

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**Minutes of Special Meeting of Wexford County Council
held on Wednesday 5 August, 2020 – 9.30am.
in White’s Hotel, Wexford****Attendance:****In the Chair:** Cllr. G. Laffan, Leas Cathaoirleach.**Councillors:**

BARDEN	PAT	DONOHUE	ANTHONY	MURPHY	BARBARA-ANNE
BELL	MAURA	FLEMING	JOHN	MURPHY	BRIDIN
BOLGER	ANDREW	FORDE	TOM	O'ROURKE	JOHN
BREEN	PIP	HEGARTY	JOHN	O'SUILLEABHAIN	FIONNTAIN
BROWNE	AIDAN	HYNES	DAVID	STAPLES	FRANK
BYRNE	CATHAL	KAVANAGH	WILLIE	SULLIVAN	JOE
CODD	JIM	KENNY	DONAL	SHEEHAN	MICHAEL
CODD-NOLAN	KATHLEEN	LAWLOR	GEORGE	WALSH	OLIVER
DEVEREUX	DIARMUID	MCDONALD	LISA	WHELAN	MICHAEL

Officials:

Mr. T. Larkin, Dep. Chief Executive / Director of Services
 Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services
 Ms. A. Byrne, A/Director of Services
 Mr. D. Minogue, County Secretary
 Mr. Diarmuid Houston, Senior Planner
 Ms. Deirdre Kearns, Senior Executive Planner
 Ms. Pauline Doyle, Executive Planner
 Mr. Graeme Hunt, Executive Planner

Apologies: Councillors: A. Connick, M. Farrell, J. Moore
 L. Kelly, J. Owens, J. O'Rourke

Officials: Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive
 Ms. C. Godkin, A/Director of Services
 Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance
 Ms. A. Byrne, A/Director of Services

1. Pre-draft Wexford County Development Plan 2021 - 2027

Senior Planner Diarmuid Houston Mr. Houston advised the Members of the statutory process and timelines associated with the review of the County Development Plan.

Mr. Houston reminded the Members that this meeting was the second in a series of meetings being held to outline to the Members the main elements of the new Plan as proposed.

The Members requested Mr. Houston arrange for the circulation of a brief note to the Members outlining the various stages involved in the review process and the associated timelines.

The Members observed a Minute's Silence for the late John Hume

Having had some opportunity since the previous meeting to review the proposed draft Plan, the Members then raised the following elements of the Draft for further consideration:

1. The identification of sustainable development goals
2. The preparation of Local Area Plans
3. A commitment within the Plan to tackle dereliction
4. The extent to which EU directives impact the new Plan
5. The need to ensure long term objectives, such as walking and cycling strategies are included within the life of the Plan
6. Provision of vehicles charging points in new buildings
7. The use of upland agricultural lands preferred for solar farming,
8. Energy retrofitting of houses, including the local authority's own stock, to be encouraged
9. The marketing of Bannow Bay area as a tourist destination
10. The insertion of planning conditions requiring the appropriate decommissioning of windfarms, and the use of best available technology in their construction.
11. Encouragement to sow broadleaf trees
12. Reduction in carparking requirements in town centre areas to facilitate renewal of sites

(At this point Cllr. Ger Carthy joined the meeting and took the Chair)

13. The need to highlight and support Ballyhack as an access point to Waterford
14. The inclusion of the Rock, Askamore, Screen and Tara Hill as centres of population
15. Consideration of communal water treatment plants in village locationsThe supporting of targeted village renewal/ regeneration
17. The meaning of "strictly controlled" in relation to rural nodes

