

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT
HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 15TH MAY, 2023 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
WEXORD 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:

Ms. Elizabeth Hore, Director of Services

Mr. Anthony Bailey, District Manager

Ms. Eilís Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer

Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Engineer

Mr. Alan O'Shea, Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel

Mr. Tom Byrne, Executive Engineer, Active Travel

Mr. Vincent Gallagher, Senior Executive Technician, Active Travel

Mr. Diarmuid Houston, Senior Planner

Ms. Catherine McLoughlin, Heritage Officer

Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment

Ms. Rachael Jordan, Administrative Officer, Housing

Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing

Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer,

Ms. Caroline Crowe, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies from Ms. Sinead Casey, A/Director of Services for her inability to attend the meeting were noted.

On the proposal of Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell, Members agreed to amend standing orders to allow for the presentation on the Wexford Heritage Led Regeneration Plan to proceed first.

Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell welcomed Members of the Heritage Committee & Heritage Forum to the meeting and briefly outlined the standing orders in relation to their attendance.

WEXFORD HERITAGE LED REGENERATION PLAN

Ms. Elizabeth Hore, Director of Services provided the background detail to Members on the funding for the Wexford Heritage Led Regeneration Plan and the awarding of the tender to Urban Scale Interventions for its development.

Ms. Hore informed Members that the plan is currently being proof-read but that it will be circulated to Members before the end of the week, to afford them the opportunity to review it prior to the June meeting.

Ms. Kate Hogarth, Urban Scale Interventions followed with a detailed presentation to Members on the process used to develop the plan, which included stakeholder engagement through workshops, interviews, and online surveys. The history of the town was mapped, showing what heritage protection measures that have been implemented to date, the assets mapped, and a town health check was completed. Ms Hogarth advised that the plan sets out the shared vision for the future of Wexford Town, based on the key principles for heritage led regeneration and an action plan of short-, medium- and long-term projects that will drive forward the heritage-led regeneration of the town.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Elizabeth Hore, Director of Services and Ms. Catherine McLoughlin, Heritage Officer.

- Budgets available for short term projects
- Funding streams for future works
- Dereliction along main street at first floor level of buildings
- Required works on historic laneways to deter antisocial behaviour.
- Window displays for closed premises.
- Generation of income for heritage sites
- Requirement for civil works around the town to be in keeping with heritage of the town.
- Opening of historic graveyards at weekends.
- Inclusion of Old Jail for development

Ms. Hore, Director of Services advised Members that the Regeneration Plan will provide the framework for a coordinated approach to available funding for identified projects.

Ms. Catherine McLoughlin, Heritage Officer was pleased to inform Members that €60,000 funding had been awarded by Irish Walled Town Network for conservation works on the town wall in Ropewalk & Bride Street Carparks.

Ms. McLoughlin requested that any queries on the Regeneration Plan be emailed directly to her.

Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell, on behalf of Members thanked Ms. Hogarth for her presentation.

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 17th April, 2023 copies of which had previously been circulated were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

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

- Mrs. Jane Harte, Carrighill House, Barntown, Co. Wexford R.I.P.
- Mr. Stephen (Ronnie) Byrne, Lower Abbey Street, Wexford R.I.P.
- Mrs. Joan Fitzmaurice, England, Aunt of Cllr. D. Hynes R.I.P.
- Mr. Fintan Cleary, Ablintown, Murrintown, Music Director, Wexford Light Opera Society RIP

CONGRATULATIONS

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following.

- Mr. Kaylem Harnett on his selection to the U17 Ireland team to play at the UEFA European Championships in Hungary, this month.

SECTION 83 – ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME NEWTOWN ROAD, WEXFORD TOWN

Mr. Alan O'Shea, Senior Executive Engineer presented the proposed Active Travel Scheme for Newtown Road to Members. Mr. O'Shea, briefed Members on the submissions received as part of the statutory public consultation, which closed on the 1st May, 2023. Mr. O'Shea was pleased to inform Members that the scheme will be designed in house.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. O'Shea.

- Progression of scheme on a phased basis.
- Consideration of scheme in context of Local Area Plan
- Future extension of scheme.
- Introduction of 30km speed limit to compliment the Active Travel goals.
- Timeframe for works.

Following discussion, Members unanimously agreed to adopt the scheme.

Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell, on behalf of Members, thanked Mr. O'Shea and the Active Travel Team for their presentation.

