

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on the 10th June 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 Marty Murphy 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 Aoife Harhen – Student Planner
Remote:	Martina Donoghue – Administrative Officer (Housing) Melissa Goff – Senior Staff Officer (Environment) Cllr Pat Barden Cllr Michael Sheehan
Apologies:	n/a

Due to IT issues, An Cathaoirleach suggested the suspension of Standing Orders until the issues were resolved. Cllr Bridin Murphy proposed the suspension of Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr Marty Murphy, Standing Orders were duly suspended. An Cathaoirleach requested this be reflected in the minutes.

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

1.2 Draft Protocol Meeting Minutes 13th May, 2026

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 13th May, 2026, and the Minutes of the Protocol Committee Meeting of 13th May, 2026, were proposed by Cllr John Fleming and seconded by Cllr Marty Murphy.

1.3 Matters Arising

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

Sympathies

The members advised that all sympathies were recorded at the main Council meeting on Monday.

Congratulations

Cllr Fleming congratulated the St Kearns Commemoration Committee on their recent event, and Debbie O'Rourke, as she steps down as manager of the Raheen Family Resource Centre.

Cllr Sheehan congratulated Seamus Kiely and Mick Conway on their successful William Marshall Weekend, and local Sean Miley in the recent launch of his book of poetry.

Cllr Barden congratulated the Wexford Senior Footballers for reaching the quarter finals of the Tailteann Cup, and the Annabelle Foundation on their recent launch.

Cllr B. Murphy congratulated the organisers of the AIMS Choral Festival, noting that it was great to see the road closed and a huge crowd out enjoying the great weather.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

2.1. District Manager Report

The District Manager delivered his report before taking queries from the members:

Annual Meeting

A reminder that the date for the NRMD Annual Meeting was agreed and set at the previous monthly meeting for Wednesday 24th June at 3.30pm.

EVENTS

Summer Sessions

The New Ross Summer Sessions takes place again this year in the Library Park, with Saturday evening concerts at 7pm during the months of July & August. Beginning on 4th July, all of the events are free to attend, having been significantly funded and supported by the Elected Members of NRMD & Wexford County Council. The concerts will feature a variety of artists with something for everyone, and the full list of performers is below. All Members are invited to attend. St Michaels Theatre wish to thank the Members for their continued support of this festival.

July 4th Black Rose Dc Duo with Peter M Smith & Larry Hogan

July 11th The Ivy Sisters

July 18th Guitar Festival – Teen Spirit (1pm)

July 25th Calini Lua

Aug 1st Simple Things

Aug 8th George Murphy

Aug 15th Simon Casey

Aug 22nd NR&D Pipe Band

Wextrad – John Dwyer Weekend New Ross

I am delighted to announce that a new Trad festival will take place in New Ross from 14th-16th August 2026. As a legacy from the Wexford Fleadh, the non-profit WexTrad CLG was formed with the remit of promoting and growing traditional Irish music and set dancing in the county. Up until its final year in 2023, Feile John Dwyer took place in Waterford annually, and the WexTrad New Ross sub-committee are now reviving this festival and moving it to New Ross, where the renowned musician and composer John Dwyer spent most of his life.

The weekend will bring high quality guest musicians to town for a series of workshops with children and those learning instruments, along with performances in multiple locations, both outdoor and indoor. Local publicans are getting involved as venues and it is hoped that what will start small this year, may grow into a bigger festival in the years to come. The full provisional programme of events is attached to this report. The festival will coincide with the opening weekend of Heritage Week which has traditional music as a theme this year and is supported by the Heritage Officer of WCC and the Elected Members of the New Ross Municipal District.

Guitar Festival Launched

The 2026 New Ross Guitar Festival has been officially launched, and tickets are now on sale. The festival runs from 16th-19th July in New Ross, with a performance in Kilesk Church also. The main event will see legendary Irish Band 'Something Happens' take to the stage in St Michaels Theatre on the Saturday night and we wish the festival, supported by the NRMD members here, all the best.

America 250

As announced at our last meeting, €5,500 in funding has been secured from the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport for 'America at 250' in New Ross, to be administered through the JFK Trust. As part of a nationwide events programme, the JFK Trust will hold a series of talks at the Kennedy Homestead and then live music and food at the Dunbrody Visitor Centre on 27th June. Further details have now been confirmed and are attached to this report. Our thanks to County Librarian Eileen Morrissey for her support with this event.

PROJECTS

Quay Street Regeneration

We are delighted to confirm that the Dept. of Rural and Community Development & the Gealtacht has given NRMD the 'green light' to proceed to tender for the construction phase of the Quay Street Regeneration Project.

As explained at the May meeting, a new QS report has seen a more realistic cost envelope based on a variety of ground factors following surveys and detailed design, in addition to construction cost increases since the original Feb 2024 QS report. The NRMD had supplied all relevant documents to the Dept. and had held two meetings outlining all details with the RRDF Section.

