

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on the 8th April 2026 at 14:30hrs in the
Council Chamber, The Tholsel, Quay Street, New Ross.**

- Presiding:** Cllr John Dwyer – An Cathaoirleach
- Councillors:** Cllr John Fleming – Leas Cathaoirleach
Cllr Pat Barden
Cllr Marty Murphy
Cllr Michael Sheehan
Cllr Bridin Murphy
- Officials:** Alan Fitzhenry – District Manager
Áine Waters – Staff Officer
Michelle Duffin – Assistant Staff Officer
David Murphy – Executive Engineer (Roads)
Eamonn Hore – Director of Services
Abigail Nuzum – Executive Planner
Siobhán Lynn – Administrative Officer (Roads)
Dermot Wallace – Senior Staff Officer (Roads)
Sean Meyler – Senior Engineer (Special Projects)
- Remote:** Martina Donoghue – Administrative Officer (Housing)
Hugh Maguire - Administrative Officer (Environment)
Caroline Creane - Senior Staff Officer (Housing Construction)
- Apologies:** Melissa Goff – Senior Staff Officer (Environment)

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr John Dwyer, confirmed that the requisite quorum was in place, welcomed all those in attendance and commenced the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting

The Minutes of the Monthly Meetings of 11th February and 25th March, 2026, were proposed by Cllr Michael Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Pat Barden.

1.2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings.

1.3 Amendment to Monthly Meeting Minutes 14th January, 2026

The amendment to the January 2026 meeting minutes was proposed by Cllr Bridín Murphy and seconded by Cllr Pat Barden.

Sympathies

Cllr Sheehan expressed sympathies with the families of Maureen Murphy of the Bosheen, Honour Kelly of Michael Street, and Pat Donnelly and Aiden Power of New Ross town.

Cllr Barden expressed sympathies to the families of Kate Power, mother of Lar Power, CE of Kilkenny County Council, Patrick O'Connor of Clonroche, Jimmy Sinnott of Clonroche, and John Kelly of Adamstown.

Cllr John Fleming expressed sympathies to the families of Jimmy Sinnott of Clonroche, Kate Power of Adamstown, Sheila Hayden of Clonroche, Lourde Saunders of New Ross, Maureen Murphy of the Bosheen, John Corish of Coolballow, and Pat O'Connor of Clonroche.

Cllr M. Marty expressed sympathy to the family of Kathleen Foley of Ballyhack.

Cllr B. Murphy wished to be associated with all of the above condolences, and expressed sympathies to the Kelly family of Courtnacuddy who tragically lost their son.

Cllr Dwyer wished to be associated with the above condolences, and expressed condolences to the family of Honor Kelly, a former tenant of Wexford County Council and remarked on her good character.

All of the councillors expressed sympathies with Alan Fitzhenry and his family on the loss of his grandmother and brother in recent weeks.

Congratulations

Cllr Fleming congratulated Aiden Kennedy on qualifying to compete in European weightlifting championships, and the Wexford Senior Football team although they lost out to Down in the Allianz Football League Division 3 final, and to all involved in the St Patrick's Day parades.

Cllr Barden also congratulated the Wexford Senior Football team on a great performance in Croke Park, and to Denny Bookle on being European Champion in U18 team and individual pool.

Cllr Sheehan wished to be associated with the above remarks and expressed appreciation to the organisers of the 1916 Commemoration.

Due to a scheduled presentation on the Draft Parking Byelaws, An Cathaoirleach recommended the suspension of Standing Orders. Cllr Bridín Murphy proposed the suspension of Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr Pat Barden. Standing Orders were duly suspended. An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Dwyer, requested the order of business to be reflected in the minutes.

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

3.2 Draft New Ross Municipal District Traffic and Car Parking Bye-laws

Siobhán Lynn, Administrative Officer in Roads, introduced herself and her colleague, Dermot Wallace, and advised the members that they are seeking their approval in

principle to amend and update the parking byelaws before proceeding to public consultation.

