

**Minutes of the Rosslare Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on the 19th October 2022 at 10.30hrs in the Council Chamber, Carricklawn,
Wexford, and MS Teams (Remote).**

Presiding:	Cllr Lisa McDonald – An Cathaoirleach
Councillors:	Cllr Frank Staples – Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Jim Moore Cllr Jim Codd Cllr Ger Carthy
Officials:	Nóirín Cummins – District Manager Annette O'Neill - District Director / Director of Services Mark Collins – District Engineer (Roads) Derek Cowman – District Technician Gerry Forde – Senior Engineer (Environment) George Colfer – Executive Engineer (Environment) Tom Banville – Senior Executive Officer (Planning) Sonia Hunt – Executive Planner Anita McLoughlin – A/SEO (Housing) Shay Howell – County Architect Caroline Creane – Senior Staff Officer (Housing) Tom Fox – Executive Engineer (Vacant Homes Officer) Alan O'Shea – Senior Executive Engineer (Active Travel) Tom Byrne – Executive Engineer (Active Travel) Dymphna O'Connor – Senior Executive Officer (Community) Dean Waters – Staff Officer
Remote:	Ken Jones – District Engineer (Water)
Apologies:	N/A

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Lisa McDonald, welcomed all those in attendance and commenced the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting 21st September 2022

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of September 21st 2022, were proposed by Cllr Ger Carthy and seconded by Cllr Jim Moore.

1.2 Matters Arising

1.2.1 Housing – Various

1.2.2 Planning – Refusal Rates

The responses and information provided in relation to queries from the previous meeting were noted.

Cllr Frank Staples expressed disappointment at the seemingly high refusal rates for 2022, stating that there was an apparent connection with the rate and the difficulties in gaining a pre-planning meeting.

Following a recommendation from the Chair it was agreed that the responses could be revisited, as necessary, under the appropriate agenda item.

The timelines for the provision of Bus Stops were raised by Cllr Ger Carthy.

The Roads Engineer confirmed that the tenders for the groundworks have been received and arrangements are progressing for completion of the works at the five locations. He also noted that the NTA, who will be responsible for installing the actual shelters have been advised that these works are progressing so that they can progress the order for the shelter units.

The District Director noted that the Bus Shelter Programme agreed with members earlier in the year was progressing well and every effort was being made to complete the programme as soon as possible.

2. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members

2.1 Draft Budgetary Plan (GMA) 2023

The Draft Budgetary Plan was introduced and outlined by the District Director in her role as Head of Finance.

Following a discussion and on the proposal of Cllr Ger Carthy, seconded by Cllr Jim Moore, the Draft Budgetary Plan (GMA) 2023 was approved and adopted as presented.

2.2 Proposed Developments for Taking in Charge in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 and Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

a) *Eastlands Court, Mayglass*

On the proposal of Cllr Frank Staples, seconded by Cllr Jim Moore, it was agreed to proceed with the Taking in Charge item as presented.

Following comment from Cllr Frank Staples regarding *Links Close 1 & 2* and the apparent hold up of the taking in charge process by Irish Water, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Lisa McDonald, requested that the matter be investigated. The Senior Executive Officer (Planning) agreed to look at the matter and report back to the Members.

3. District Manager Report

3.1 District Managers Report

The District Manager delivered her report.

Twinning

Following an update from the District Manager on the school exchanges which will take place between Bridgetown Community College and Lyceé Jean Bart in the new year, it was agreed that great progress had been made in a short space of time and work must continue to further enhance the relationship between the two authorities.

A discussion followed.

On the proposal of Cllr Ger Carthy, seconded by Cllr Frank Staples, it was agreed to form a specialised twinning sub-committee with Cllr Jim Moore in the chair.

It was further agreed that An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Lisa McDonald, and the District Manager would also represent the District on the committee, liaising with representatives from Dunkerque as and when required.

Ministerial Visit

The Members acknowledged the hugely positive visit of **Minister for Rural & Community Development and Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD** who attended and officiated at the following events in the District on Thursday 6th October;

- *Clongeen Community Development Centre – Official Opening of extension to Community Centre in Clongeen*
- *11km Blueway –Sod Turning Ceremony at Little Sea, Bannow Bay Estuary, Barrystown (nr Wellingtonbridge)*
- *Our Lady's Island Community Project – Official Opening of Community Facilities in Our Lady's Island*

Following the proposal of Cllr Jim Moore, seconded by Cllr Ger Carthy and unanimously supported by the Members, it was agreed to correspond with the Minister thanking her for visiting the District, and her continued support for Rural and Community Development throughout the District and County.

4. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

4.1 Roads Report

The Executive Engineer delivered his report and responded to questions from the Members, confirming the following items;

- *Kilrane National School – works to be completed during mid-term as planned, with line marking to follow shortly afterwards*
- *Finger Post signage installation – to be completed before year end*
- *Mayglass footpath pole – Application currently with Eircom*

- *Maygalss NS safety signs – Signage on order*
- *Ballymitty NS safety signs – Bollards and safety signs on order*
- *Carrowreagh – Area is outside of the Rosslare District*

and agreed to investigate the following matter/s;

- *Bridgetown safety ramps – Traffic count had been completed with best approach to be decided following data analysis of the results.*

Floodgates Installation

The District Engineer advised the meeting that the District Administration Staff had commenced contact with the owners of properties during the summer, with follow up correspondence being sent in September to those who had not responded to the initial contact.

