

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**Minutes of Special Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Monday 5th December, 2022
in the Council Chamber at 10am (with some remote attendance via Microsoft Teams)****Attendance:****In the Chair:** Cllr. George Lawlor, Cathaoirleach**Councillors:**

BELL	MAURA (Remote)	KAVANAGH	WILLIE	WHELAN	MICHAEL
BOLGER	ANDREW (Remote)	KELLY	LEONARD (Remote)		
BREEN	PIP	KENNY	DONAL		
BYRNE	CATHAL	LAFFAN	GARRY		
CARTHY	GER	MCDONALD	LISA		
CODD-NOLAN	KATHLEEN (Remote)	MURPHY	BARBARA ANNE (Remote)		
CONNICK	ANTHONY	MURPHY	BRIDIN (Remote)		
FLEMING	JOHN	O'ROURKE	JOHN (Remote)		
FORDE	TOM	SHEEHAN	MICHAEL		
HEGARTY	JOHN (Remote)	SULLIVAN	JOE		
HYNES	DAVID	WALSH	OLIVER (Remote)		

Officials:

Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive
 Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services
 Ms. Carolyn Godkin, Director of Services
 Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance
 Ms. Elizabeth Hore, Director of Services
 Mr. Sean Meyler, A/Director of Services
 Mr. Michael Drea, County Secretary
 Ms. Anita McLoughlin, A/SEO Housing
 Mr. Shay Howell, A/SA Housing
 Mr. Sean Kavanagh, SEE Housing
 Ms. Michele Bridges Carley, AO Housing
 Ms. Martina Donoghue, AO Housing

Ms. Helen Frayne, SSO Housing
Ms. Angela Finn, SSO Housing
Ms. Caroline Creane, SSO Housing

Apologies:

Cllr. Mary Farrell
Cllr. Frank Staples
Ms. Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services

Congratulations:

Cllr. G. Carthy congratulated Cllr. D. Hynes on joining Sinn Féin. Cllr. T. Forde welcomed Cllr. D. Hynes into the Sinn Féin party and commended him as a great colleague and friend. Cllr. D. Hynes outlined his reasons for the move.

1. Questions and Comments by Councillors

Mr. T. Enright, Ms. C. Godkin and members of the Housing Department responded to a wide range of queries from the Elected Members regarding the following:

- Delivery of units in rural areas where there is serviced land such as Arthurstown, Ballyhack, Duncannon, Ballycullane.
- Can Local Authority Home Loan form be simplified?
- Can Members get more input into the Choice Based Letting roll-out?
- Request to have an estate maintenance programme re-instated to deal with roads, footpaths etc.
- Confirmation of timelines for Ramsfort Park development going to tender.
- Confirmation of timelines for Creagh development.
- The use of innovative forms of construction such as modular housing.
- The number of people in Wexford drawing down First Home Choice loans.
- Issues in relation to provision of services in towns and villages by Irish Water.
- The need for affordable housing in each district.
- The possibility of granting Part VIII planning permission for clusters of units in the Rosslare Municipal District.
- The need for the provision of rural housing as 1/3 of population is rural based yet only 10% of applicants apply for housing in rural areas.
- Clarification if people not eligible for social housing can avail of homeless services.
- If planning expires, when is service capacity that was reserved released?
- Request for map detailing land owned by Wexford County Council which is serviced.
- Request for list of planning permissions that have planning granted but aren't being developed.
- Timeline for development of affordable housing scheme in Wexford.
- Update on derelict house on Hill St.
- Need for additional emergency accommodation.
- Inclusion of maintenance when assessing income even though payments may not be received.

- Situation regarding purchase of HAP properties with tenants in situ where a notice to quit has been served.
- The possibility of financial assistance being provided to families in emergency accommodation for the cost of travel.
- Request for a “builder liaison person” who can link in with each department.

At this point, Cllr. Ger Carthy proposed that Wexford County Council develop an affordable housing scheme in each District, this was seconded by Cllr. Tom Forde and agreed by all.

- Clarification if the Council would purchase a HAP property with a long-term tenant in situ if the house didn't fully meet the needs of the tenant(s).
- Possibility of parochial houses being used for emergency accommodation and parish land being used for social housing.
- Need for Local Area Plans to be delivered to provide more zoned land.
- Need for a downsizing scheme.
- Improved estate management clamping down on anti-social behaviour.
- Serviced sites greater than 1 acre in Enniscorthy.
- Proposed land acquisitions in Enniscorthy.
- CBL training for housing applicants and Councillors.
- Timeline for commencement of construction on St. Josephs site.
- Prospect of developing land in the Maudlins, New Ross.
- Update on the KPMG report on affordable housing submitted to the Department.
- Update on Respond Convent in New Ross.
- Timeline for construction of units in Rosbercon.
- Insufficient funding for energy retrofit programme.
- Timeline for allocation of units in Healysland, New Ross.
- Is there a review built into CBL?
- Plans for delivery of units in Bunclody.
- Is Council withdrawing from certain areas and letting AHB's deliver units?
- Level of interest from landowners in the expression of interest published.
- Is there any update on proposed new planning laws?
- Information session in each of the Municipal Districts.
- Extension of the eviction ban whilst construction ramps up.
- Request that working family payment be excluded from assessment of income.

Cllr.'s C. Byrne, J. Sullivan, A. Connick and G. Lawlor commended the housing staff for their work and acknowledged the efforts of Michele Bridges Carley and the HSSU team.

Mr. T. Enright thanked the housing staff for their work.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUISNESS OF THE MEETING

Daingithe ar an

lá de Nollaig, 2022.

Cllr. George Lawlor
Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,
County Secretary