Ms Lynn provided details of the amendments to the byelaws covering the following topics:

- Online payments and modernisation of the byelaws,
- EV charging times,
- Introduction of small business permits for loading in paid parking areas,
- More flexibility for change, signage and line marking updates, no need to amend byelaws going forward.

Ms Lynn then took queries from the members:

Cllr Dwyer enquired when it is proposed to bring these updates to the full council, and will blue badges be dealt with in the new byelaws.

Director Eamonn Hore clarified that the Parking Section are tasked with dealing with areas included in the byelaws only, and that blue badge spaces were increased within the paid parking area during a recent review, noting a lot of effort put into blue badge spaces in the town.

A discussion ensued amongst the members about the difficulty in securing a blue badge space for residents in town.

The District Manager highlighted to the members that, while residents are requesting parking outside their town-centre residence, businesses in town need those spaces for customers to come and do their business in the town, and with a small town centre most of the carparks are within walking distance.

Cllr Sheehan enquired if New Ross is the first district to see this presentation and added to Cllr Dwyer's comments stating that more blue badge spaces are needed.

Cllr Fleming enquired about the small business permits.

Cllr Dwyer raised concern about the wording that fees are determined by Wexford County Council rather than New Ross Municipal District.

Cllr Barden asked for a summary of the major changes.

Ms Lynn responded to the members as follows:

- Request for blue badge spaces dealt with by districts, some locations not suitable and areas in town are not guaranteed.
- New Ross is the first district to see the draft byelaws, and the Roads section hope to be back to the council for approval in September.
- The parking fees are agreed by the district in their Schedule of Municipal District Works.
- The major changes in the byelaws are to future proof them, allow for updates without amending the byelaws, and to cover electric vehicle charging and issuing permits.

Director Eamonn Hore advised the members of a local change recently implemented regarding the removal of permits from the North Quay.

Cllr Dwyer raised concerns for over-shop accommodation and the lack of parking.

Mr Hore outlines the current carpark spaces to population is well above the requirement.

Cllr Bridín Murphy enquired about parking on-street outside of paid parking times, and Mr Wallace confirmed that permits or paid parking is not required outside of the paid parking times.

On the proposal of Cllr Fleming, seconded by Cllr Barden, it was agreed that the draft byelaws proceed to Public Consultation.

Ms Lynn and Mr Wallace departed the meeting at this time.

3.1 Schedule of Municipal District Works - New Ross Municipal District 2026 (Draft)

Proposed by Cllr Sheehan, and seconded by Cllr Fleming, the 2026 Schedule of Municipal District Works was approved.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

2.1 District Managers Report

The District Manager thanked the members for their support and condolences, and proceeded to deliver his monthly report and highlighted the following information;

Arts & Amenities and Residents Association Grants 2026

The Arts and Amenity & Residents Association Grants have been decided on by the Members and are attached for final ratification by the Councillors at today's meeting.

This is a €60,000 investment by the Members of NRMD in Community/Arts/Sporting groups within the District and a further €15,000 investment in the upkeep of private housing estates and New Ross Tidy Towns. Thank you to the Councillors and well done to all who will be receiving grants.

EVENTS

New Ross St Patricks Day Parades 2026

Just a quick note of sincere thanks to all involved in our very well attended St Patricks Day Parades throughout the District. A great show of colour and pride was on display. Congratulations to all those who won awards and thank you to the organising committees, the Gardai and our own team of staff here in WCC for their efforts. Congratulations also to our Sister City of Hartford, Connecticut for another wonderful parade with c.60,000 in attendance.

Civic Awards Evening 2026

A reminder that the Civic Awards Evening will take place on Thursday 30th April at the Brandon House Hotel. Thank you to the Elected Members for their nominations who have all now been informed. All Councillors are reminded to gather and send any information required to Aine here asap. We look forward to recognising and honouring the outstanding achievements of individuals and groups within the New Ross District.

