

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT
HELD AT 2.30P.M. ON MONDAY 27TH MARCH, 2023 IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, CARRICKLAWN, WEXFORD.**

Presiding: - Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell

Councillors: - D. Hynes, G. Laffan, J. Hegarty, L. Kelly, G. Lawlor, T. Forde

In Attendance:

Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive
Ms. Sinead Casey, A/Director of Services
Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager
Ms. Eilis Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Diarmuid Houston, Senior Planner
Mr. Graeme Hunt, Executive Planner
Mr. Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer
Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Engineer
Mr. Frank Burke, Climate Action Co-Ordinator
Ms. Claire Kelly, Climate Action Officer
Ms. Anita McLoughlin, A/Senior Executive Officer, Housing
Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

On the proposal of Her Worship the Mayor, a unanimous vote of sympathy was extended to the families of the following:

- Mr. Ger Murphy, Bishopswater, Wexford RIP
- Mrs Kathleen Tobin, Bernadette Place, Wexford RIP
- Mr. Jack Casey, Barracks Road, Killurin, Co. Wexford RIP
- Ms. Ellen Mary (Nellie) Cullen, Ballyla, Castlebridge, Co. Wexford RIP
- Mr. Ger Jones, The Grove, Clonard, Wexford RIP

CONGRATULATIONS

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Mr. Kaylem Harnett on his promotion to the U17 Republic of Ireland International Squad for the UEFA European Championships.
- Mr. Luke O'Connor on his debut with the U19 International Rugby Team against Japan.
- Mr. Alex Currid on his Under 21 Champion Snooker and Billiards title and wish him well in the upcoming European Championships in Malta.

- Wexford CBS Senior Soccer Team on winning the All-Ireland Senior Soccer Title.
- The winning pubs, restaurants, and nominees of the recent Restaurant Association of Ireland awards.
- Sports Active project, Rag Tree Equine on being shortlisted for an All-Ireland Local Authority and Community LAMA award.
- The St. Patricks Day Parade Committee, organisers and participants in this year's entertaining St. Patricks Day Parade and festivities.
- The Craobh Comhaltas Loch Garman and all involved in the bid to secure the Fleadh Cheoil for Wexford in 2024.

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 20th February, 2023 copies of which had previously been circulated were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes.

MINUTES OF HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Minutes of the Wexford Borough Heritage Committee meeting, held on 14th February, 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Cllr. L Kelly thanked Fergus Flanagan, Wexford Rotary Club for his valuable input to the Heritage Committee and wished him well in his future endeavours.

In response to a query from Cllr. J. Hegarty regarding the Old Hospital Building, Mr. D. Houston advised that no further update was available at present.

AMENITY, ARTS & RESIDENTS GRANT SCHEMES 2023

The attached grant listing of funding allocated to applicants under the Amenity/Arts and Residents Association Grant Scheme 2023, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously agreed by Members on the recommendation of Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty.

DRAFT TRAFFIC & PARKING BYE-LAWS 2023

The attached Draft Bye Laws regulating traffic and parking in the Borough District were presented by Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager. Ms. Laffan outlined that amendments were required to the byelaws to include the one-way traffic flow system at Fisher's Row, additional loading bays and parking bays in the town.

Ms. S. Casey, A/Director of Services informed Members that consultants have been appointed to prepare the Transport Plan for the town. It is anticipated that it will take

12 months, inclusive of the statutory consultation period, to complete the plan. Ms. Casey undertook to provide a progress report to Members, shortly.

Ms. Casey reminded Members that significant traffic management plans will be required next August, to host the Fleadh Cheoil.

Following clarification to the Members on a number of queries, on the recommendation of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan, Members unanimously agreed that the Draft Traffic & Car Parking Bye Laws proceed to public consultation.

DRAFT WEXFORD TOWN LOCAL AREA PLAN

On the recommendation of Mr. Diarmuid Houston, Senior Planner, Members unanimously agreed to schedule a meeting to discuss the publicity campaign for the LAP for the morning of Monday 15th May, 2023.

Mr. Graeme Hunt, Executive Planner asked Members to consider how the public could be actively engaged to participate in the development of the plan.

Cllr. L. Kelly asked that there be a consistent flow of information to Members on the progress of the plan.

REPORTS

HOUSING

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was discussed and noted.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Anita McLoughlin, A/Senior Executive Officer and Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer.

- Statistics on tenant purchase scheme within the district.
- Report on retro fitting programme for properties in the district.
- Discretion regarding the extension of time for approved grant works to be completed.

A lengthy discussion took place on the Government's recent decision to lift the eviction ban. Members expressed their concern for tenants facing eviction and the lack of contingency plans to deal with the potential resulting homelessness.

