

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Gorey Municipal District  
Held On Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 at 2.30 p.m.  
In Council Chamber, Offices of The Municipal District  
Civic Square, The Avenue, Gorey, Co. Wexford**

**Attendance:**

In the Chair: Cllr. J. Hegarty, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors: Fionntan Ó'Súilleabháin,  
Anthony Donohoe,  
Robert Ireton,  
Mary Farrell,  
Joe Sullivan, (Leas Cathaoirleach),  
Pip Breen,  
Malcolm Byrne.

Officials: Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance & IT, District Area Director  
Mr. Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. Mark Collins, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Amanda Byrne, Meetings Administrator

As it was an election year, Ms. Annette O' Neill, District Area Director, took the chair and welcomed members to the first meeting of Gorey Municipal District and the first Municipal District meeting held in the county. Ms. O' Neill paid tribute to former members of the Gorey Electoral Area Committee and Gorey Town Council.

**Standing Orders**

A copy of draft Standing Orders regulating the proceedings of the Gorey Municipal District was circulated to members. The draft Standing Orders were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Malcolm Byrne, seconded by Cllr. John Hegarty.

**Election of Chairman**

Cllr. Malcolm Byrne proposed Cllr. John Hegarty as Chairman. Cllr. John Hegarty's nomination was seconded by Cllr. Robert Ireton. As there was only one candidate nominated Cllr John Hegarty was elected as Chairman and he took office.

He thanked members for their nomination noting that it was an honour to be the first Chair of Gorey Municipal District. He paid tribute to past members of both Gorey Electoral Area Committee and Gorey Town Council and he emphasised the Municipal District's commitment to build on the strengths of both.

He also spoke of his priorities for his term as Chairman.

### **Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr. Pip Breen proposed Cllr. Joe Sullivan as Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Joe Sullivan's nomination was seconded by Cllr. Malcolm Byrne.

Cllr. Mary Farrell was proposed by Cllr. Robert Ireton. Cllr. Mary Farrell declined the nomination at this time.

Cllr. Fionntan O'Suilleabháin proposed himself and his nomination was seconded by Cllr. Mary Farrell.

The matter was put to a vote and a poll was taken, the results of which were:

Cllr. Joe Sullivan	5
Cllr. Fionntan Ó'Súilleabháin	2
Abstention	1

Cllr. Joe Sullivan on receiving the vote of the majority of the members present was elected as Vice Chairman. He thanked members for their support and outlined his priorities for the coming year.

### **Schedule of Meetings**

It was agreed that meetings would take place on the third Tuesday of each month commencing at 3.30pm and finishing no later than 5.30pm, with a review at the end of the first six months if necessary. It was agreed that the Standing Orders be amended to reflect this decision.

### **AOB**

It was agreed that the Superintendent of the Gorey-Enniscorthy policing district be invited to a future meeting.

The next meeting of the committee was scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, 2014, at 3.30pm at the Offices of Gorey Municipal District, Civic Square, The Avenue, Gorey.

Daingnithe ar an \_\_\_\_\_ la de \_\_\_\_\_ 2014

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**Mr. John Hegarty**  
**Cathaoirleach**  
**Gorey Municipal District**

**Minutes of Meeting of Gorey Municipal District  
held on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> of July, 2014 at 3.30 pm  
in Council Chamber, Offices of The Municipal District  
Civic Square, The Avenue, Gorey, Co. Wexford.**

**Attendance:**

In the Chair: Cllr. John Hegarty, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors: Anthony Donohoe,  
Fionntan Ó'Súilleabháin,  
Robert Ireton,  
Joe Sullivan, (Leas Cathaoirleach),  
Pip Breen,  
Malcolm Byrne.

Officials: Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance & ICT, District Director  
Mr. Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. Mark Collins, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Amanda Byrne, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr. Mary Farrell

Items Circulated: Gorey Municipal District Monthly Report  
Gorey Municipal District Area Profile, July 2014  
Additional correspondence  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
HSE  
Planning Lists 15<sup>th</sup> of April to 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2014

**No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, 2014 were proposed by Cllr. Robert Ireton and seconded by Cllr. Anthony Donohoe. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

The Chairman advised that an up-date from the Housing and Planning sections was included in the monthly report but that relevant staff would not attend the meeting. He sought members' opinion on the matter and it was considered that the absence of staff will create difficulties for members in obtaining essential information and seeking accountability. Members resolved that the Meetings Administrator request clarification as to how members can obtain more in-depth and background information on the various reports where relevant staff are not in attendance.

## **No. 2 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

### ***Overview of the District***

Ms. Amanda Byrne and Mr. Neville Shaw gave a presentation on the various County Council Services within the district with summary information on each aspect. Members discussed the report and thanked staff for the level of detail provided.

### ***Monthly Report***

A copy of the report was circulated and the staff present reported on their various areas of responsibility. The Meetings Administrator reported on additional areas and advised that she would seek any further clarification required.