Easter 1916 Commemoration Event

The NRMD would like to offer our sincere gratitude to the 10th inf. Batt. of the F.C.A for their annual ceremony to commemorate the 1916 Rising. A long-standing tradition in New Ross to honour and commemorate every Easter Sunday, which included a wreath laying ceremony and the playing of the Last Post & Reveille.

Flowers for the Magdalenes

The annual Flowers for the Magdalenes ceremony will take place on Sunday 3rd May at the Magdalene grave site in St Stephens Cemetery. The NRMD is proud to support this remembrance commemoration that will see The Magdalene Laundry Flag raised on the day. All Members are invited to attend, and we wish them all the best with this important ceremony.

Official Opening of Duncannon Fort

We have spoken with the Ministers office regarding a date for the official opening of Duncannon Fort and I am delighted to confirm Thursday April 23rd at 4.30pm has been agreed. Full invitation details will be circulated to the members once finalised later this week.

We look forward to welcoming Minister Dara Calleary TD back to the New Ross District. A big event is planned for the locals and invited guests to help launch the location ahead of the important tourist season. Fingers crossed for good weather on the day.

PROJECTS

Outdoor Biodiversity Classroom

We expect to see works completed by Q2 of 2026.

Motorhome Park

A detailed Environmental Impact Statement is required for planning.

Quay Street Regeneration

Malone O'Regan Consulting Engineers are finalising the tender pack for contractors. The Project Team here are to review in detail and arrange for advertising on etenders, following stage approval from the Dept.

Sports Capital Pearse Park

Final quotes have now been gathered, and these were submitted to the Dept for approval this week. The NRMD team have everything in place to begin works as soon as approval comes through.

New Ross Skate Park

Awaiting funding. Part 8 for masterplan for the Rosbercon Trailhead carpark and facilities has been submitted.

New Ross Courthouse Project

€500,000 has been secured for the project under the 2025 Town & Village Renewal Scheme. Once official documentation is issued by the Dept., a project team will be formed to begin work on this project.

OTHER ITEMS

Regen Unit Roadshows

The TRO Mick McCormack has confirmed he and his team will be holding Roadshows in each of the Municipal Districts in the coming weeks to highlight the new supports under the Croi Conaithe Scheme, including Above the Shop Grants. The New Ross

event is planned for Thursday 23rd April from 2pm-7pm here at the Tholsel and all interested parties are welcome. A publicity drive will begin shortly.

Clár 2026

As you may be aware a funding call under the CLÁR Programme was launched by Minister Dara Calleary in March. Following a review of the programme, the eligible areas have been extended to include 15 ED's in Wexford, with 4 of those in NRMD: Clonleigh, Clonroche, Kilmokea & Ballyhack. The Rural Capital Delivery Team in Special Projects are heading this up and have issued an EOI application online with a deadline of Friday 1st May at 5pm for community groups in those areas to apply. Similar to ORIS & TVRS the District Office will be helping with any successful project via administration work. A copy of the Clár info is available today for Councillors.

The Great New Ross River Walk WINS!

We were delighted to attend the LAMA All Ireland Community & Council Awards recently in Dublin, picking up the award for Best Sustainable Infrastructure & Climate Action for the Great New Ross River Walk. Massive congratulations to all who worked on this transformative project over the years, especially Eamonn Hore for his vision on this. Yet another win for New Ross, following wins for the Emigrant Park and High Hill in recent years.

Approval of the Arts and Amenity Grants/Residents Association Grants was proposed by Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Barden.

The District Manager took queries from the members:

Cllr Dwyer raised a query regarding private management companies and their eligibility to apply for public funds.

Cllr Sheehan enquired about the criteria for Heritage funding, and welcomed the progress on the greenway and Quay Street projects.

Cllr Fleming welcomed the announcement of CLAR funding for New Ross areas, and the recent LAMA Awards win for the riverwalk.

Cllr Barden also welcomed the win for the riverwalk, and enquired about the timeline for completion of the motorhome park and Norman Visitor Centre.