We are thrilled to get this vote of confidence from the Dept., likely based on our past delivery of projects. The tender will now be advertised on eTenders asap. A meeting is scheduled with our consultants Malone O'Regan tomorrow to begin this process.

Sports Capital Pearse Park

Following the announcement at our last meeting of formal approval to proceed from the Dept. of Culture, Communications and Sport, the Project Team has started scheduling the various successful contractors and we plan to deliver these works before the end of the year.

Memorial Bench Area Pearse Park

The Project Team in the district has been working on a small memorial area at the Town Park. The plan is to locate a number of benches together in a quiet corner with some planters and a granite stone marking this reflective space.

The benches are designed to accommodate multiple memorial plaques in their middle sections and will allow for members of the public to add a plaque recognising their deceased loved one publicly. Details on the application process and cost per plaque are being finalised, as is the design layout, and will be brought to the next meeting.

Our thanks to the Age Friendly Officer and to our outgoing Cathaoirleach for their financial support on the benches for this area.

OTHER ITEMS

Hanging Baskets & Summer Planting

The members will hopefully have noticed our colourful hanging baskets and planters have now been installed for the summer season. Our sincere thanks to Town Gardener Sean Whelan and all the town crew who have produced such wonderful displays again this year. Norman bunting was hung this month on North & South Street to add further colour to our Destination Town during the summer and festival season. A number of areas and lanes have been power washed and some paint refreshed also. Electrical boxes have been identified for repainting and this work is being scheduled.

National TRO Visit to New Ross

Working with the Town Regeneration Officer and Town Centre First Team, NRMD hosted a national visit of TRO's from all over Ireland on 27th & 28th May. Following a meeting in the Brandon House Hotel, the group visited the Dunbrody Ship and then were toured through the town by Eamonn Hore, taking in all of the many regeneration projects, including the Riverwalk/Flood Protection, Emigrant Park, Pearse Park, Brennans Lane/The Shambles, High Hill Norman Gardens, Library Park and Conduit Lane. The first day finished with a reception in the Tholsel with the Leas Cathaoirleach, Chair of the Town Centre First Team and Chief Executive all speaking. Day two saw the group visit Duncannon Fort where I walked them through the works and project there, followed by a Q&A session around project delivery in general.

The feedback was excellent and very complimentary of the amount of work done in New Ross over the past 10-15 years in particular. Many of the TRO's left with ideas picked up from us but most notably, with the promise to return with their families and spend some time holidaying in the area.

New Ross Family Fun Day, Pearse Park Sunday 21st June 11am – 3pm

The Sports Active Team of Wexford County Council, in partnership with Healthy Wexford, is delighted to announce the New Ross Family Fun Day will return this year. Come down to Pearse Park for a day full of fun for the whole family!

A DJ will be on hand to supply the best tunes for the day.

Throughout the day there will be free fun and games available all over the Park with representatives from New Ross Rugby Football Club, the Football Association of Ireland, Wexford Cricket, Orientation Club, Youth New Ross, New Ros Library and much more! Don't worry if sport isn't your thing there will be arts and crafts, storytelling, and plenty of other activities to keep you busy.

The award winning Pearse Park is a fantastic amenity in New Ross Town. Thanks to the Councillors and team of New Ross Municipal District for their support of this event. We are thrilled to have such a location to host our Family Fun Day highlighting just how much fun can be had when you get out and active.

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to be a part of the high point of the summer in New Ross. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Cllr B. Murphy welcomed the Summer Sessions and Guitar Festival and advised that a French artist is composing a piece to acknowledge our link with Normandy.

Cllr Sheehan raised concerns regarding the new traffic wardens noting the level and nature of complaints that he has received.

Cllr M. Murphy highlighted the upcoming Duncannon Blue Flag event noting it is great for the area, and it's been 25 years since they last had a blue flag.

Cllr Sheehan asked that the district look into the ORIS scheme to ensure the skate park is eligible to apply.

Cllr Barden welcomed the TRO visit, noting that New Ross is leading the way in regeneration, and highlighted a great summer of events to look forward to.

Director Eamonn Hore responded to Cllr Sheehan on his concerns regarding traffic warden complaints advising that each traffic warden recruited receives training, fines are not issued arbitrarily highlighting that there is 15-20 minutes of a grace period to allow people time to purchase parking tickets.

The District Manager responded to Cllr Sheehan confirming that the district will look into the ORIS scheme for funding for the skate park.

2.2. Roads Report

The Executive Engineer delivered his report before taking queries from the members:

Cllr Barden thanked the Engineer for the road safety works in Newbawn, enquired if the CIS scheme in Tinnacarrick is finished, and asked for details on the Tomgarra bridge works.

Cllr Sheehan asked that a list of the flashing speed limit signs is circulated to the members so they can see where they have already been installed, and asked that bus shelters be installed at the Apex and Kennedy College.