It was noted that the previous District Committee decided the new link road at Tesco be named in memory of renowned local artist Paul Funge. This was formally proposed by Cllr. Malcolm Byrne and seconded by Cllr. John Hegarty. The meetings administrator agreed to contact the artist's family and report back to the next meeting. Cllr. Fionntan Ó'Súilleabháin proposed that the Northern Inner relief road be named in recognition of the writer and poet Diarmaid Ó Súilleabháin. It was agreed that the meetings administrator would examine ways to involve the public in the naming of new roads in the area as there were a number of worthy suggestions forthcoming.

Members expressed their concerns with RAS and the situation whereby tenants who leave a RAS house for genuine reasons are placed at the bottom of the housing list on re-application. Members also highlighted the lack of availability of housing in the Gorey district and the differential between market rent and the level of rent support. The problem of increased homelessness in the district was also cited. It was agreed that members concerns be referred to the Housing SPC.

Cllr. Malcolm Byrne noted delays in providing critical water infrastructure in the district and cited problems resulting from the installation of water meters in several areas. Members agreed that where the water provided was not of acceptable standard householders should not have to pay for it. It was decided that Mr. Mark Collins, Executive Engineer with responsibility for water services should draft a letter to Irish Water outlining the various issues which the meetings administrator would send to members for consideration prior to submission.

Cllr. Robert Ireton noted the proposed provision of a Youth Café in Riverchapel the need for which had been highlighted in a number of reports. He asked if some further consultation could be organised with local residents to explain the potential benefits of the facility.

The Meetings Administrator drew members' attention to the schedule of forthcoming events and the latest dates for submission deputation requests and motions for future meetings. It was noted that a common format for deputations would be devised with the County Secretary in advance of the next meeting.

## **No.3 Prescribed Business**

None

#### **No. 4 Notice of Motion**

None

#### **No. 5 Correspondence**

##### *St. Aidan's Day Care Centre*

Members were advised that Wexford County Council would install a bench outside the Post Office and it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Post Office in support of St. Aidan's Day Care Centre request.

*London Irish Centre - noted*

##### *HSE Ambulance Services*

Members expressed the opinion that the level of service outlined was not adequate. The Meetings Administrator said she would seek the views of the Chief Fire Officer Ms. Maria Melia and refer to members before drafting a response. Cllr. Joe O'Sullivan advised that at a recent meeting of the Regional Health Forum, Mr. Michael Morris, Director of Services advised that a fourth ambulance was proposed for Wexford and that he expected it to be in place by the end of 2014. Cllr. Fionntan Ó'Súilleabháin, said there was an ongoing petition for increased service in the area with over 7000 signatures.

*Department of Agriculture, Food and the marine - noted*

#### **AOB**

It was agreed to formally write to Gorey Pipe band and Kilmuckridge Drama Group to congratulate them on their recent successes and to host a civic reception to recognise their achievements in September.

Members discussed the use of the Gorey Crest and Gorey Town Commissioners Chains. Cllr. Malcolm Byrne proposed that the use of the Crest and Chain be extended to the Municipal District, this was seconded by Cllr. Robert Ireton.

There was no further business and it was noted that the next meeting would take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September, 2014.

**Daingnithe ar an \_\_\_\_\_ la de \_\_\_\_\_ 2014**

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**Mr. John Hegarty  
Cathaoirleach  
Gorey Municipal District**

**Minutes of Meeting of Gorey Municipal District  
held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> of September, 2014 at 4.30 pm  
in Council Chamber, Offices of Gorey Municipal District  
Civic Square, The Avenue, Gorey, Co. Wexford.**

**Attendance:**

In the Chair: Cllr. John Hegarty, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors: Robert Ireton,  
Fionntan Ó'Súilleabháin,  
Anthony Donohoe,  
Malcolm Byrne  
Mary Farrell  
Joe Sullivan, (Leas Cathaoirleach),  
Pip Breen,

Officials: Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance & ICT, District Director  
Mr. Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. Mark Collins, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Noirin Cummins, Senior Staff Officer, Housing  
Ms. Michelle Bridges-Carley, Senior Staff Officer, Housing  
Ms. Deirdre Kearns, Senior Executive Planner  
Ms. Amanda Byrne, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Ms. Liz Hore, Senior Housing Officer

Items Circulated: Planning Lists 15<sup>th</sup> of July to 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2014 (Gorey Area)

**No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, 2014, were proposed by Cllr. Robert Ireton and seconded by Cllr. Joe Sullivan. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**No. 2 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

***Housing***

The Chairman invited Ms. Noirin Cummins and Ms. Michelle Carley to report on housing activity. The Chairman invited member's questions. A number of issues were raised and the following was agreed;

- Statistics on the number of 'notices to quit' served would be available at the next meeting of the committee
- Details of the number of houses investigated for radon to be provided

- Specific follow up on problems encountered by disabled people in completing housing forms
- All those who applied for Housing Aid for Older People to be advised when the scheme re-opens
- Details on numbers of houses in various private rented schemes to be provided at the next meeting.

