

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF  
THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE  
PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON WEDNESDAY  
21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 AT 3.00 P.M.**

**Attendance:**

**Councillors:** Aidan Browne (Cathaoirleach)  
Cathal Byrne (Leas-Chathaoirleach)  
Kathleen Codd-Nolan  
John O'Rourke  
Jackser Owens  
Barbara-Anne Murphy

**Officials:** Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Services  
Mr. Ger Mackey, District Manager  
Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms. Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner  
Mr. David Wall, Assistant Planner  
Ms. Catherine Fitzpatrick, Executive Technician  
Mr. Alan O'Shea, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. Tom Fox, Vacant Homes Officer  
Ms. Caroline Creane, Senior Staff Officer  
Ms. Angela Finn, Senior Staff Officer  
Ms. Bernie Quigley, Staff Officer  
Ms. Lisa Moore, Assistant Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer  
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer

**1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

**1.1 Minutes of the October Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke, the Minutes of the October Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

At this juncture of the meeting, it was agreed to take votes of sympathies and congratulations.

Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended Votes of Sympathies to the following families: -

- The Fenlon family on the sad passing of Tommy Fenlon, RIP.
- The family of Vicky Phelan, RIP.
- The Highland family on the sad passing of Catherine, RIP.

- The Dempsey family on the sad passing of Stephen Dempsey, RIP.
- The Kennedy family on their recent loss.
- The Murphy family on the sad passing of Kevin, RIP.

### Congratulations

The Members extended congratulations to the following:

- The Irish U25 Pool Team who recently won the World Championship. It was noted that three of the team were from Enniscorthy and it was recommended that a Civic Reception be considered for these members.
- Enniscorthy Members of the U18 Carlow Darts Team on participating in the World Darts Championship.
- The Enniscorthy Rugby Club on receiving the Club of the Year award recently.

## **1.2 Matters Arising**

A number of updates were requested by the Members: -

- If a response had been received from correspondence forwarded to Minister Humphreys in relation to the Notice of Motion proposed at the October Meeting of this Committee.
- Date for meeting with the HSE regarding the Campus at St. Johns.
- Clean up of the River Urrin.
- Works at Hillview, Bree – Cllr. Owens and Cllr. O'Rourke requested an update, in particular funding commitment.

The Officials responded to all queries raised and it was noted that works at Hillview, Bree would be undertaken in 2023. The District Manager confirmed that funding for these works was committed.

The District Manager stated that a letter had been received from the Chair of the Hillview Residents Association thanking the Elected Members for their assistance in this matter, in particular, Cllr's. Byrne, Owens, and O'Rourke.

## **2. Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

### **2.1 Planning**

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. A number of queries were raised by the Members, in particular: -

- Recent refusals in relation to applications for rural businesses in the district.
- Residential Zoned Land Tax.

Ms. Lennon stated that as outlined in the Retail Strategy, retail of a certain type is best suited to town centres, however, some applications, for example, applications for the provision of clamping facilities are considered.

Mr. David Wall, Assistant Planner clarified all queries raised and undertook to ensure that advertising of the Residential Zoned Land Tax continues through Wexford County Councils Communications Department. It was noted that owners of land zoned residential but used for farming purposes should write to Wexford County Council once

the map has been advertised to state that said lands will be used for farming purposes only.

## **2.2 Housing, Community, Environment, Libraries & Fire Service**

### Housing

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. The Members put forward a number of queries and concerns to which the officials responded.

- Appointment of a new Tenant Liaison Officer for the Enniscorthy Municipal District.
- Consideration for a survey to be carried out on Wexford County Council and Approved Housing Bodies housing stock in relation to underoccupancy and tenants who are allocated a unit but do not take up full time residency in said unit.
- The low percentage of units planned for construction in the Enniscorthy Municipal District over the next 4 years.
- Lack of 1 – 2 bed units in the Enniscorthy Municipal District.
- Incentivisation for voluntary transfers from tenants from larger units to smaller units within the district.
- Need to build units in smaller towns and villages throughout the district.
- Clarification on whether the new Housing For All Policy includes the provision of funding to purchase land for construction.
- Lack of available rented property.
- HAP tenants – not securely housed.