- 18 Provision of bus shelters in rural areas
- 19 Need for support from Irish Water for village development
- 20 Killinick Village to move to Category 1 population centre, due to significant business premises in the area
- 21 The need to ensure those properties owners displaced by the proposed Oilgate to Rosslare Scheme would be facilitated in securing planning permission for an alternative rural dwelling
- 22 The possibility of a partnership between Irish Water and developers in relation to improvement of water services in rural villages
- 23 Seek assurance from Irish Water in relation to improvement of wastewater facilities in Arthurstown, Duncannon and Ballyhack
- 24 Reduction in house densities to levels more appropriate in a rural county
- 25 The Members noted a letter from Irish Water which outlined spare capacity in 47 towns and villages and outlined plans to provide additional capacity in a further 11 towns and villages via a €7m investment
- 27 The need to provide for additional job opportunities in Enniscorthy
- 28 The need for the Plan to reflect the reality of COVID-19 in terms of working remotely
- 29 To reflect Piercestown as a village of growth potential due to the number of large employers in the immediate area
- 30 Consideration of reuse of vacant properties to meet social housing need
- 31 The inclusion of an objective within the Plan to deliver Natural Gas to Enniscorthy and New Ross
- 32 Sightlines requirements on rural roads to remain at current level
- 33 The seeking of a deputation with the Minister to seek support for investment by Irish Water in rural towns and villages across Wexford
- 34 The reuse of former commercial premises in New Ross for domestic purposes
- 35 Need to provide sewerage in Oilgate, as a village ripe for development given its particular location
- 36 Planning applicants to have legal control over roadside boundaries in order to carry out works required to improve sightlines
- 37 Clarification regarding what is meant by “generally encouraged” on P. 122

- 38 Council seeks “restoration” rather than “replacement” of older buildings
- 39 Increase in “down-sizing” rural houses from 100 m2 to 125 m2
- 40 Facilitate “working from home” by facilitating rural dwellings where possible
- 41 Designation of use of dezoned lands for recreational use
- 42 Provision of broadband ducts in new housing estates
- 43 Appropriateness or otherwise of “shared accommodation” in meeting housing needs
- 44 Interpretation of “stricter needs” – page 113
- 45 The inclusion of a specific objective and use of vacant sites levy to encourage renewal of brownfield sites
- 46 Concern expressed that by allowing higher densities in Gorey and Wexford, these towns might be preferred for development at expense of New Ross / Enniscorthy
- 47 Facilitate provision of small “log-cabin” type houses for families with modest incomes
- 48 Facilitate those Wexford people living outside the county to return to live and work in Wexford – concern expressed regarding the need to prove economic need

Lunch Break - Cllrs/ Lisa McDonald, W. Kavanagh and B. Murphy made apologies and left the meeting

- 49 The 3km restriction applying to applications within the Slaney Valley considered too restrictive – with the criteria for “stronger rural areas” to apply instead
- 50 Provision of emergency social housing to be considered for North Wexford Area
- 51 Protection to be offered to ensure retention of rural handball facilities
- 52 Consideration to be given to allowing mews-type developments in town back lanes
- 53 Release of long-term residential lands for development where all other lands available for sale have been developed
- 54 Consideration to be given to implementing minimum apartment sizes
- 55 Remove “where possible” from requirement of nursing homes to provide ensuite facilities
- 56 Consideration to be given in Local Area Plans to create overall town centre public realm plans that guide and inform subsequent individual developments
- 57 Encourage development of motorhome parking facilities

- 58 Include objectives to provide future greenways
- 59 Extend Blue-Way from Enniscorthy to Bunclody
- 60 Develop a parking strategy for iconic coastal locations
- 61 Consider use of ground-floor former commercial premises for domestic use
- 62 Facilitate mobile retail units on greenways
- 63 Consider greenways from Mt. Leinster to St Mullins
- 64 Seek improvement to road junction at Clohamon / N30 and encourage industrial development at Clohamon
- 65 Provide for carpark facility north of Gorey to facilitate commuter car sharing
- 66 Ensure measures to protect battlefields sites do not conflict with any proposal for interpretative centre at Vinegar Hill
- 67 Ensure measures to encourage off-shore wind energy installations do not conflict with protection of coastal views
- 68 Protect Mt. Leinster Cairn archaeological structure
- 69 To balance the need for protection of historic town buildings with need for their renewal and with need to ensure public safety where buildings structure is a concern
- 70 Strengthen Tree Preservation objectives
- 71 Remove proposed restriction on the development of sports facilities in rural areas
- 72 Separation of walking and cycling strategy into 2 strategies
- 73 Future Local Area Plans to identify lands suitable for sporting purposes
- 74 Facilities for both equine and greyhound sports to be facilitated
- 75 Draft Plan to note recent progress in the provision of additional secondary school in County Wexford

Following the above discussion, it was agreed that the pre-draft Development Plan would be further considered at a Special Meeting of the Council to be held in Whites Hotel Wexford at 9.30am on Monday 14 September, 2020

This concluded the Business of the Meeting.

Daingithe ar an lá de Meán Fómhair, 2020.

Cathaoirleach

County Secretary