Cllr. Mary Farrell also stressed the need for housing design to reflect lifecycle requirements so as to facilitate people to stay in their own homes for the duration of their lives where possible.

### ***Planning***

Ms. Deirdre Kearns circulated a copy of the planning lists from the 15<sup>th</sup> of July to 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2014 for the Gorey Area and responded to members' questions thereon. Cllr. Malcolm Byrne referenced a number of planning applications in the Gorey area including one on lands adjacent to the New Tesco Store. He stressed the importance of having due regard for the integrity of Gorey's Main Street as a centre of economic activity in the town. Ms. D. Kearns advised that there had been no changes to the policies outlined in the Gorey Development Planning and that all decisions were referenced to it. Cllr. Byrne's concern was reiterated by the committee.

### ***Roads Services***

Mr. Neville Shaw provided detail on the roads report and answered members' questions on same. Members raised concerns about the number of footpaths in need of repair. Mr. Shaw advises that footpaths would be upgraded as part of roads projects wherever possible. He added that any proposed developments in the 'Education Quarter' would be required to give due consideration to traffic flow and safety concerns.

### ***Water Services***

Mr. Mark Collins gave a report on water services and responded to members questions on same. He advised that the issues at Oakwood and Creagh Demesne remained under investigation but that he was confident a solution could be found in the short term. In response to a question from Cllr. Mary Farrell he advised that fluoridation was part of a national programme provided by the HSE and operated by Wexford County Council.

It was agreed that this question also be raised in correspondence to be sent to Irish Water.

### ***Other Services***

Ms. Amanda Byrne highlighted the achievements of the various Tidy Town groups in North Wexford. It was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent to each group. Ms. Byrne added that a series of information evenings would be held in coming months to give the various Tidy Towns groups an opportunity to network and share ideas. It was also agreed that contact be made with the various award winners to determine if the Council could assist further in their bid to secure a national title for the County.

Cllr. Malcom Byrne expressed his concern about night-time anti-social behaviour in the Town Park impeding on residents in the area and raised the issue of additional lighting. Ms. Amanda Byrne advised that the new walkway would bring a new level of low lighting to the park.

It was noted that a Market House Festival review meeting would be held shortly. Cllr. John Hegarty commended the organisers of the Party in Pink festival held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September on Esmonde Street and it was agreed that a letter would be sent to that effect to the organisers.

### ***Naming of New Link Road***

Ms Amanda Byrne advised that she had spoken with a representative of the Funge family who advised that they would be very pleased to have a road named in Paul Funges' honour. They offered some suggestions and the members agreed to refer ***Boulevard Paul Funge*** and ***Paul Funge Way*** to the family for their consideration. It was agreed before any further consideration be given to the naming of new areas that a draft policy would be brought to Members for their consideration. Ms. A. Byrne agreed to prepare a policy document for consideration at the next meeting.

### **No.3 Prescribed Business**

None

### **No. 4 Notice of Motion**

Cllr. Fionntan O'Suilleabhain

*"This Council notes that representatives of the Israeli Government were received in Gorey over recent years with a view to developing links between the town and the State of Israel on a broad range of fronts.*

*It further notes the widely expressed views of such representatives in relation to Gaza. In light of Israel's policy towards the Palestinian people, in particular the citizens of Gaza, all further links with Israel and their Irish representatives will cease and a statement will be issued immediately to this effect"*

As time limits in the Standing Orders had been exceeded it was agreed that discussion on the motion be deferred until the next meeting.

### **No. 5 Correspondence**

Members discussed the kind invitation extended from the London Wexford Association. It was agreed that as other members had already committed to attending that the Gorey Municipal District would not send a nominee on this occasion. It was also agreed that the committee would explore the possibility of attending another event at which the County was not already represented. Cllr. Robert Ireton advised that he would attend the event at his own volition and members commended his support.



Cllr. Joe Sullivan highlighted an error in the Monthly Report regarding the Annual Remembrance Day Service in Christchurch with the correct date being the 9<sup>th</sup> of November.

The remaining correspondence was noted.

**AOB**

It was agreed that the next meeting be held at 2.30pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October to accommodate timeframe for discussion on the Draft Budgetary Plan.

**Daingnithe ar an \_\_\_\_\_ la de \_\_\_\_\_ 2014**

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**Mr. John Hegarty  
Cathaoirleach  
Gorey Municipal District**

**Minutes of Meeting Gorey Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan 2015  
held on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> of October, 2014 at 2.30 pm  
in Council Chamber, Offices of Gorey Municipal District  
Civic Square, The Avenue, Gorey, Co. Wexford.**

**Attendance:**

In the Chair: Cllr. John Hegarty, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors: Robert Ireton,  
Fionntan Ó'Súilleabháin,  
Anthony Donohoe,  
Mary Farrell,  
Joe Sullivan, (Leas Cathaoirleach),  
Pip Breen.