Ms. A. McLoughlin, A/Senior Executive Officer acknowledged Members concerns and circulated a memo from Ms. Carolyn Godkin, Director of Services to brief Members on the current position regarding Notices to Quit in the county.

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly, Members unanimously agreed that a letter be sent to the Oireachtas Members, expressing Members disappointment with the decision to end the no fault eviction ban, directly putting people into homelessness, with no measures in place to deal with accommodating these evictions.

Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell, on behalf of Members, thanked Housing staff for their continued hard work.

PLANNING

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

Cllr. G. Laffan once again raised the issue of the staffing resources in the Planning Section, which is resulting in delays to pre-planning meetings.

In response to a request from Cllr. T. Forde on the recovery of the vacant site levy on the site at Browne's Corner, Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager undertook to follow the matter up with the Planning Section.

Cllr. J. Hegarty queried if development works had commenced at Carcur, to which Mr. G. Forde, Senior Engineer replied that the works in question were being carried out by the Environment Section to deal with on-going illegal dumping on Council property.

DISTRICT ENGINEER

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was discussed and noted.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Eilis Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer.

- Road safety concerns at the Killeen's roundabout following a recent road traffic accident.
- Active Travel measures at the junction of Glenbrook, Newtown Road.
- Update regarding line marking on the R730
- Strengthening works required at the junction at Foley's Pub, Crossabeg.
- Provision of lighting in Clonard Community Centre car park and surface repairs to car park.
- Bus parking in Carrigeen Street and the installation of bollards outside Our Lady of Fatima School.
- Provision of footpaths in Coolcotts Lane in conjunction with recent housing developments.
- Timeframe for the improvements to the junction at Cluain Dara.
- Requirement for additional bus shelters

- Energisation of the pedestrian crossing at Curracloe National School.
- Ponding at Liam Mellows.
- Timeframe for improvement works to the Fairways/Distillery Road Junction.
- Installation of pedestrian crossing for the Cuan Aingeal Garden and illumination of garden.
- Requirement for dished footpath at the Loreto school for access to cycle lane.
- Sightlines at The Presbytery, School Street.
- Update on the improvement works at Newtown Water Treatment Works.
- ESB connection for the retractable bollard at Georges Street/North Main Street junction
- Garden space for Access 2000 women's project.
- One Way Traffic Signs at Cinema Lane, Gibson's Lane, and Henrietta Street
- Clarification on whether works within in the district abide to the National Pollinator Plan.

In response to Cllr. J. Hegarty's request for the installation of a full-sized basketball hoop within the district, Cllr. G. Lawlor confirmed that a full-sized hoop will be included in the MUGA as part of the Ferndale Community Development.

Cllr. D. Hynes expressed his gratitude to Ms. Furlong for the resurfacing of the boules area in Redmond Park.

Following a discussion on the closure of the Talbot Green laneway and recent anti-social behaviour incidents, Members unanimously agreed that the management of Ozanam House be invited to a meeting to discuss the matter with all relevant stakeholders.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

ENVIRONMENT

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was discussed and noted.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer.

- Traffic Management at beaches for Summer 2023
- Provision of a public convenience on the quay front.
- Update on the playground in Curracloe
- Installation of water syphon at Ballinesker
- Sign painting at Ballinesker.

Mr. G. Forde, Senior Engineer introduced Mr. Frank Burke as the new Climate Action Co-ordinator and Ms. Claire Kelly as the Climate Action Officer, to Members.

Mr. Burke stated that he was looking forward to working with Members and that a presentation will be made on climate action to the full Council meeting on Tuesday 11th April, 2023.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

FIRE SERVICES

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

ESTABLISHMENT OF INTER AGENCY DRUG TASK FORCE

The following motion proposed by Cllr. L. Kelly was withdrawn.

“Wexford Borough District request that a Garda led Inter Agency Drug Task Force is established for Wexford town to address the issues arising as a result of active drug usage in our town”.

PROVISION OF 50 METER SWIMMING POOL

The following motion proposed by Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes and following discussion was unanimously adopted.

“Wexford Borough District request SETU establish the feasibility of building a 50-meter swimming pool as part of the development of a new third level campus in Wexford Town”.

Retirement of Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager.

Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell, Members, Chief Executive, Mr. T. Enright & Ms. Sinead Casey, A/Director of Services, all paid tribute to Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager who will retire on Friday 31st March, 2023 after 42.5 years' service. Ms. Laffan was thanked for her distinguished service to the town and wished every health and happiness in her retirement.

Ms. Laffan thanked everyone for their kind words, adding that she had enjoyed the 42.5years working in the town but was looking forward to the next chapter in her life.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 17TH APRIL, 2023

MAYOR OF WEXFORD.