The District Engineer advised that a contractor had been appointed and the works would commence once a definitive list had been compiled.

A discussion followed.

The District Engineer confirmed that approximately 50% of those contacted had opted into the scheme.

The District Director requested that the Members encourage those affected to respond as soon as possible.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Lisa McDonald, suggested using a closing date for the scheme, thus allowing installations to commence.

Greenway

The Members raised concerns over the lack of movement on the publication of the *All Island Strategic Rail Review*, commissioned by Minister Eamonn Ryan and the Department of Transport, which in turn was delaying the Rosslare to Waterford Greenway.

A discussion followed.

Following a proposal from Ger Carthy, seconded by Cllr Frank Staples, it was agreed to correspond with the 5 Oireachtas members regarding the delay and consequences of the delay with a view to raising these issues in Dáil Éireann.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Lisa McDonald, requested that correspondence be completed as outlined and that the District Director raise the matter at senior management level.

One-way system in Rosslare Strand

Following comment from Cllr Ger Carthy regarding a Traffic Management Plan for the area, the District Engineer confirmed that he had applied for funding from the NTA in November / December 2021 and a response was still awaited, agreeing to follow up.

4.1.1 Bus Shelter Progress Report

Following the earlier discussions under matters arising, the Executive Engineer delivered a brief update on the following programme of works;

- *Complete – Bridgetown*
- *Complete – Kilmore Quay*
- *Complete – Rosslare Harbour*
- *Progressing – Bridgetown*
- *Progressing - Killinick*
- *Active Travel - Wellingtonbridge x2*
- *Active Travel – Kilrane x2*
- *NTA Application – Tagoat x2 (North & South)*
- *NTA Application – Drinagh x2 (North & South)*
- *NTA Application - Rosslare Strand*

The Executive Engineer confirmed that that the **NTA** would install the Bus Shelters once the enabling works had been completed by Wexford County Council. Also confirming that the **National Transport Authority (NTA)** had approved a Bus Stop Enabling Grant of €150,000 to assist with the pre-installation works.

4.2 Water Services Report

The Executive Engineer delivered his previously circulated report and responded to questions from the Members, and committed to providing updates to the following items at the next meeting;

- *Confirmation of completion - Staplestown tank repairs*
- *Formal Report – Planning issues concerning wastewater treatment facilities and water pressure problems in Rosslare Strand*

4.3 Housing Report

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Lisa McDonald, welcomed the *Housing Team* to the meeting.

The Senior Staff Officer delivered her previously circulated report.

4.3.1 Rosslare MD Specific

The Senior Staff Officer delivered the Rosslare MD specific housing report before responding to questions from the Members.

A discussion followed.

Homeless presentations – without paperwork

Cllr Jim Codd requested information on the number of homeless presentations presenting without the correct paperwork, and the stages / steps for these type of presentations.

Emergency accommodation – crash beds

Cllr Ger Carthy requested that the *Housing Team* investigate the possibility of purchasing 1 or 2 properties in the District to be specifically used for short term emergency accommodation.

4.3.2 Housing Capital Programme - Anita McLoughlin A/SEO

The A/SEO delivered a report on the Capital Programme in relation to **Housing for All 2022 -2026** and responded to questions from the Members.

The Members raised serious concerns over the lack of serviced land within the Rosslare District which was having a negative effect on the delivery of options in the District.

A discussion followed.

Appropriate Land Acquisition / Turnkeys - Expressions of Interest

The A/SEO confirmed that the *Expressions of Interests* in relation to appropriate land acquisition for the development of small clusters of 4-7 houses and similar Turnkey developments in the District, were being assessed on a monthly basis.

Rosetown, Rosslare Strand

The County Architect confirmed that the 21 units (of 23) in Rosetown, Rosslare Strand, would be handed over Q1 2023 once certification from Irish Water had been received, with the remaining 2 being delayed due to further works being required by the ESB.

The Members raised concerns about the delay with the cert of compliance being issued by Irish Water and Cllr Ger Carthy proposed we write to Irish Water at senior level regarding this delay. Cllr Frank Staples seconded the proposal. The County Architect further confirmed that phase 2 of the project was in the process of being tendered.

Affordable Housing

Following comment from Cllr Jim Moore on the prohibitive cost of land in coastal areas, the A/SEO confirmed that KPMG were currently compiling a countywide report on affordable housing which would be completed in November and then presented at a Special Meeting of the Council.

Choice Based Lettings

The A/SEO confirmed that a trial of *Choiced Based Lettings* would be implemented.

Residential Zoned Land Tax

The SEO (Planning) advised the meeting that the Residential Zoned Land Tax is a new tax aimed at increasing housing supply by activating zoned, serviced residential development lands for housing and would have further detail for the November meeting.