Officials: Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance & ICT, District Director  
Mr. Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. Mark Collins, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Amanda Byrne, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr. Malcolm Byrne

**1. 2015 Draft Budgetary Plan.**

Ms. O'Neill, District Director, presented the 2015 Draft Budgetary Plan for Gorey Municipal District and highlighted the main provisions thereof.

She drew the Member's attention to the discretionary element of the allocation in that it could be increased or decreased, but that any increase would result in an increase in local charges.

The Chairman welcomed the Budget and the District Director and Meetings Administrator responded to queries raised by the Members.

Cllr. Ireton raised his concern about the Gorey Municipal District Allocation being less than other towns in the County. Ms. O'Neill advised Cllr. Ireton that one of the appropriate measures used to determine allocations was population.

Cllr Ireton also raised his concern over the allocation for School Meals being that of an inefficient one to cover all schools in the district. Ms. Byrne advised Cllr. Ireton that the Scheme was set up for urban areas only and that legislation didn't allow for the inclusion of rural schools in the Scheme. Ms. Byrne reassured Cllr. Ireton that the allocation outlined in the Draft Budgetary Plan was sufficient to cover all eligible schools for the Scheme in the Gorey town.

In response to a question from Cllr. Farrell regarding the Amenity Grant Scheme, Ms. Byrne explained how the Scheme operates, with the allocation to each Member, and the distribution of grants to voluntary groups by each Member.

Cllr. Sullivan raised a query with regard to the Town Twinning allocation and following a short discussion by Members it was agreed to leave the allocation as outlined in the Plan with the future possibility of twinning Gorey with another location that might be more beneficial.

There were additional short discussions about the cost of Pay Parking and the relevancy of Civic Functions to the Municipal District.

The Members gave due consideration to the Gorey Municipal District 2015 Draft Budgetary Plan.

On the proposal of Cllrs. Farrell and Ireton, seconded by Cllr. Breen, the Committee adopted the Gorey Municipal District 2015 Draft Budgetary Plan without amendment.

#### **THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

Daingnithe ar an \_\_\_\_\_ la de \_\_\_\_\_ 2014

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**Mr. John Hegarty**  
**Cathaoirleach**  
**Gorey Municipal District**

**Minutes of Meeting of Gorey Municipal District  
held on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> of October, 2014 at 3.30 pm  
in Council Chamber, Offices of Gorey Municipal District  
Civic Square, The Avenue, Gorey, Co. Wexford.**

**Attendance:**

In the Chair: Cllr. John Hegarty, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors: Robert Ireton,  
Fionntan Ó'Súilleabháin,  
Anthony Donohoe,  
Mary Farrell,  
Joe Sullivan, (Leas Cathaoirleach),  
Pip Breen.

Officials: Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance & ICT, District Director,  
Mr. Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer,  
Mr. Mark Collins, Executive Engineer,  
Ms. Amanda Byrne, Meetings Administrator,  
Mr. Ger Mackey, Admin. Officer, Community Development,  
Ms. Michelle Bridges-Carley, Senior Staff Officer, Housing,  
Ms. Deirdre Kearns, Senior Executive Planner.

Apologies: Cllr. Malcolm Byrne

Items Circulated: Draft Gorey Municipal District Place Name Scheme.  
Wexford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)  
Presentation.

Mr. Ger Mackey gave a presentation to the Committee on the Wexford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and responded to Members' questions thereon.

**No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September, 2014, were proposed by Cllr. Sullivan and seconded by Cllr. Breen. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**No. 2 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

***Planning:***

The Chairman invited Ms. Deirdre Kearns to report on planning activity and responded to Members' questions thereon. Cllr. Farrell asked that the Adoration Chapel in St. Michael's Church be made fully accessible as wheelchair users currently cannot access the Chapel because of steps inside the Church. Cllr. Breen

expressed his concern about a cottage in Ballyedmond which has been taken over by the HSE under the “Fair Deal” Scheme and which is currently in danger of falling in because it needs to be re-thatched. Cllr Breen sought clarification on whose responsibility it would be should this happen. Cllr. Breen was advised that the owner of the house was responsible for its maintenance and that the Council would enquire into its ownership. Ms. Kearns said she would report back on both issues raised at a later date.

### ***Housing:***

The Chairman sympathised with Ms. Elizabeth Hore, Senior Housing Officer and her family, following the death of her mother. Cllr. Ireton proposed sending a Sympathy Card to Ms. Hore.

The Chairman invited Ms. Michelle Bridges-Carley to report on housing activity. The Chairman invited Members’ questions thereon. Ms. Bridges-Carley informed the committee that the information requested at the September meeting with regard to statistics on “Notices to Quit” and “Radon” will be available at the November meeting.

