. J. Fleming seconded by Cllr. L. O'Brien it was agreed that the new bridge in New Ross would be called the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge as had been proposed by the New Ross Municipal District.

## **9. 2017 Draft Annual Report (text version)**

Proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan seconded by Cllr. J. O'Rourke and agreed by all.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue to 6 p.m.

## **10. Report on Implementation of the Litter Acts in County Wexford**

Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services, advised the Members that they had asked for a report on the implementation of the Litter Acts in County Wexford. The Members noted the report. Mr. G. Forde, Senior Engineer, and Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, advised the Members that they were going to visit each of the Municipal Districts to discuss the report in detail.

## **11. Proposed Draft Wexford County Council (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws 2018**

Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services, advised that the Council had received two submissions arising from the public consultation which had been dealt with in the draft bye-laws.

The Bye-Laws were proposed by Cllr. O. Walsh seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming and agreed by all with the exception of Cllr. O. O'Connell.

## **12. Report on the Expansion of Environmental Clean-Up Crews (Rapid Response Crews) and Charges at Civic Amenity Sites in County Wexford.**

The contents of this report were noted and it was agreed that the matters contained in the report would be discussed further at the Municipal Districts.

## **13. Wexford Great War Dead – Library Service Public History Research Project**

Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services, advised that this website is now live and this was noted by the Members. The Members congratulated and thanked the Library Service for the work done in putting this website together.

Cllr. P. Kavanagh asked if work could be done on identifying soldiers who came back from the Great War and that information put into the archives as well.

The Director agreed to look at that proposal.

Cllr. M. Sheehan thanked Eileen Morrissey, County Librarian, and the Municipal District for the Remembrance Concert which took place in New Ross yesterday.

Cllr. W. Fitzharris thanked Nolan Transport for transporting a sculpture of the “Haunting Soldier” to St. Stephen’s Green, Dublin.

Cllr. W. Kavanagh said that a very moving ceremony had taken place in Enniscorthy and thanked Nicola Halford and Liz Hore for organising the event and also thanked Cllr. Codd Nolan’s sister for the amount of information she had passed on with regard to the Great War.

Cllr. T. Dempsey thanked Angie Laffan, Town Manager, Wexford, for the excellent ceremony that had taken place in Wexford.

#### **14. WEXSCI Wexford Science Festival – 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services, advised that the Festival would be taking place in the next week and that it would be a showcase for science in County Wexford.

#### **15. Call for submissions in relation to the Local Authority Elected Members Role and Remuneration Review**

Mr. E. Taaffe, Director of Services, advised that the correspondence, as circulated, had been received from the Department seeking submissions from Members of the Council with regard to the role and remuneration review. It was also noted that the AILG and LAMA had made submissions to this review on behalf of their Members.

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

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan seconded by Cllr. L. O’Brien the Report of Corporate Policy Group of 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 was approved by the meeting.

#### **17. Chief Executive’s Report**

The Chief Executive’s Report was considered by the Members. The Chief Executive and Members of the Management Team responded to Members queries arising from the report including the following:

- Arrears arising from rent review
- New legislation with regard to planning which deals with taking into account developers previous history in the planning system
- The process involved in applying for social housing
- Advice to members of the public of how to deal with anti-social behavior and what to do if they come across it. Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services, agreed to arrange same
- Houses at Danescastle and Castlemoyle New Ross
- Housing allocations in north County Wexford and the priority for housing applicants in North County Wexford.
- The ability of the Council to respond quickly to false information on social media
- The Director advised that the SEO in Housing will be in attendance at the next Gorey MD Meeting

- The lack of priority in buying land in Gorey/north of the County by CPO
- Query regarding the 2019 Town and Village Renewal Scheme

#### **18. List of Councillors' Conferences and Training**

- Report on New Ross Delegation Visit to Danville, California, September 2018
- Report of Cllr. G. Lawlor on Smart Towns and Villages Conference
- Report of Cllr. G. Lawlor on Lugo Twinning Trip September 2018

The Members noted the reports submitted as outlined above.

A report regarding the delegation to the Forum on Global Production Capacity and Business Cooperation, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China was also circulated to the Members at the meeting.

The County Secretary advised that GDPR Training for Members of the Council will take place in Kilkenny on Thursday and further training on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019 by WCC will take place at 11.30 a.m.

The list of Councillors' Conferences and Training were proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. M. Byrne and agreed by all.

#### **19. Minutes of Meetings:**

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan, and agreed by all the Members present, the following minutes were noted and approved:

- 19.1 Gorey Municipal District Meeting 18.09.18
- 19.2 New Ross Municipal District Meeting 12.09.18
- 19.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting 17.09.18
- 19.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting 15.10.18
- 19.5 Mental Health Sub Committee Meeting 19.10.18

#### **19. Sealing of Documents**

The Sealing of Documents as submitted to the meeting was noted.

