

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 11th April 2023 in the Tholsel, Quay St., New Ross**

Presiding: Councillor Michael Sheehan

In Attendance: Councillor John Fleming
Councillor Anthony Connick
Councillor Michael Whelan
Councillor Pat Barden
Cllr Bridin Murphy

Officials Present:

Alan Fitzhenry – District Manager
Eamonn Hore - District
David Murphy - Acting Executive Engineer
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer
Sharon Ryan – Staff Officer
Gerry Forde – Senior Engineer
Jill Kelleher – Temp SSO

Others Present: Deputy Verona Murphy (Teams)
David Looby New Ross Standard
Ann Lacey PPN (Teams)

Apologies: Melissa Goff – SSO Environment
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer
Niamh Lennon – Executive Planner

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all to the meeting.

Sympathies

Cllr Sheehan and Cllr Connick offered sympathies to the family of Ted St Ledger, Bewley St., New Ross.

Cllr Murphy and Cllr Barden sympathised with the family of Joseph Deacon, Camross.

Cllr Barden offered sympathies to the family of Jimmy O’ Shea, Adamstown.

Cllr Connick and Cllr Barden sympathised with Tommy Cosgrave NRMD and Breege Cosgrave WCC on the death of Mary Cosgrave, Oylegate

Congratulations

Cllr Fleming congratulated James Doyle from Courtnacuddy and the Irish U20 rugby squad who defeated England to win the grand slam.

Cllr Sheehan congratulated the organisers, particularly Cllr Connick, on the New Ross St Patrick's Day Parade. He also congratulated New Ross Library on the launch of the 'My open library' service as well as the staff of New Ross Municipal District on their work with the filming of Small things like these.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting –

The March 2023 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Cllr Connick.

Matters Arising

N/A

2.0 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

2.1 District Managers Report

The District Manager delivered his report and responded to queries raised by the Members.

Advance Factory

The District Manager confirmed that the process of reviewing the EOI's and engagement with the interested parties has now begun and that he would continue to keep the Members updated on progress.

Duncannon Fort Masterplan

The Members were advised that following tender evaluation, Belfast based Urban Scale Interventions (USI) have been appointed and a programme agreed, for the creation of a Masterplan for the entire Duncannon Fort site and that it is planned to have the Masterplan complete in Quarter 3 of 2023. Cllr Whelan requested an update and following a query on the management of the project, was advised that the Municipal District would be managing it.

Brennan's Lane/Shambles Town and Village

The District Manager informed the Members that Avanti Architects, the Consultants on the Brennan's Lane/Shambles Project, continue to work on drawings and design details. Cllr Barden requested that the designs would be circulated to the Members.

New Ross Skate Park

The Members were advised that NRMD office has submitted a Capital Proposal for Establishing a Project (PEP) in order to fund the initial stage of this project. Once approved, the Special Projects Section will seek to appoint a consultant to prepare documents for Part VIII. The plans will be presented to the Municipal District for approval and funding will then need to be sought to realise the construction of the project.

Callan-Thomastown Joint Working Group

At the February Joint Meeting between New Ross MD and Callan-Thomastown MD, it was agreed to establish a working group to meet and discuss collaboration efforts between the two districts.

These Teams are to contain officials including the Directors of Service & District Managers, along with two Councillors from each District. Cllr Anthony Connick was agreed on due to his links to Rosbercon. The proposal of a second Councillor to represent the district was requested and on the proposal of Cllr Connick and agreed by all, Cllr Barden was elected.

CCTV

The District Manager advised that the County Secretary has signed off on the Scheme and it's currently with Gardai and that they are in the process of preparing documents, which will then be sent to the Garda Commissioner for sanction. Following a question from Cllr Connick, he advised that a start date wasn't yet available.

St Patrick's Day Parades

The District Manager commended and thanked the organising committees, participants, stewards, staff and members of An Garda Síochána on all the St Patrick's Day Parades held in the District. Cllr Murphy thanked Cllr Connick and the committee of the New Ross St Patrick's Day parade for making it a great occasion. She expressed concern that in the absence of the Cathaoirleach who was abroad, that the Leas Cathaoirleach had not attended the New Ross parade.

Flowers for the Magdalenes & Easter 1916 Commemoration Events

The organisers of the annual Flowers for the Magdalenes ceremony, which took place on Sunday 26th March at the Magdalene grave site in St Stephens Cemetery, were thanked for the event. NRMD was proud to have supported this important and poignant remembrance commemoration.

The District Manager also offered gratitude to the 10th inf. Batt. F.C.A Association for their annual ceremony to commemorate the 1916 Rising and apologized to the organisers for the main gate being locked on the day.

John F. Kennedy Trust Invitation

The Members were reminded that they were invited by the JFK Trust, to engage in informal consultation on their future plans at 4.30pm at the Dunbrody Centre. Cllr Whelan gave his apologies.