Ms. Bridges-Carley updated the committee on the current position regarding the roll out of the National Differential Rents Scheme which is expected to be 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2015 and the establishment of a task group to co-ordinate the implementation of the scheme. Local Authorities are still awaiting the issue of regulations regarding the new rent charges. Ms. Annette O’Neill outlined the estimated loss of revenue to Wexford County Council following the introduction of the new rent scheme.

### ***Roads Services:***

Mr. Neville Shaw provided an update with the Roads Report and answered Members’ questions on same. Cllr. Ó’Súilleabháin raised his concerns about the traffic flow problem at Creagh College and that a link road was needed from Kilnahue Lane to the Gorey Inner Relief Road. Cllr. Ó’Súilleabháin suggested that the lane that runs behind the schools at Creagh could be widened to accommodate through traffic. Cllr. Ireton enquired about the possibility of removing 2 parking bays at the top of McCurtain Street to improve sight lines and advised about a sunken footpath outside Lidl premises. The Chairman asked about lighting in the Town Park and Cllr. Donohoe about the possibility of putting in a Pedestrian Crossing from the Town Shopping Centre to the Retail Outlets across. Mr. Shaw agreed to investigate all matters.

### ***Water Services:***

Mr. Mark Collins gave a Report on water services and responded to members questions on same. He advised that the issues at Creagh Demesne had been confirmed as that of an oil leakage into the water supply and that he was confident the problem would be solved. Cllr. Sullivan suggested that a “notice to boil water” be sought for this area and that a letter be sent from the Council to Irish Water explaining the situation as people couldn’t be expected to pay for water that they

could not drink. Cllr. Breen enquired about the upgrading of Ferns and Ballycanew Sewerage Works. Mr. Collins said he would seek a further update.

**Other Services:**

Ms. Amanda Byrne reported on a recent visit of students from Creagh College to the Civic Offices and Library. She advised that primary and secondary schools in the district would be invited to an open afternoon per term at the Civic Offices and that schools would be facilitated on a first come, first served basis. Following on from the success of the Gorey District Tidy Towns Competition, Ms. Byrne spoke about a series of net-working events to commence shortly at the Civic Offices which will feature invited speakers and whereby tidy towns groups would be given the opportunity to learn from each other's experiences.

Following on from the recent Market House Festival Review Meeting, Ms. Byrne advised that a number of suggestions had come in from the public about changes that could be made to future festivals.

**Draft Gorey Municipal District Place Name Scheme:**

The Draft Gorey Municipal District Place Name Scheme was circulated to all Members. Ms. Byrne presented the Draft Scheme to the Committee and following a short discussion the Draft Scheme was proposed by Cllr. O'Suilleabhain and seconded by Cllr. Farrell.

**No.3 Prescribed Business**

None

**No. 4 Notice of Motion**

Cllr. Fionntan O'Suilleabhain

*"The Members of Gorey Municipal District note that representatives of the Israeli Government were received in Gorey over recent years with a view to developing links between the town and the State of Israel on a broad range of fronts.*

*It further notes the widely expressed views of such representatives in relation to Gaza. In light of Israel's policy towards the Palestinian people, in particular the citizens of Gaza, all further links with Israel and their Irish representatives will cease"*

Cllr. O'Suilleabhain proposed the motion and Cllr. Farrell seconded the motion.

The motion was put to vote :

For	2
Against	0
Abstaining	5

**AOB**

Members held a short discussion on the issue of parking on St. Michael's Road and the possibility of removing 4 parking bays and imposing a 30km speed limit. Members also spoke about Hunter's Green Housing Estate and its unfinished, exposed entrance. Mr. Shaw agreed to report on both matters.

It was agreed that the next meeting be held at 3.30pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> October to accommodate timeframe for discussion on the Draft Courtown and Riverchapel Local Area Plan 2014 - 2020.

**Daingnithe ar an \_\_\_\_\_ la de \_\_\_\_\_ 2014**

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**Mr. John Hegarty  
Cathaoirleach  
Gorey Municipal District**

**Minutes of Meeting of Gorey Municipal District  
held on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> of November, 2014 at 3.30 pm  
in Council Chamber, Offices of Gorey Municipal District  
Civic Square, The Avenue, Gorey, Co. Wexford.**

**Attendance:**

In the Chair: Cllr. John Hegarty, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors: Robert Ireton,  
Fionntan Ó'Súilleabháin,  
Anthony Donohoe,  
Mary Farrell,  
Joe Sullivan, (Leas Cathaoirleach),  
Malcolm Byrne,  
Pip Breen.

Officials: Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance & ICT, District Director,  
Mr. Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer,  
Mr. Mark Collins, Executive Engineer,  
Ms. Amanda Byrne, Meetings Administrator,  
Ms. Elizabeth Hore, Senior Housing Officer,  
Ms. Deirdre Kearns, Senior Executive Planner,  
Ms. Debbie Stanley, Assistant Staff Officer

Items Circulated: Correspondence – Mr. Michael Coleman  
Correspondence – Ms. Joy Wolfe  
Pay Parking Proposals for Christmas 2014

**No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Draft Budgetary Plan Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, 2014, were proposed by Cllr. Farrell and seconded by Cllr. Breen.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, 2014, were proposed by Cllr. Donohoe and seconded by Cllr. Ireton.