The District Manager responded to the members queries as follows:

- It should be noted that some residents associations are set up as companies for the purpose of applying for funding and managing accounts.
- Will find out about Heritage funding criteria.
- Will defer queries regarding the greenway and NVC to Special Projects.

Director Eamonn Hore offered clarity on the timeline for the motorhome park advising of the An Coimisiún Pleanála timeframes.

Planner Abi Nuzum further advised of the timelines for environmental surveys.

A discussion ensued amongst the members regarding the delays caused to the motorhome project due to the environmental screening process.

2.1a Special Projects Report

The Senior Engineer delivered his report before taking queries from the members.

Cllr Dwyer enquired about the management of the Norman Visitor Centre, will it be under WCC or separate.

Cllr Barden enquired about the delays to the development at Hook Lighthouse, and asked about commencing works on the NVC.

Cllr Sheehan enquired about the budget and grant funding for John Street Grain Store, and asked how much of a delay to expect on the Hook development.

Cllr Fleming enquired about funding for John Street Grain Store and the Murphy building.

Cllr B. Murphy welcomed the update on the greenway, and enquired about a clear timeframe for completion of the full greenway.

The SE responded to the members as follows:

- The council is looking at taking on a manager and management company to run the NVC.
- A cliff top coastal habitat that has the highest level of protection has been identified at Hook head, need to ascertain if development needs to be redesigned.
- NVC tenders have been assessed, contractor to be appointed in a month and on site within a month following appointment.
- A QS is updating the cost estimate for John Street Grain Store.
- Don't foresee a major uplift in costs at Hook for 6 month delay.
- Can advise of timeline for Greenway completion as funding is allocated yearly and there is substantial work to be done on Glenmore side, confirming that funding is guaranteed but allocated in yearly sums.

2.2 Roads Report

The Executive Engineer highlighted to the members that national funding for storm damage has not yet been announced before delivering his report to the members;

Cllr Fleming enquired if the flooding at Ballinaboola had been fixed, and noted that stop signs have been placed on both roads at Corcoran's cross and asked if they are both staying in place.

Cllr Barden enquired about the Tomgarrow bridge works, and if the road works at Mullinderry will take in the turn right at Yoletown.

Cllr B. Murphy raised the ongoing issue of illegal parking in Clonroche village.

Cllr Sheehan recognised the roads crew for their response during recent storms, and requested that we write to the Minister of Transport for an update on funding.

Cllr Sheehan further enquired about active travel on the ring road and the ongoing installation of bus shelters around the district.

Cllr M. Murphy agreed that we should write to the Minister, and requested a safety review of the straight at Crosbie Trans in Horeswood.

Director Eamonn Hore advised the members that our roads crew are not waiting for confirmation of funding to repair the roads damaged in recent storms, the

crews are continuing to work to repair these roads in anticipation of being reimbursed from the Department.

Cllr B. Murphy enquired about a contingency in the event we don't get full allocation of funds from Department.

Mr Hore clarified that expenditure will be monitored and kept below expected level of funding.

The Executive Engineer responded to the members queries as follows:

- A temporary flood relief measure is in place at Ballinaboola until funding for a permanent solution is sourced.
- Both stop signs at Corcoran's cross are to remain in place.
- Met with Inland Fisheries regarding Tomgarrow bridge works, rock armour is planned downstream, works planned for June/July.
- Hope to hear about national storms funding in coming couple of weeks.
- Have submitted to TII request for bollards in Clonroche village to tackle illegal parking.
- The ring road Active Travel scheme will go to Part 8 this year.
- Bus stop locations submitted to NTA, awaiting decision.
- The straight at Crosbie Trans is on programme for surface dressing, will look at line markings.

2.3 Housing Report

The Administrative Officer delivered her report before responding to queries raised by the members:

Cllr Sheehan enquired about a Housing Roadshow to advertise Affordable Housing, and raised concerns about housing applicants that are currently under the threshold for housing supports but 12months income history puts them over the threshold and enquired about an appeals process for same.

