

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 14th December 2022 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: Mick McCormack – District Manager
Eamonn Hore - District Director
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer
David Murphy – Acting Executive Engineer
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing (Teams)
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer
Niamh Lennon – Executive Planner (Teams)
Eoin Furlong – Clerical Officer
Alan O Shea – Senior Executive Engineer Roads

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

Apologies N/A

Standing orders were suspended to allow a presentation on Safe Routes to School, Scoil Naomh Abbain, Adamstown by Alan O Shea SEE Active Travel

This was proposed by Cllr Whelan and Seconded by Cllr Connick.

Following the presentation, the SEE responded to questions from the Members and the Members gave their full support to the plan and the SEE advised that it would go to tender in Q1 2023 and to construction in Q3 2023. The Director welcomed applications from other schools but cautioned that only 3 or 4 schools could be funded each year. The Chairman thanked the presenter for his attendance and presentation.

Sympathies

The Members sympathised with the Bowe family, Convent Hill, on the death of Kathleen, the Dunphy family on the death of Brian, the O Leary family on the death of Patricia, the Dwyer family on the death of Billy, the Sweetman family on the death of Lar and the Lacey family on the death of Catherine.

Congratulations

The Members congratulated St Mogue's Fethard on their Intermediate Football Club Leinster Championship win and Horeswood on their Leinster GAA Club Junior Hurling Championship win. They commiserated with Adamstown GAA on their defeat in the Leinster Junior Football Final.

The Cathaoirleach congratulated the District Manager, Mick McCormack and wished him well in his new role as Town Centre First Regeneration Officer.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting –

The November 2022 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Fleming and seconded by Cllr Whelan

Matters Arising

Cllr Whelan and Cllr Connick requested that 'mobile home park' be changed to 'motor home park' and that the item be placed on the agenda for either Special Projects or the NRMD District Managers report.

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.

Town and Village Renewal

He announced that news had just been received of the success for the application for Duncannon Fort under Town and Village 2022 with a €500k Grant which will allow the reopening of the gates of Duncannon Fort and the start of the process of unlocking the full potential of the Fort as a Regional attraction. This project will bring 3 of the buildings back into use along with works to the bridge and addressing the Electrical issues. The buildings will be used for community, tourism and

retail/business uses and will lead to the reopening of the fort and allow applications for further funding to maximise the potential of this hidden heritage gem. The Manager acknowledged the role of Cllr Whelan, Philip Wallace and Duncannon Development Group, in the project and Cllr Whelan thanked the District Manager and District Director for their support. All the Members congratulated everyone involved.

The Cathaoirleach also acknowledged the successful application for funding in relation to the courthouse.

Arrow Ceremony Hook Lighthouse

The District Manager advised that An Cathaoirleach and Elected Members of New Ross Municipal District are invited to take part in the centuries old traditional arrow ceremony at Hook Head. Assisted by members of the Dunbrody Archers, An Cathaoirleach Cllr Michael Sheehan will cast an arrow into sea, claiming the Estuary for the people of New Ross on New Year's Day.

Healthy Wexford Proposal

Funding has been awarded from Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts Funding to set up a New Ross Community Activity Hub. A sports co-ordinator, based in New Ross, will be appointed for the period of one year initially. Among other things, this person will carry out a needs assessment and co-ordinate activity programmes. The hub will provide information, support and advice on sports and physical activities to make it easier for people in disadvantaged areas to get involved and engage in a more active and healthier lifestyle.

A multi-agency steering group has been set up to progress this, including representatives from NRMD, WCC, WLD, Community Gardaí, WWETB and Youth New Ross. The District Manager acknowledged the role of Cllr Murphy on the team and she advised that although the co-ordinator would be based in New Ross, that they would be representing the county.

New Ross Town Bus service

The District Manager is continuing to work with Local link on trying to get a bus service in and around the Town on a 2-day week basis.

Cllr Whelan requested that the Chamber be invited for a meeting in January and that the lack of taxis in New Ross be on the agenda.

Emergency Council Phone Number for Christmas

The out of hours Emergency Contact number of 053-9196000 will continue to operate throughout the Christmas period.

FCA Pipe Band

The District Manager congratulated the FCA pipe band on their 75th anniversary. Following a motion from the Members of NRMD at the Nov meeting they were

afforded a Civic reception followed by the playing of a specially commissioned video by Visit New Ross.

New Ross Christmas 2022

The District Manager advised that the Christmas campaign continues throughout the Town. There was a very successful switching on of the Christmas lights on the 19th November when over 700 selection boxes were given out to children on the night with Santa, Special guest Dami along with the Cathaoirleach drawing a crowd estimated at 1500 to the event.

There are a number of free events taking place with the Christmas Bandstand in Conduit Lane having entertainment each Saturday afternoon in December, as well as a Nollaig Christmas concert in St. Michael's Theatre featuring the Nomads, the New Ross Singers, and Keith Flanagan.