The officials responded to all queries raised.

A lengthy discussion took place, and the Director of Services presented the Members with a number of housing statistics. It was noted that HAP was introduced as a model scheme with all Local Authorities obliged to operate it. The significant cost of building 1-2 bed units along with the challenges in transferring tenants to smaller units, even voluntary was discussed.

It was further noted that a further expression of interest for turnkey units and development land had been advertised with a closing date of two weeks.

### Community

The Members sought clarification on the reason the Enniscorthy Sports Hub project appeared to be on hold, the provision of an online booking system and usage of the infill site. The District Manager stated that the project was not parked, however, the funding model was under review. It was noted that officials were due to have a demonstration on an online booking system on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>. The Members outlined the importance of getting the project over the line, to which, Mr. Mackey confirmed Wexford County Council's commitment to same.

### Environment

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

### Libraries & Fire Service

The Members noted the report circulated prior to the meeting.

### **2.2.1 Vacant Homes Officer**

Mr. Tom Fox, Vacant Homes Officer made a presentation to the Members on the Croí Cónaithe Fund. The Members put forward a number of questions to Mr. Fox to which he responded.

### **2.3 Municipal District Report**

Mr. Mackey, District Manager outlined the main points of his report and updated the Members on queries raised at the October Meeting.

A number of dates for the provision of a Special Meeting for consideration of the draft URDF Report were outlined by the District Manager. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to hold a Special Meeting on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 at 9.30 a.m., followed by a meeting of the Working Group – Draft Socio-Economic and Spatial Strategy for Enniscorthy Town at 11.00 a.m.

Mr. Mackey proposed a meeting with An Garda Síochána at 2.00 p.m. on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022, prior to the December Monthly Meeting.

It was further proposed to hold the Chairmans Annual Christmas Dinner on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> following a visit to the Civic Offices.

The Members asked that consideration be given to the provision of a small grant to a number of towns and villages for the provision of Christmas Lighting.

### **3. Active Travel Presentation.**

Mr. Alan O'Shea, Senior Executive Engineer attended the meeting to discuss the Safe Routes to School Delivery Plan. Mr. O'Shea made a presentation to the Members, highlighting the main points of the delivery plan. The Members put forward a number of queries to which Mr. O'Shea responded. A discussion on car parking issues, signage, funding, decision timelines and future applications under the Active Travel Initiative took place, following which, on the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Owens the Members approved the Safe Routes to School Delivery Plan as presented.

### **4. Roads Report.**

Ms. Catherine Fitzpatrick, Executive Technician outlined the main points of the Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting.

The following requests were noted: -

- Works to footpath at Red Pats Cross, Tomduff.
- Surface Water on R730.
- Request for Pedestrian Crossing at Slaney Street.
- Update on 2023 Roads Programme.
- Cleaning of drains.
- Driver Feedback Sign – Ballycarney.

17:18 p.m. At this juncture Cllr. O'Rourke left the meeting.

**5. Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update.**

In the absence of Mr. McHale, Project Resident Engineer the report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Cllr. Byrne thanked the District Manager for issuing correspondence to Minister McGrath as agreed at the October Meeting.

**6. Water Services Report.**

Mr. O'Corcora presented his report to the Members. Mr. O'Corcora responded to all queries raised.

**7. Vinegar Hill.**

Noted.

**8. URDF Regeneration Report.**

It was noted that a date for the Special Meeting to discuss the draft URDF Report was agreed under Item No. 2, 2.3, Municipal District Report.

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

None.

**9. Correspondence.**

None.

**12. Any Other Business.**

None.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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**DATE**