

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Special Meeting of Wexford County Council
held on Monday 27 July, 2020 – 2.00pm.
in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy.**

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr. G. Carthy, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors:

BARDEN	PAT	DONOHOE	ANTHONY	MCDONALD	LISA
BELL	MAURA	FARRELL	MARY	MOORE	JIM
BOLGER	ANDREW	FLEMING	JOHN	MURPHY	BARBARA- ANNE
BREEN	PIP	FORDE	TOM	MURPHY	BRIDIN
BROWNE	AIDAN	HEGARTY	JOHN	O'ROURKE	JOHN
BYRNE	CATHAL	HYNES	DAVID	O'SUILLEABHAIN	FIONNTAIN
		KAVANAGH	WILLIE	OWENS	JACKSER
CODD	JIM	KELLY	LEONARD		
CODD-NOLAN	KATHLEEN	KENNY	DONAL		
CONNICK	ANTHONY	LAFFAN	GARY	WALSH	OLIVER
		LAWLOR	GEORGE	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: Frank Staples, Joe Sullivan
 Diarmuid Devereux, Michael Sheehan

Officials: Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive
 Ms. C. Godkin, 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 then made a PowerPoint presentation to the meeting outlining the main elements of the new Plan as proposed.

Mr. Houston stated that the pre-draft Plan contains objectives and policies aimed at reducing the impact of global warming here in Wexford, with emphasis on renewable energies, nearly zero energy buildings, and reduction in carbon footprint.

The new Plan must incorporate national and regional planning guidelines and will also recognise the towns of Wexford and Gorey as key growth towns.

Following Mr. Houston's presentation, the Members thanked Mr. Houston and his staff for their work in developing the pre-draft Plan, before raising a number of matters for further consideration and clarification:

1. Possible impact of proposals within the pre-draft Plan in relation to rural housing
2. Need for policies to actively support the provision of high speed broadband
3. Possibility of requiring all new houses to install energy-related improvements such as solar and PV panels
4. Objectives to facilitate the housing of returning emigrants in the area of their birth
5. Absence of national guidelines in relation to solar farms
6. Need for investment by Irish Water in rural towns and villages
7. Use of national density guidelines in rural towns and villages
8. Installation of innovative playground facilities in housing estate
9. Criteria to be applied in considering planning applications for renewal and reuse of older buildings
10. Need for provision of additional facilities for camper vans and similar vehicles – particularly in coastal areas
11. Use of reasonable criteria when considering the preservation of buildings and structures
12. Proposed increases in sightlines for applications on local roads
13. Energy supply implications for requiring an electrical vehicle charging point on all new dwellings
14. Criteria for assessment of applications for “granny flat” applications

15. Use of appropriate place names and estate names
Protection and improvement of traditional shopfront
16. Limitations imposed upon the Council by national guidelines, including densities, sightlines, availability of water services, etc
17. Use of statutory powers to encourage the development of vacant sites
18. Installation of single-house treatment plant systems in villages where the main treatment plant has no capacity
19. Need for transport linkages in rural areas
20. Consideration of rural housing outside 5 km radius where the proposed property is still within the same parish as the applicant's home
21. Use of coastal erosion information in determining future areas for development
22. It was noted that Irish Water has recently invited WCC to engage in a discussion regarding the Council's priorities for investment in water services for towns and villages
23. Need to consider developer-led investment in water services where capacity is currently non-existent, including improvement of existing public infrastructure
24. Impact of flood scheme protection work on lands previously considered to be at risk of flooding
25. Reuse of upper floor in urban buildings as means of towns rejuvenation and achieving housing provision

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 Wednesday 5 August 2020

This concluded the Business of the Meeting.

Daingithe ar an lá de Meán Fómhair 2020.

Cathaoirleach

County Secretary