The sleigh on bridge street is lit up in Christmas lighting and there is a Santa's post box in the theatre courtyard. To support local retailers there are concessions on parking charges as follows. Free Parking in all Public Car Parks from 11.00 a.m. each day on Saturday 3rd, 10th, and 17th December & Monday 19th to Saturday 24th December, inclusive.

Brennans Lane/Shambles Town and Village

The Members were advised that work is continuing on the Brennan's Lane/Shambles Town and Village Project. Tenders are in for the Consultants and stand still letters have been issued. It is aimed to have Contractors appointed in Feb/March 23 and Contract finish by August 23.

CCTV

The District Manager advised that the Data Impact Assessments and requirements are being worked on for the CCTV scheme which will then be forwarded to the Garda Commissioner for sanction.

Destination Towns

The Members were advised that works are continuing on the Destination Towns Project and that there has been engagement with Failte Ireland and there will be a launch of the New Ross Destination Towns early in the new year.

National Irish Walled Town Network publication "Town Crier"

New Ross has once again featured in this national publication for the Irish Walled Towns network with a photo of the Christmas Tree in the Norman High Hill gardens.

Cllr Murphy thanked Tomás Kavanagh and his staff in St Michael's Theatre for their Christmas programme. Cllr Fleming requested that the scaffolding on Terrerath Castle be removed and was informed that it would be and that Catherine McLoughlin would investigate further funding for the Castle.

Cllr Connick requested that the District Manager investigate as to whether Docks in John St would be reopening and he agreed to contact the owner. He also requested that the vegetation in the Murphy building be removed and that plans for the building would be installed on it.

The Director advised that the total spending on all the projects in New Ross District amounted to a very significant amount totalling over 40 Million euro.

2.2. Roads Report

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

In relation to funding for restoration on 7 streets in New Ross Town, he advised that he had applied for the funding but that there was no update but he would keep the Members informed on progress.

He would also investigate the provision of a bus shelter at the Apex leisure centre and in Ballinaboola.

In relation to the Cycle track on the Wexford Road, the Director advised that the design works are currently being undertaken by the consultants and that they would then go to Part 8 and that that piece of the track was only one piece of a bigger plan to tie in with the Greenway and other routes.

Cllr Fleming complimented the roads section on the work in Donard.

2.3. Water Services Report

The Senior Executive Engineer delivered his report which outlined works done throughout the whole year and responded to queries from the Members.

Cllr Whelan thanked the SEE for work done in Ballycullane and on Fethard castle.

The Director complimented the SEE and his team on a great year's work and congratulated the SEE on completing his diploma on conservation management and congratulated both the SEE and the Heritage Officer, Catherine McLoughlin on securing funding for the conservation projects.

2.4. Housing Report.

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

The Members were advised that letters in relation to closed applications for those who were over the income limit as well as letters in relation to Choice Based lettings, would be going out shortly. She advised that in relation to the new housing scheme in Healy'sland, that some of the apartments had been turned down but that it was hoped to allocate the keys before Christmas to those who had accepted the offers and that they hoped to get offers out for phase 2 before Christmas also – subject to receipt of Garda Clearances.

Cllr Fleming queried the turning down of a turn key scheme and the AO advised that she would revert to him on it and also to Cllr Barden on the building criteria for builders.

Cllr Murphy complimented the housing maintenance section on the resolution of recent issues.

The AO agreed to revert back to Cllr Sheehan on the Respond apartments in the Irishtown and on Hewit'sland.

2.5 Planning Report

The Executive Planner delivered her report and answered questions from the Members.

In relation to a query from Cllr Barden about preplanning, she advised that she would be available by phone for planning queries but that pre planning meeting requests would have to go through the planning department. She also advised that as the planner for both New Ross and Enniscorthy, that she would have to alternate between the two districts for the meetings but that she would attend in person when possible.

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

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

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

- 3.1** Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001: Intention to transfer an area of land at Mountelliott, New Ross.
On the proposal of Cllr Connick and seconded by Cllr Barden, the Section 183 transfer was agreed.

4.0 Other Business

- 4.1** Presentation by Alan O Shea SEE on Safe Routes to School, Scoil Naomh Abbain, Adamstown
(Presented earlier in the meeting)

5.0 Notice of Motion/s –

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

- 6.1** Invitation from our friendship town of Danville

- 6.2** Invitation from our sister city of Hartford to St Patrick's Day Parade 2023

On the proposal of Cllr Fleming and seconded by Cllr Connick, it was agreed by all to accept both invitations, Cllr Murphy advised that it would be better for the delegation to be accompanied by Cultural/Theatre reps on the Danville Trip to further enhance the cultural value of the trip.

7.0 AOB

The Cathaoirleach thanked all his fellow Members and the Officials for their work during the year and wished them a Happy Christmas and looked forward to a good year in 2023.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____