

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**Minutes of Special Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Monday 14th November, 2022
in the Council Chamber at 11am (with some remote attendance via Microsoft Teams)****Attendance:****In the Chair:** Cllr. George Lawlor, Cathaoirleach**Councillors:**

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

Officials:

Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive
 Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services
 Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Services
 Ms. Elizabeth Hore, Director of Services
 Mr. Sean Meyler, A/Director of Services
 Ms. Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services
 Mr. Michael Drea, County Secretary
 Ms. Anita McLoughlin, A/SEO Housing
 Mr. Shay Howell, A/SA Housing
 Ms. Michele Bridges Carley, AO Housing
 Ms. Martina Donoghue, AO Housing
 Ms. Helen Frayne, SSO Housing
 Mr. Brian Kennedy, SO Housing

Apologies:

Cllr. Leonard Kelly
Cllr. Frank Staples
Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance

Votes of Sympathy:

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to the family and friends of the late Vicky Phelan. The Cathaoirleach described Vicky Phelan as an articulate, fearless, compassionate and inspirational lady. He said she selflessly fought on behalf of others in spite of her own battle. He acknowledged her support for the kit out the refuge campaign in Wexford. The Cathaoirleach noted the huge loss, in particular to the women of Ireland and he advised that a book of condolence would be opened in County Hall and each of the Municipal Districts.

The attendance stood for a minutes silence in memory of the deceased.

Cllr. B.A. Murphy said there isn't a person in the Chamber whose family hasn't been affected by cancer and offered her sincere condolence to Vicky's children and family.

Cllr. B. Murphy echoed the sentiments of the previous speakers and expressed huge admiration for how Vicky had dedicated the last years of her life.

Cllr. D. Hynes agreed with the sentiments expressed and said it is important that words are followed with actions.

Cllr. J. Owens said he felt like he knew her even though he never met her and expressed his deepest sympathy.

Mr. T. Enright expressed deepest sympathy on behalf of the management and staff of Wexford County Council.

1. Presentation by Housing Staff

Mr. T. Enright welcomed the opportunity to have a special meeting outlining the work that is ongoing and he outlined the Council's ambitions for social and affordable housing in the County.

Ms. Anita McLoughlin gave a presentation which outlined the following:

- Structure of Housing and new roles
- Demand figures by District and distribution of demand by unit type
- HSSU structure, role and stats
- Grants stats
- Traveller accommodation programme
- Housing allocation stats and draft housing allocation scheme
- Choice based letting and housing stock stats
- Response & planned maintenance and energy retrofit programme

- Vacant stock and pre-let repairs
- Social work services
- Housing delivery action plan
- Turnkey expression of interest process
- AHB forum
- Buy & renew and repair & lease schemes
- Affordable housing

Mr. Shay Howell gave a presentation which outlined the following:

- Overview of capital programme
- Schemes breakdown
- Demand and density challenges
- Key design criteria and requirements
- Typologies and sustainability
- Procurement and funding

2. Questions and Comments by Councillors

Ms. C. Godkin responded to a wide range of queries from the Elected Members in regard to the following:

- Indicative price for affordable housing
- Time taken to relet houses and funding for repairs
- Projections for housing list numbers in 2026
- Request for homeless protocol to issue to the Members
- Possibility of funding transport costs for people in emergency accommodation
- Situation regarding families in Park
- Adequate staffing and funding levels for Housing?
- Allocation scheme for affordable housing
- Minister O'Brien's visit to Wexford
- Dip in housing output after 2022
- Delays attributable to Irish Water or ESB
- Possibility of Tagoat being submitted as a single stage approval?
- Consequences for refusal of offers
- Request for ongoing monitoring of vacant properties
- Affordable housing prospects if affordability constraint isn't approved by Minister

At this point, Cllr. M. Sheehan proposed adjourning to another date as a significant number of Councillors had yet to get in and time was running out. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to adjourn the meeting until 10am on Monday 5th December.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUISNESS OF THE MEETING

Daingithe ar an

lá de Nollag 2022.

Cllr. George Lawlor
Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,
County Secretary