LEADER Consultation Meeting Invitation

The District Manager advised that an invitation had been received and circulated from Tom Bermingham, LEADER Programme Coordinator, to a consultation meeting to explore priorities for the 2023-27 LEADER Programme on Wednesday 19th April in the Brandon House Hotel, New Ross from 5.00-6.00pm. Cllr Whelan asked if an alternative date could be made available as the Irish Regions European Office (IREO), in conjunction with the three Regional Assemblies of Ireland will be hosting an event aimed at accessing EU funding on Wednesday 19th April in the Radisson Blu Hotel in Athlone from 9.15am to 4pm. The District Manager agreed to see if an alternative date could be made available for the Leader meeting.

Hike to the Hook

The organisers and those taking part in the annual Hike to the Hook event, which takes place on Saturday 22nd April were wished success by the District Manager who was pleased to support the event.

Thank You to “Small Things Like These” Film Production

The District Manager outlined the period during the filming of ‘small things like this’ and spoke about the palpable “buzz” around New Ross during that time. He thanked the production for bringing the film to New Ross and for their courtesy and cooperation during that time. He also thanked everyone involved including the Council Staff, residents, businesses, the public and the local Gardai. Cllr Murphy and Cllr Barden congratulated all involved.

LAMA All Ireland Community & Council Awards 2023

The Members were informed that the High Hill Norman Garden has been shortlisted for an All Ireland Community & Council Award, under the Category of Best Innovation in Urban Planning and the winners will be announced on 15th April.

1798 Commemorations

The District Manager advised the Members that Wexford County Council’s Planning Department had received funding support of from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for the development of a county-wide commemorative programme to mark the 225th anniversary of the events surrounding

the 1798 Rebellion in Co. Wexford. NRMD received an allocation of €10,000, with a proposal already received for a large scale event in New Ross Town at a cost €5,000. There is €5,000 available for other events around the district. Nominations are to be emailed to Ger Walsh.

The Cathaoirleach requested that pedestrianisation be put on the agenda and the Director advised that the Town Centre First plan was in progress which would add gravitas to any application for funding for pedestrianisation.

Cllr Fleming congratulated Clonroche on their St Patrick's Day parade and was pleased to see work commencing on the oil tanks site.

The Special projects report was made available to the Members.

2.2. Roads Report

The Roads Engineer delivered his report and responded to queries from the Members.

Cllr Fleming queried re paving outside Greens in Clonroche as well as white lines at the junction there and a bend in the road at Kehoe's. The Roads Engineer had forwarded the issues to TII and the roads section, as had the Director.

Cllr Murphy queried the timeframe for repairing Chapel bridge and Little Cullenstown bridge and was informed that it would be approx. 4 months. She congratulated the Engineer on plans for Adamstown school.

Cllr Whelan thanked the Director for acquiring Euro Velo funding for the Shore Road. He queried the fact that no lanes in the south of the district were on the LIS but was informed by the Engineer that the criteria for allocation of funding was waiting time on the list rather than geographic area.

Cllr Connick congratulated the Engineer on works in Rosbercon and queried the installation of a bus bay at the Holy Faith school.

Cllr Barden queried whether the road at Rourkes Cross would be repaired and the Engineer agreed to review the road there.

Cllr Sheehan queried as to whether Kennedy College was being considered for the Safe routes to school programme and was advised that there were a number of schools already on the list to be done before Kennedy College could be considered. The Engineer also advised that he was looking for additional funding for the roads in New Ross town.

2.3. Water Services Report

The Senior Executive Engineer had given apologies but had made his report available and asked that the Members would email him if they had any questions.

2.4. Housing Report.

The Housing report was delivered by the Administrative Officer, Housing who responded to queries from the Members.

Cllr Murphy requested stats on number of notices to quit for the New Ross area. The AO advised that she would forward them on as soon as possible.

Cllr Whelan queried three houses in the Ballycullane/Ramsgrange area.

Cllr Sheehan queried the timeframe for Ard an Bhille and was informed that the final houses were expected to be allocated in the next week or so.

2.5 Planning Report

The Executive Planner gave apologies but made her report available to the Members.

2.6 Planning Grants

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.7 Planning Refusals

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.8 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.9 Community Development Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.10 Environment Report

Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer advised the Members that he would attend the next meeting in relation to New Ross beaches.

Cllr Whelan enquired as to plans for dealing with dog fouling in New Ross town and was advised that the dog warden is currently policing areas which are most affected but that the Members should email them with locations where they are most concerned with so that they could also concentrate on those areas.

2.11 Fire Services Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.12 Members Query System

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

3.0 Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members

N/A

4.0 Other Business

5.0 Notice of Motion/s –

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 Leader factsheet

7.0 AOB

Cllr Fleming and Cllr Barden condemned the comments made in relation to Lee Chin.

Cllr Sheehan condemned the graffiti on the signs around the district.

Cllr Connick thanked the Municipal District for the supply of daffodils for the recent daffodil day and advised that over €7000 was raised through sales of the flowers. He also thanked groups such as Kennedy College and Nolan Transport for holding fund raisers on the day.

The Director advised that funding had been received for Mountgarret and Tellarought Castles and thanked Dan McCartan for his work in securing the funding.

Cllr Connick congratulated John Sheehan in Water Services for his 42 years with Wexford County Council and wished him well in his retirement.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____