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October, 2014, were proposed by Cllr. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. Donohoe.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

The Committee extended their sympathy to Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive and his family, following the death of his father, Mr. Johnnie Enright.



## **No. 2 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

### ***Housing***

#### *Naming of Local Authority Housing Scheme in Ballinatrach, Riverchapel*

Following a short discussion Members opted for the Irish version, Baile na Trá, for the new 10 house development planned near An Bán Housing Estate in Riverchapel.

The Chairman asked Ms. Elizabeth Hore to report on housing activity and invited Members' questions thereon. Cllr. Ireton enquired about home improvement schemes for the elderly. Ms. Hore advised that a review would be conducted at the year end to determine if the Council could open the Scheme for new applications. Ms. Hore also mentioned the Warmer Homes Initiative run by Wexford Local Development and advised the Members that those receiving fuel allowances could apply for this grant.

The information requested at the September meeting with regard to statistics on "Notices to Quit" were given to Members for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2014. Out of 616 accounts, 16 Notices to Quit were issued, i.e., 2.6% of accounts, with 2 cases being brought through the Courts and the other 14 under credit control supervision.

### ***Planning***

Ms. Deirdre Kearns reported on planning activity and responded to Members' questions thereon. Cllr. Byrne raised his concerns regarding unfinished estates and Ms. Kearns said that she would provide an up-date on the issue at the next meeting. In response to a related query from Cllr. Ireton Mr. Shaw said he would make arrangements for two public lights on the Red Row to be re-instated.

### ***Roads Services***

Mr. Neville Shaw gave the Roads Report and answered Members' questions. Members voiced concerns at the increased levels of traffic that will run through Garden City once the latest phase of the Inner Relief Road is opened. Mr. Shaw acknowledged that there may be problems until the Relief Road is complete, but advised Members that he was investigating measures to ensure adequate speed control. Cllr. Sullivan expressed his concerns at the condition of Ballyminaun Hill. Mr. Shaw confirmed that money would be allocated in next year's Budget for this road and that Council crew's would ensure that the road was safe for the winter season.

Cllr. Farrell asked for an update on safety issues at Kilmuckridge School Crossing, Mr. Shaw agreed to meet with Cllr. Farrell in the area to investigate further. In response to a question from Cllr. Ireton, Ms. O'Neill advised that funding had been secured in principal for works at Ballytegan which would include lighting. She advised that she hoped to be in a position to provide further details at the December or January Meeting.

Cllr. Ó'Súilleabháin raised his concerns about the river flooding close to Old Garden City. Ms. Shaw advised that measures were in place and he would examine the area again.

### **Water Services**

Mr. Mark Collins gave a report on water services and responded to Members' questions. Mr. Collins told Members that a trial operation to clear manganese flecks from the system in parts of Gorey would take place in late November. Members raised concerns about blocked shores and manholes. Mr. Collins advised that there was a regular cleaning and sweeping programme in place but that some areas could not handle the extra pressure following prolonged periods of rain.

Cllr. Ireton suggested that the Council should have a Flood Plan for all districts. Mr. Shaw said he would look at particular areas known for flooding. He also pointed out that some farmers need to address drainage issues on their land to prevent water from flowing onto roads.

### **Taking in Charge of Relief Road at Ramstown Lower, Gorey**

Following a short discussion the Taking in Charge of the Relief Road at Ramstown Lower, was proposed by Cllr. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. Ireton. Cllr. Byrne asked to make sure cycle lanes were enforced.

### **Other Services**

Ms. Amanda Byrne reported on Environment, Recreation & Amenity, Library and Fire Services. She advised that a function would be held at a later date to recognise the success of North Wexford groups in the Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition and Courtown Waterworld's achievement in winning a Gold ILAM white flag. Ms. Byrne outlined details of the Customer Service Report and specific projects that took place in the previous month.

Ms. Byrne advised that further discussions had taken place with the Funge Family regarding the official opening of Paul Funge Boulevard. The naming is scheduled for 2.30pm, Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 and will be preceded by a memorial lecture in the Civic Offices. A two week exhibition of the artist's work and associated memorabilia will run in the Civic Offices starting Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

Cllr. Ó'Súilleabháin complemented the recent Halloween Programme that ran throughout Gorey and Ms. Byrne advised that this programme would be further improved next year. Cllr. Sullivan asked whether the Christmas lights would be switched on before 7<sup>th</sup> December as business people were anxious to have them on. Ms. Byrne said she was aiming for lights to be lit from 1<sup>st</sup> December and that as in 2013 the official 'Switching on of Lights' would take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December at the Christmas Market

### **No.3 Prescribed Business**

None

### **No. 4 Notice of Motion**

(1) Cllr. Malcolm Byrne.