Cllr Dwyer noted that it was agreed at the SPC that information on local and national housing policies would be circulated to members, enquired about vacant units in the Ard an Bhile development, and if there is a homeless unit there.

Cllr Sheehan enquired if the policy of setting 10% of units aside for emergency accommodation is a local policy, is there a national directive on number of units handed to non-AHBs, if such cases are vetted and if there is any TLO engagement with

Cllr Barden enquired about the delays in the grant for windows and doors.

Cllr Dwyer raised concerns regarding a particular case of a blind tenant in need of housing adaptations that was given a form to fill out, and enquired who would be liable if an incident occurred before adaptations carried out.

Cllr B. Murphy enquired about support services for LA tenants coming from homelessness.

Cllr B. Murphy and Cllr Sheehan enquired about the policy setting out 10% properties are given to Homeless Services Unit, with Cllr Dwyer asking that the AO check when this was voted on by members.

The AO responded to the members queries as follows:

- Affordable Housing roadshow may be premature as houses won't be delivered for a while yet, will check with Capital and advise of a timeline for same.
- Qualification for Social Housing is in accordance with national regulations, household income is assessed based on 12month period prior to application. Applicants can appeal. Will circulate the policy.
- All WCC units in Ard an Bhile are occupied, aware of 2 unoccupied apartments which WCC did not acquire.
- Units handed over to Homeless Unit in every development.
- 10% units handed to Homeless Unit is a local policy voted on by WCC members.
- No directive to hand units over to non-AHBs, WCC has allocated properties to individuals on our housing list and these individuals are vetted before arriving to Wexford, will check with TLO on engaging with these tenants.
- Grants for windows and doors take longer as medical grants are given priority.
- Disabled Persons Adaptation grant available for LA tenants, otherwise could possibly be done under housing maintenance budget. Will check re liability with IRM.
- It is a condition of the emergency accommodation licence that the individual engages with key workers, if not they will lose their licence.
- Will check when policy re 10% of properties to Homeless Unit was voted on.

2.3a Housing Report – New Ross Only

Noted.

2.3b Housing Capital

The Senior Staff Officer delivered her report before responding to queries raised by the members:

Cllr Dwyer enquired how many units in Castlemoyle are planned for Affordable Housing.

Cllr Barden enquired about the partnership with Wicklow and Carlow county councils.

Cllr B. Murphy requested clarification regarding the figures for projected delivery compared to dwellings to complete.

Cllr Dwyer queried why Hewitsland is not included in report as it was delivered in 2026.

Cllr Sheehan outlined the need for more car parking spaces in the Bullawn development.

Cllr Dwyer enquired if the unit in Lacken is included in the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

The SSO responded to the members queries as follows:

- Will need to check how many Affordable Units are planned at Castlemoyle.
- Partnership with Wicklow and Carlow on framework for contractors for small developments so don't need to tender small works.
- Difference in figures in report account for projects in the pipeline.
- Hewitsland not included in completed figures as not yet handed over.
- The Lacken unit is included in the TAP.

The Administrative Officer (Housing) advised that there are 45 Affordable Housing units in Castlemoyle.

2.4 Planning Report

The Executive Planner delivered her report before clarifying certain matters for the Members.

Cllr M. Murphy enquired about an update on the introduction of new planning legislation.

Cllr Barden also enquired about an update on the new planning legislation.

Cllr B. Murphy enquired when the 5 year permission begins, if the addition of mobile homes on site now is considered intensification of the site, and if enforcement can investigate same.

Cllr Sheehan enquired about the steps taken to check that what was built is in line with the planning granted, citing a particular development in town.

The EP responded to the members queries as follows:

- No update on the timeline for new legislation, probably during the summer.
- 5 year permission is from the date of the final grant, can apply for an extension to this. Enforcement can look at intensification of the site.
- It is up to developer to demonstrate compliance with planning, council does not police this.
- The impact of design is site specific and determined on a case by case basis.

