

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 14th September 2022 in The Tholsel, New Ross.**

Presiding: Councillor Michael Sheehan – Cathaoirleach

In Attendance:

Councillor Anthony Connick
Councillor Pat Barden
Councillor John Fleming
Councillor Michael Whelan
Councillor Bridin Murphy

Officials Present:

Mick McCormack – District Manager
Eamonn Hore - District Director
David Murphy – Acting Executive Engineer - Teams
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing- Teams
Shay Howell- Senior Executive architect- Teams
Fionnuala Callery- Senior Executive Engineer
Eoin Kinsella- Agricultural Scientist
Padraig Lyng- Executive Engineer
Niall McCabe- Administrative Officer- Teams
Fintan Ryan- Senior Executive Engineer
Eoin Furlong- Clerical Officer
Eadaoin Kavanagh- Clerical Officer

Others Present:

David Looby – Press
Deputy Verona Murphy- Teams

Apologies:

Brendan Cooney – Executive Scientist
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all attendees both in person and through Teams, to the meeting. Cllr Sheehan proposed to adopt and amend that all non-officials attending through Teams must always have their camera on and always remain in frame. This was noted and agreed by all councillors.

Sympathies

Cllr Fleming and Cllr Barden sympathised on the death of M.J Booth, Adamstown. Cllr Barden sympathised on the death of Annastacia Ring Rocklane, Camross, Adamstown. Cllr Sheehan and Cllr Connick sympathised with the family of

Jimmy Grangel, Ballyroe Lower New Ross, James (Jimmy) Fitzgibbon, Dowsleys Barn, New Ross and Mary Dalton, Pondsfield, New Ross.

Congratulations

Cllr Sheehan wish to congratulate all involved in the success of all the festivals held throughout the district over the summer months. He paid special mention to Summer Sessions, The Guitar Festival and The Kennedy Summer School. Cllr Sheehan mentioned the success of The Rose of Tralee tour, especially in the district. He also wanted to wish The Piano Festival well with their upcoming event on 21st-25th of September.

Cllr Fleming and Cllr Whelan congratulated a motorbike group who embarked on a journey from Dublin to Wexford in aid of Youth Suicide Prevention Ireland on September 10th. Cllr Fleming also mentioned the amazing work that our outdoor staff did after the flash flooding in New Ross last month.

Cllr Whelan would also like to wish the Gusserane Ladies Football team who have reached the county final the best of luck.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting –

The 13th of July 2022 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Connick and seconded by Cllr Fleming.

1.2 Special Meeting 21st August 2022

The minutes of the above meeting which was held to pass a vote of sympathy to the Laffan Family on the death of Pat Laffan, Wexford County Council Staff were proposed by Cllr Connick and seconded by Cllr Barden.

2.0 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

2.1 District Managers Report

The District Manager delivered his report and responded to queries raised by the Members.

Autumn Festival series Kennedy Summer School/Eugene O'Neill, New Ross Piano Festival.

The District Manager thanked the organisers of the Autumn Series of festivals who had also thanked the NRMD Cllrs fr their continued financial support for these festivals

Town and Village Renewal 2022.

The District Manager gave an update to the Embers on the 2022 Town and Village applications which are with the Dept for consideration

Brennans Lane/Shambles Town and Village

The Manager briefed the Members on the Brennans Lane/Shambles Town and Village project.

National Chamber of Ireland Awards

The Mnager advised the Members that New Ross made the finals for 2 events and were delighted with being shortlisted for such a prestigious award

- Kennedy Summer School *in Festival of the Year*
- The regeneration of Goat Hill *in Heritage and Built Environment*

Culture Night

The Manager advised the Members of the New Ross Culture night programme.

Tri the Hook.

The Manager advised of the Tri the Hook event and passed on thanks from the organisers for the NRMD support

St Stephens Cemetery Extension

The Manager gave an update to the Members of the St Stephens Cemetery Extension project and answered questions..

LLPPS Rd 4

The Manager thanked Tomas Kavanagh and his team for his work on LLPPS and advised that it was great to get a band of the Calibre of the High Kings to New Ross.

Summer Sessions

The Manager conveyed thanks to the members from St Michaels Theatre who organised the 2022 Summer Sessions and gave a full account of the events held during Summer Sessions 2022.

CCTV

We are currently working through the Data Impact Assessments and requirements on the CCTV scheme which will then be forwarded to the Garda Commissioner for sanction.