SECTION 183 – EXTENSION OF LEASE OF FORMER FIRE STATION AT DAVITT ROAD TO CLONARD BOXING CLUB

The attached report regarding the proposed extension of the lease of the former Fire Station at Davitt Road to Clonard Boxing Club a copy of which had previously been

circulated, was presented by the District Manager, and unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly.

In response to a query from Cllr. J. Hegarty on the reduction of the lease term, Mr. A. Bailey District Manager advised that the lease period was reduced due to the deterioration in the condition of the building, which requires significant investment and to allow the boxing club time to relocate to a more suitable premises.

SECTION 183 RENEWAL OF LEASE OF 8 LEE HEIGHTS TO FERNS DIOCESAN YOUTH SERVICES CLG.

The attached report regarding the proposed renewal of lease for 8 Lee Heights to Ferns Diocesan Youth Services, CLG, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by the District Manager, and unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty

SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS

The attached report regarding the schedule of proposed Municipal District works was presented by Mr. Anthony Bailey, District Manager.

Members unanimously agreed to request the Road Safety Officer, Mr. David Codd to attend the June meeting to discuss the policy regarding school traffic wardens for national schools within the district.

Following discussions, Members also unanimously agreed to defer a decision on the schedule to the June meeting, pending clarification on several items.

Mr. A. Bailey requested that Members email any queries to him, in advance of the June meeting.

REPORTS

HOUSING

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

Ms. Rachael Jordan was introduced to Members as the newly appointed Administrative Officer to the Housing Section.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer.

- List of properties identified for energy retro fit upgrades to be circulated to Members prior to next meeting.

- Policy on housing allocations to those in overcrowded private rented accommodation.
- Update on the proposed development at Belvedere Road car park
- Current available housing stock numbers versus requirements.

It being 3.40p.m., Cllr. D. Hynes exited the meeting.

PLANNING

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

In response to a query from Cllr. L. Kelly on the lack of attendance by a Planner at the Ordinary meetings, Mr. A. Bailey undertook to raise the matter with Ms. E. Hore, Director of Services and Mr. D. Houston, Senior Planner.

DISTRICT ENGINEER

At the outset Ms. Eilís Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer provided an update to Members on the installation of the canopy at Monck Street, advising that will not now proceed until end of July, due to unforeseen circumstances.

Following discussions, Ms. Furlong stated all options, including delaying works until the end of the summer, would be discussed with all the relevant businesses on Monck Street.

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. Furlong.

- Completion of resurfacing works on School Street.
- Requirement for a speed survey on Whiterock Hill.
- Resurfacing works in The Grove Housing Estate.
- Installation of additional fully accessible equipment in Min Ryan Park playground.
- Consideration to the installation of a learning to cycle park at Ferrybank.
- Update on the line marking from Carrigmannon to the Glynn Barntown GAA Club.
- Repair to the damaged railing at Ferrycarrig Bridge
- Update on meeting to be organised with relevant stakeholders regarding anti-social behaviour in Talbot Green.
- Progress on the design for the Distillery Road/Fairways Junction
- Reinstatement of the historic fountain
- Update on plan to change traffic flow on School Street to one way.

- Timeframe for ESB connection to the new bollard at the end of Georges Street.
- Consideration to changing proposed one-way traffic flow system in Fishers Row to vehicles exiting onto Trinity Street.
- Update on works at the Mechanics Institute
- Update on the proposed boathouse at Carraigfoyle.

Following queries raised by Cllr. T. Forde and Cllr L. Kelly regarding the extension of the home zone speed limit to various estates in the district, Members unanimously agreed that the issue be included for discussion at the June meeting with Mr. David Codd, Road Safety Officer.

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. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer.

- Progress on public convenience for the quay front
- Update on the proposal for Ferrybank area and traffic restrictions to the quay.
- Policy on removal of event posters from premises around the town.
- Introduction of busking byelaws for the town
- Possibility of scheme to be introduced for window displays in closed/unused buildings, similar to New Ross.
- Update on playground for Curracloe.
- Information campaign regarding new the Beach Byelaws coming into the summer season.

Mr. Maguire provided an update to Members on the recent “No Bathing Notice” issued for Curracloe beach earlier in the day, stating that the results of further water quality samples would determine if the notice could be lifted.

FIRE SERVICES

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

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor, Members unanimously agreed to offer support for the Retained Firefighters who have issued Notice to Strike for Friday 26th May and to request that Minister P. Donohoe put forward meaningful proposals to improve working conditions for the retained service.

MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM

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

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS REPORT

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

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 19TH JUNE 2023

MAYOR OF WEXFORD