The EP advised the members of two Part 8 updates on the Apex and Greenway Trailhead.

An Cathaoirleach called for a vote to extend Standing Orders. Proposed by Cllr Sheehan, and seconded by Cllr B. Murphy, Standing Orders were extended.

2.5 Planning Decisions – Grants

Noted.

2.6 Planning Decisions – Refusals

Noted.

2.7 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

Noted.

2.8 Community Development Report

Noted.

2.9 Environment Report

The Administrative Officer offered apologies on behalf of the Senior Staff Officer and offered to take queries from the members:

Cllr Barden raised an incident of roadside dumping at Camross Hill which has been reported a number of times, and was advised to report to Coillte.

Cllr Sheehan raised a concern regarding Japanese knotweed and queried the monitoring and enforcement of such incidents.

Cllr Dwyer shared Cllr Sheehan's concerns regarding the correct treatment of Japanese knotweed infestations.

Cllr Fleming queried septic tank inspections and asked if the councillors can report septic tanks causing environmental issues and cover works under the grant.

The AO responded to the members queries as follows:

- Not familiar with dumping case, will need to look into it, WCC will only collect rubbish dumped on public lands.
- Council has no remit for enforcement of treatment of knotweed infestations, this lies with NPWS. WCC do have role in creating awareness with signage.
- Septic tank inspections are determined by national plan, cannot add properties to this inspection plan.

Cllr Fleming noted that Coillte lands are targeted for illegal dumping as they are not monitored, with Cllr Dwyer adding that asbestos was found in recent dumping find at Coillte site.

Cllr B. Murphy highlighted an issue of stray dogs attacking sheep, and dogs are not microchipped so no owner to enforce.

Cllr Sheehan and Cllr Dwyer asked that the knotweed infestation at the Maudlins is monitored until treated and/or more signage added.

2.10 Fire Services Report

Noted.

2.11 Members Portal

Noted.

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

3.1 Schedule of Municipal District Works - New Ross Municipal District 2026 (Draft)

3.2 Draft New Ross Municipal District Traffic and Car Parking Bye-laws

4. Other Business

4.1 Arts & Amenities Grant Allocations 2026

4.2 Residents Association Grant Allocations 2026

5. Notice of Motion

N/A

6. Correspondence

6.1 To Respond AHB re Units at Mercy Convent

6.2 To NR Port re future plans and meeting

6.3 To NPWS re two Japanese Knotweed infestations

7. AOB

Cllr Sheehan raised concerns regarding the berthing fee being charged against New Ross River Search and Rescue (NRSR), outlining that they shouldn't have to pay as they are a volunteer organisation providing an essential service, proposing that the councillors use discretionary funding to cover these fees for the coming 3 years.

District Manager Alan Fitzhenry advised that the Arts & Amenities grant could be used alternatively.

Cllr Barden noted that it would be preferable that the fee would be cut altogether as there are other volunteer organisations and the councillors can't cover the cost for all of them.

Cllr Dwyer advised that he had spoke to the NRSR Chair and that it isn't about the money per se, more that they want recognition for their service, and that it sends the wrong signal to the public.

Director Eamonn Hore noted his surprise that they want recognition as the council has always had great admiration for them, providing them with modular units in the town park for storage, and one free berth, and pointing out that no other group or organisation gets a second free berth.

Cllr Barden agreed that covering the fee by way of an A&A grant is the fairest way forward.

Cllr Fleming agreed regarding the A&A grant.

Cllr M. Murphy also agreed to cover the cost with the A&A grant.

Cllr Sheehan requested that we write to the CE to request the 2027 budget is reviewed with regards charging berthing fees against volunteer organisations.

Cllr Dwyer asked that we also issue a letter to the Minister in charge of supporting such organisations outlining more national support is needed.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed on the 13th May, 2026

Cllr John Dwyer
An Cathaoirleach
New Ross Municipal District