Proposed Change of date of October NRMD meeting to Wed 19th Oct

On the advice of the District Manager the Embers agreed to change the date of the next meeting to the 19th Oct to facilitate the Council budgetary process.

Tour of Athurstown/Ballyhack/Duncannon Sewerage Scheme Plant.

Following a request from the Members James Whelan Senior Executive Engineer is happy to give a guided tour to the Cllrs of the new Waste Treatment Plant in Athurstown. The members advised that they would decide a date amongst themselves and revert back to the District Manager and or James Whelan.

Destination Towns

The District Manager gave an update to the Members on the Destination Towns Project.

New Ross Community Bus.

The District Manager gave an update to the Members on the difficulties in continuing the CE New Ross community bus scheme. He advised that Local Link have been approached and are on board to take on the service, having made a submission to the NTA - and are awaiting approval. Subject to NTA approval & successful tender, Local Link proposes to maintain the route and service like the former CES operation.

As the service transitions, he will keep the Members updated, with dates/routes & timetables/communications etc.

2.1a Special Projects Report

The Senior Executive Engineer delivered his report and responded to queries from the Members.

The SEE updated members of the progress on the Greenway and agreed with the councillors that a staged opening was their preferred option.

The opening of the High Hill Norman Park and Gardens is set for Thursday 6th October.

The New Ross Public Realm- Oil Tank Site has submitted an RRDF application for the site.

John Street Building Regeneration Project has completed initial surveys and investigation works. The acquisition of the outstanding property is progressing and An Bord Pleanála has approved the application.

The Murphy Building is currently working on proofing concepts to progress onto architectural services.

WCC has appointed a tourism coordinator to assist with the procurement of interpretative design services for Hook Heritage CLG.

Cllr Sheehan and DOS Eamonn Hore commended Fintan Ryan on his work on the High Hill Norman Gardens.

2.2 Roads Report

The Acting Executive Engineer delivered his report and responded to queries from the Members.

The AEE advised of investigation works are on going on O' Hanrahan Bridge. The pavement works and manhole repairs are completed after the flash flooding in August. The Cullenstown bridge and Raheen bridge works are still ongoing and the Pollpeasty bridge works have been completed.

2.4 Housing Report

The housing report was delivered by the administrative officer, who responded to the Members queries.

The AO advised the Members of the SSHA form deadlines and those who are exempt from this application. She also welcomed the appointment of Tom Fox who is the new Vacant Homes Officer.

The Senior Architect presented proposed drawings for the Rosbercon site. All specialist reports are back, and tender documents are due to go out this Friday 16th. The groundwork crew are due to go in and clear the site. He said he will make available these preliminary drawings to all Members with the breakdown of house type/occupancy.

2.5 Planning Report

The planning report was made available to the members.

2.6 Planning – Grants

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.7 Planning – Refusals

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.8 Libraries, Archives & Arts Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.9 Community, Development Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.10 Environment Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.11 Fire Services Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.12 Members Portal Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

3.0 Business prescribed by Statue, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members

Taking in Charge Report Brandon Park was proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Fleming.

4 Other Business

4.1 Payment Portal- Credit Control

Niall McCabe delivered a presentation on the roll out of the new self-service portal which will go live on Tuesday 27th September. It will enable customers to create flexible payment plans and tailored solutions to clear account balances and arrears online. It offers a recurring debit card payment option which is easy to use, and one time set up that offers cheaper charges compared to Bank Standing Orders. It will revolutionise the day-to-day operations of the Credit Control section though focused scheduling and prioritisation of the daily workload. This in turn drives efficiency, leading to improved collection percentage and lowering the administration cost of the section overall. Cllr Sheehan thanked Niall and his team for the presentation and wished them the best of luck with the upcoming launch.

4.2 Ramsgrange Feasibility Study and Duncannon Blue Flag Farming and Communities Scheme EIP Updates- Environment

Padraig Lyng delivered a presentation about an application for The A8 measure to fund public wastewater infrastructure in towns and villages nationally which are currently without any Irish Water licenced infrastructure. Ramsgrange is one of the villages put forward for the application. Eoin Kinsella continued the presentation with his contribution on the Blue Flag farming and communities' scheme which encourages positive relations between the farmers and householders in the catchment area and the local natural landscape, to both the water and biodiversity environment. This project would marry well with the ongoing works in Arthurstown. The members welcomed this application and offered a letter of support to accompany this application.

5.0 Notice of Motion/s –

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

N/A

7.0 AOB

It was brought forward to the attention of the Members that the Boat yard fees in the New Ross District should be discussed at the next meeting.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____