4.3.3 Introduction to the Vacant Homes Officer Tom Fox

The newly appointed Vacant Homes Officer delivered a report on the **Croí Cónaithe (Towns Fund) – Property Refurbishment Fund** before responding to the Members queries.

The Vacant Homes Officer confirmed that the scheme was targeted at Principal Private Residencies only.

The introduction of the scheme was welcomed by the Members and An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Lisa McDonald requested that the presentation be circulated.

Following acknowledgment from the Chair of the current time being 12:30, Cllr Ger Carthy proposed the suspension of Standing Orders. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Frank Staples and the meeting continued.

4.4 Planning Report

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Lisa McDonald welcomed the newly appointed District Planner.

The previously circulated report was noted by the Members before the Executive Planner responded to their questions.

Matters Arising - Refusal Rates 2022

Cllr Frank Staples again expressed disappointment at the seemingly high refusal rates for 2022, which was running at 35% according to the figures supplied by the Planning Department, reaffirming that there seemed to be an obvious connection between the high rate of refusals and the difficulties in gaining pre-planning meetings.

A discussion followed.

The S.E.O confirmed that due to the previous limited access to planners through the pre-planning process the current average pre-planning delivery schedule was running at 90 days, whilst committing to achieving the targeted 40 day schedule now that a full complement of staff was in place.

Acoustic Surveys / Sonic Boom

In response to observations from the Members regarding ongoing coastal surveys and assurances for fishermen, the S.E.O agreed to investigate the matter.

A discussion followed.

Following a proposal from Cllr Ger Carthy, seconded by Cllr Jim Codd, it was unanimously agreed that representatives of the fishing community be invited to meet the Councillors.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Lisa McDonald, requested that the District Manager arrange a delegation from the fishermen as outlined.

4.4.1 Planning Decisions – Grants

The content of the previously circulated report was noted by the Members.

4.4.2 Planning Decisions – Refusals

The content of the previously circulated report was noted by the Members.

4.5 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

The content of the previously circulated report was noted by the Members.

4.6 Community Development Report

The content of the previously circulated report was noted by the Members.

The countywide **Sláintecare Healthy Communities** playground initiative, with particular reference to the proposed works in Taghmon, was praised by the Members.

The Members also noted the success of the recent **Garda Youth Awards** which celebrate outstanding young people between 13 and 21 years of age and recognise the good work being done by young people throughout communities. All recipients of an award were acknowledged with special praise being afforded to Matthew Colgan and Emma Murphy, both of the FDYS Youth Project, Bridgetown.

4.7 Environment Report

The S.E. Environment delivered the previously circulated report and dealt with the queries which were raised by the Members.

Environment Department Cameras - Illegal Dumping

Following comment from Cllr Jim Codd, regarding instances of illegal dumping in the District and newly passed camera/recording legislation, the S.E. Environment confirmed that guidance documents from central government were still awaited.

4.7.1 Seaview / Coastal Erosion - Update

The S.E. Environment updated members on the current status of the coastal erosion schemes and responded to the queries from the Members.

The S.E. Environment confirmed that an application for works would be lodged with **An Bord Pleanála** before year end.

4.7.2 Ballyhealy Preliminary Erosion Study

The S.E. Environment confirmed that an update on *Ballyhealy Preliminary Erosion Study* would be presented at the November meeting following an in-house review of the recently submitted report.

4.7.3 Beach Access Review Update

The Executive Engineer gave a presentation of the Action Plan which had been formulated to address the items highlighted in the RMD Beach Access Review 2022.

The Members welcomed the work plan and delivery framework as presented, requesting circulation of the report.

4.8 Fire Services Report

Noted.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Notice of Motion/s –
None

7. Any Other Business

ESB Outages

Cllr Jim Moore advised the meeting that the sheer volume of outages in the area were continuing to have a negative impact on the business community and members of the public in our rural communities, proposing that the ESB be contacted requesting they address the frequent outages issue, and that a delegation be invited to the December or January meeting to update the Members on the historic problem and their proposed solutions.

Cllr Ger Carthy seconded the proposal.

The District Manager undertook to correspond with the appropriate person in the ESB as requested.

8. Special Business (*Internal / External Presentations etc*).

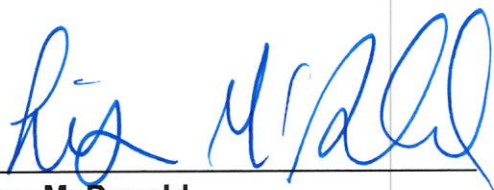
8.1 NTA funded Safe Routes to School Scheme / Rosslare Strand National School - Active Travel Department

Representative from the Active Travel Department, Alan O'Shea - Senior Executive Engineer, and Tom Byrne - Executive Engineer gave an overview of the Safe Route to Schools Scheme and Active Travel Programme, before responding to queries from the Members.

On the proposal of Cllr Ger Carthy, seconded by Cllr Frank Staples, the proposal for **Scoil Mhuire, Rosslare Strand**, was endorsed as presented.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed on the 16th November 2022



Cllr Lisa McDonald
An Cathaoirleach
Rosslare Municipal District