*"That a five tonne vehicle maximum weight restriction be introduced on the Mill Road in Gorey, with exceptions only permitted under licence, e.g., refuse lorries "*

Following a short discussion by Members, it was decided to defer this Motion until the December Meeting for a report to be prepared by Mr. Shaw.

(2) Cllr. Malcolm Byrne.

*"This Municipal District believes that the protection of human rights throughout the Middle East should underpin the actions of the United Nations and the European Union and that all governments and groups be judged against how they protect and support those rights. This Municipal District will extend a welcome to all who support human rights in the Middle East."*

Cllr. Byrne proposed the motion and Cllr. Ireton seconded the motion.

The motion was put to vote:

For	6
Against	1
Abstaining	1

#### **No. 5 Correspondence**

All correspondence was acknowledged by the Chairman.

#### **No. 6 AOB**

##### ***Pay Parking Proposals:***

The Pay Parking Proposals for Gorey for Christmas 2014 was circulated to all Members. Ms. Byrne presented the proposals to the Committee and following a short discussion the proposals were proposed by Cllr. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. Ireton.

Cllr. Farrell enquired whether there would be any increase in the number of disabled parking spaces. Ms. Byrne advised it was planned to increase the number of spaces and that some disabled spaces needed to be moved and re-marked.

Cllr. Byrne welcomed the Christmas parking arrangements and expressed his disappointment that a proposed pilot scheme hadn't been tried by Gorey Municipal District. The Chairman said he was disappointed that the Scheme was reported on in the newspaper prior to the members having an opportunity to discuss it. Ms. O'Neill noted her dissatisfaction with the article adding that in her opinion as a reasonable approach was already being taken in respect of short term parking the proposal did not add value. Ms. Byrne noted the various issues with the proposed pilot adding that some leading businesses had also raised their concerns that the Scheme would not work. Ms. O'Neill said that the Council would be looking at all incentives and cost savings with the centralisation of pay parking in the New Year.

##### ***Twining:***

Ms. Byrne informed the Committee that executives from Argyll and Bute District Council were in contact and had offered to provide hospitality on the occasion of any future visit. Ms. Byrne also advised that she had been in contact with the Irish / London Chamber of Commerce to secure further contacts to promote Gorey. Cllr. Ireton suggested an annual donation be made from the members allocation towards

the work of the London/Wexford Association and the London/Irish Centre. Cllr. Byrne commended Cllr. Ireton's long-term work with the London/Wexford Association and said he would be sorry to see links cut with Oban, particularly for the Rugby Club and Gorey Youth Needs. Cllr. Byrne also suggested that the Ferns Link with Normandy could be another twinning possibility.

***Deputations:***

The Chairman proposed a new system for deputations whereby members meet with representatives for a specific area on request to discuss their plans for the area. Cllr. Byrne suggested initiating this approach with the Courtown/Riverchapel area.

Cllr. Donohoe sought clarification that Cllr. Farrell was still an independent councillor. Cllr. Farrell confirmed that she had not been approached by any political party and remained independent.

Cllr. Farrell sought the support of the Committee for Kilnamanagh National School, which may lose its second teacher and possibly close as a result. Cllr. Ó'Súilleabháin added that he was involved in the 'Save our Small Schools' Campaign and that five small schools in the Diocese of Ferns were in danger of closing in the next couple of years. The Chairman proposed to write to the Minister for Education expressing the Committee's support for the school.

Cllr. Byrne asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to Canon Mark Hayden following this year's Commemorative Service.

Cllr. Ireton raised his concerns about the speed detection van parking in dangerous spots. The Chairman added that the Council has no control over where the van pulls in, but that he would raise it at a future Joint Policing Committee (JPC) Meeting. Members queried as to whether there would be a Municipal District JPC and Ms. O'Neill agreed to clarify this. Cllr. Ireton also raised his concerns over noise levels from the Skate Park at the former Heiton Buckley premises. Ms. Byrne advised that this had been referred to the Environment Section and that she would follow up.

There was no further business and it was noted that the next meeting would take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, 2014.

**Daingnithe ar an \_\_\_\_\_ la de \_\_\_\_\_ 2014**

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**Mr. John Hegarty  
Cathaoirleach  
Gorey Municipal District**

**Minutes of Meeting of Gorey Municipal District  
held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> of December, 2014 at 3.30 pm  
in Council Chamber, Offices of Gorey Municipal District  
Civic Square, The Avenue, Gorey, Co. Wexford.**

**Attendance:**

In the Chair: Cllr. John Hegarty, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors: Robert Ireton,  
Fionntan Ó'Súilleabháin,  
Anthony Donohoe,  
Mary Farrell,  
Joe Sullivan, (Leas Cathaoirleach),  
Malcolm Byrne,  
Pip Breen,

Officials: Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance & ICT, District Director,  
Mr. Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer,  
Mr. Mark Collins, Executive Engineer,  
Ms. Amanda Byrne, Meetings Administrator,  
Ms. Elizabeth Hore, Senior Housing Officer,  
Mr. Michael Drea, Senior Staff Officer  
Ms. Deirdre Kearns, Senior Executive Planner,

Items Circulated: Correspondence – Mr. Brendan Howlin TD  
Correspondence – Canon Mark Hayden  
Extract from Minutes of Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> of November  
Copy of Presentation from Housing Department  
Gorey Municipal District Allocation Proposal

**No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, 2014, were proposed by Cllr. Ireton and seconded by Cllr. Breen.