#### **21. Correspondence and Communications**

Cllr. F.O' Súilleabháin expressed his disappointment with the reply from Minister Ross regarding roads funding.

Arising from the presentation earlier in the meeting it was agreed by Members that a letter would be sent to the Minister seeking a cross party deputation to include Members of HEFSE to meet with Minister Simon Harris to appraise him of the critical service issues on the ground and to request the immediate appointment of a full time interventional cardiologist and the supporting budget to begin intervention duties in the module catheterisation lab currently on site at UHW.

The following correspondence was noted by the Members:



- Correspondence from Private Secretary to Minister Ross regarding local roads funding
- Acknowledgement from Deputy M. D'Arcy
- Acknowledgement from Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice and Equality regarding publishing data on the prosecution of discriminatory crime
- Acknowledgement from Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice and Equality regarding Control of Economic Activities
- Acknowledgement from Deputy M. D'Arcy regarding life insurance for those who are sick or suffer from a certified illness
- Acknowledgement from Private Secretary to Minister Ross regarding the M11 Motorway
- Acknowledgement from Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach
- Acknowledgement from Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform
- Acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment regarding Pay by Weight Regulations
- Correspondence from Paul Kehoe, T.D., regarding the procurement of unmanned aerial vehicles from an Israeli company
- Correspondence from the Office of the Tanaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, concerning the Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill 2018

## **22. Deferred Notice of Motion:**

### **22.1 Cllr. M. Whelan**

“That this Council would allot time on October agenda to discuss the closure of post offices, lack of broadband and other matters concerning rural villages around Wexford, and the impact its having on the development of rural Wexford”.

### **22.2 Cllr. O. O'Connell**

“In the interests of transparency and accountability: policy documents adopted by Elected Members of this Council will be archived online permanently - in an accessible manner for the public”.

These motions were deferred to the next meeting of the Council

## **23. Notices of Motion:**

### **23.1 Cllr. R. Ireton**

“Wexford County Council need to put a plan together through Education and Life Long Learning on environment issues for future needs of all living and visiting our coastal towns and villages. There is at present no policing of some areas and this needs to be addressed. The Department of Environment through Wexford County Council needs to not only raise awareness with communities but to get input from said communities in working together”.

### **23.2 Cllr. D. Hynes**

“That this Council urges the Dept of Justice to look at the current system of Garda Vetting which requires the same person on each occasion for each organisation to apply separately”.

### **23.3 Cllr. J. Hegarty**

“Following last month's decision by an Bord Pleanala to refuse planning permission for the proposed Greenway from Ferrybank to Curracloe, this Council absolutely reaffirms its commitment to developing a Greenway in this location. Furthermore we call on the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (who has responsibility for National Parks and Wildlife and Birdwatch Ireland) to meet with representatives from Wexford County Council to find an agreed solution that will protect the wildlife while allowing this flagship project for the county to go ahead”.

### **23.4 Cllr. T. Dempsey**

“That Wexford County Council would receive a deputation and presentation from HEFSE (Health Equality for the South East) to include Wexford Hospitals lead cardiologist Dr Aidan Buckley to inform the County Council members of the significant and negative service discrimination being suffered by Wexford Cardiac Patients in accessing regional acute and elective cardiac care”.

### **23.5 Cllr. T. Dempsey**

“That Wexford County Council would consider creating a cross party deputation and same to include local members of HEFSE to meet with Minister Simon Harris to both appraise him of the critical service issues on the ground and to request the immediate appointment of a full time Intervention al Cardiologist to begin intervention al duties in the Modular Catholic lab presently on site at UHW”.

### **23.6 Cllr. O. O'Connell**

“This Council, recognising:

- the historical impact of the Irish who - like the Wild Geese - have fought abroad throughout the centuries, out of necessity or commitment;
- the sacrifices and traumas of both fighters and survivors of those conflicts;
- the diversity of our diaspora and national experiences;
- our significant UN peacekeeping commitments;

Will commemorate all such broader "Wild Geese" simply, inclusively, and respectfully on November 11 ("Armistice Day"/US Veterans of Foreign Wars/Remembrance Day)”

The above motions were deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

## **24. Any Other Business**

The Cathaoirleach reminded the Members that the Environmental Awards will take place this evening in the Ferrycarrig Hotel at 7pm.

Cllr. M. Whelan asked that his motion on rural villages around Wexford and its impact on rural Wexford would be dealt with as an agenda item at the December 2018 meeting. This was agreed by the Members.

Cllr. M. Sheehan asked if there had been any reply to a letter to the HSE regarding the number of GP's operating in County Wexford. It was also hoped that someone from the HSE would come to meet with the Council.

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**

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County Secretary

Daingithe ar an                      lá de Nollaig, 2018.

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Cathaoirleach