Members discussed the motion which was deferred from the meeting of the 18<sup>th</sup> of November. Cllr. M. Byrne agreed to withdraw the motion subject to undertaking a traffic study of the road and consideration of the information arising from same.

There were no others matters arising from the minutes.

**No. 2 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

***Housing***

Ms. L. Hore advised members of the recently published National Housing Strategy and gave an overview of the measures therein. She also gave detail of areas

prioritised in the 2015 Housing Maintenance Programme. Mr. Michael Drea gave a presentation on the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), Leasing and the new Housing Assistance Programme (HAP). Members discussed the issues associated with the various schemes. In particular they highlighted the difficulty caused by the difference between market rent and what was paid under RAS. Members felt this contributed significantly to the low number of units available in the rented sector in the Gorey area.

### **Planning**

Ms. Deirdre Kearns reported on planning activity and responded to Members' questions thereon. She also gave an account of the progress that had been made on the Chestnut Walk, Chapelwood and Ailesbury Developments.

As there was a motion pertaining to planning enforcement matters the Chairman invited members to suspend standing orders and deal with the item at that time. Standing Orders were suspended on the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen seconded by Cllr. A. Donohoe.

### **Notice of Motion**

Councillor M. Byrne:

*'Noting that a number of derelict buildings are located in urban areas in the Gorey District and that complaints about these have been made over several years, this District expresses its concern at the failure of the executive of Wexford County Council to adequately address the problem of urban dereliction and sets it as a priority for the executive. Further, monthly reports with targets to address specific problems shall be set out as well as details of specific actions taken in the case of each problem property.'*

The motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. F. Ó'Súillebháin

Ms. D. Kearns provided information on specific cases in the Gorey District and advised of the progress that had been made. She noted that the planning department had assumed responsibility for all aspects of planning enforcement cases and that in future progress would be monitored on a purpose built computer system.

Following further consideration it was agreed that the motion would be deferred pending compilation of a status report on the specific cases in the Gorey district to be presented at the GMD meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> of January.

### **Finance Report**

Ms. A. Byrne advised members that from 2015 onwards the monthly report would provide detail of spend under the Gorey Municipal District Allocation. She gave members a list of proposals for the allocation of that spend and invited them to consider same for further discussion at the January meeting.

It was agreed that with regard to Christmas 2015 a meeting of interested parties including traders and Gorey Chamber of Commerce would be organised in early January.

### **Roads Services**

Mr. Neville Shaw gave an up-date on activity and answered Members' questions. He also outlined planned works under the 2015 footpath programme.

### **Water Services**

Mr. Mark Collins gave a report on water services and responded to Members' questions.

### **Other Services**

Ms. Amanda Byrne spoke briefly on other matters within the report..

## **No.3 Prescribed Business**

None

## **No. 4 Notice of Motion**

Notice of Motion from Gorey Municipal District:

Councillor F. O'Suilleabhan

*"That this Municipal Council, in line with the circular RSD 01/2014 initiates consultation with residents in a number of estates in Gorey Town and District with a view to tackling speeding, and to protect vulnerable road users such as cyclists and pedestrians, especially children.*

*Measures should include:*

- *Consultation with local residents to determine if they believe speed Limits are too high in their area;*
- *Bye-laws for the new 30km/h limits for the selected estates and zones to be adopted where needed;*
- *The use of a combination of 30km/h speed limit signs in conjunction with yellow warning signs showing "children at play" at the entry to a housing estate;*
- *The consideration of other traffic calming measures, including the use of ramps;*
- *Monitoring of the new speed limits to ensure that the measures put in place are effective.*
- *Draw up a timeline for completion."*

Circular RSD 01/2014 on the Control of Vehicle Speeds in Housing Estates, issued by Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, to all Local Authorities requiring an examination of speed limits in residential areas and housing estates to improve road safety.

Members noted that the motion was adopted at the meeting of Wexford Co. Council on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. They concurred with the contents of the motion and welcomed its roll-out in the Gorey District.

**No. 5 Correspondence**

Deputy Brendan Howlin (Kilnamanagh National School)  
Canon Mark Hayden (Commemorative Service)

**No. 6 AOB**

There was no further business and it was noted that the next meeting would take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2015.

Daingnithe ar an \_\_\_\_\_ la de \_\_\_\_\_ 2015

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**Mr. John Hegarty**  
**Cathaoirleach**  
**Gorey Municipal District**