Cllr Fleming enquired as to why Uisce Eireann are continually emptying the sewage plant at Ban na Cheile as it is not taken in charge.

Cllr Dwyer acknowledged the Engineer's commitment to visit the Bullawn to look at the road surface, and congratulated the Engineer for the progress on the public lighting at the Millhouse.

Cllr Barden raised concerns regarding the road surface at the entrance to Kilgarvan estate noting that clay is coming up and it is difficult for hearses to get into the graveyard.

Cllr M. Murphy asked for patching to be done at Monachee, Ramsgrange.

Cllr B. Murphy raised issue with the safe routes to school programme highlighting the number of schools left to be done, and noted that there are limitations for Clonroche school as it is on a national road with limited space.

The Executive Engineer responded to the members as follows:

- The CIS scheme in Tinnacarrick is completed and there is no more funding, if more funding becomes available towards the end of the year, they will return to finish the road.
- Met with fisheries regarding Tomgarrow bridge, a rock armour is to be installed, possibly in August.
- Kilgarvan is on the list to be patched.
- Will circulate the list of flashing speed limit signs.
- Will get an update from Active Travel regarding the bus shelters.
- Crew are currently patching roads, will add Monachee to list for patching.
- A traffic counter has been installed at the Bullawn, and its on the list for patching.
- Met with the public lighting contractor regarding the Millhouse road, awaiting ESB agreement and tree cutting.
- Clonroche is on list for Safe Route to Schools but not for 2026, as it's a national road the Safe Routes team are working with TII on the design.

Director Eamonn Hore responded to Cllr Fleming's query regarding Ban na Cheile advising that it is not a DPI scheme and will need to check on the status.

Cllr M. Murphy also enquired about the DPI schemes at Farrin Carrig, Duncannon and Arthurstown, and the upgrading of the Ramsgrange wastewater treatment plant. Mr Hore advised that contracts are signed for the DPIs, and that they met with the Department regarding the Ramsgrange works, that a Part 8 application is required and then Uisce Eireann will take it on.

Cllr M. Murphy asked the Templetown graveyard be maintained before the upcoming patron.

Cllr Dwyer reported the Lacken to Cushinstown road surface needs urgent attention.

Cllr Sheehan raised safety concerns regarding the junction onto the ring road from Integer asking that this be looked at to improve safety.

Cllr Barden reported the bollards at the Parish Pump have been hit and are damaged.

The Engineer responded as follows:

- The Heritage Officer is developing a conservation plan for Templetown church, will ensure the crew maintain the graveyard prior to the patron.
- The Lacken road is included in the funding request.

- Will look at the integer junction on the ring road.
- Will look at the bollards at the Parish Pump.

2.3. Housing Report

The Administrative Officer delivered her report before taking queries from the members:

Cllr Sheehan asked for a breakdown of the properties receiving retrofitting works by district.

Cllr Barden asked for an update on the development of the social housing units in Adamstown.

Cllr B. Murphy asked for clarification regarding the figures in the report as they don't add up.

Cllr Dwyer raised concerns regarding HAP landlords self-certifying and the length of time it takes for the Council to inspect those properties, noting he had submitted an FOI request for details on such inspections, and it was refused.

Cllr Fleming asked if AHBs can allocate properties to their own applicants rather than take someone off the housing list.

Cllr B. Murphy asked why there are no plans for Affordable Housing in New Ross.

Cllr Dwyer again asked for a Housing Roadshow for the district.

The AO responded to the members queries as follows:

- Will circulate breakdown of retrofit properties.
- Will get update on Adamstown development from Housing Construction.
- The figures from Cluid in the report were only received on Friday so those figures will be in next month's report.
- AHBs are not allowed to allocate new properties to their own applicants, WCC have nomination rights for certain length of time, usually 30 years., but this varies on funding, the scheme, and the length of time.
- A survey on affordable housing was carried out in New Ross and an EOI shared, with little interest from developers.
- Will look at organising a roadshow but do not want to raise expectations if no affordable housing scheme is available.

Cllr B. Murphy highlighted that there is not enough houses available to accommodate people moving back home with their young families, and that New Ross is losing such people to other districts due to lack of available housing.

Cllr M. Murphy further noted that even people with their own site, it is unaffordable to build with current prices, highlighting that those not eligible for social housing may never afford to own their own home.

Cllr Dwyer advised that he will be appealing the refusal of his FOI request.

2.3a. Housing Report - New Ross only

Noted.

2.3b. Housing Construction

Noted.

2.4. Planning Report

The Executive Planner introduced the student planner, Aoife Harhen, to the members before delivering her report and taking queries from the members:

Cllr Barden enquired about the figures for exempted developments, and if there is any update on the new legislation for the new exemptions.

Cllr M. Murphy raised concerns regarding the approval of planning for a solar farm in Gusserane, highlighting that 350 acres of fields will be used, plus a field full of batteries, expressing his disbelief that the planner wrote in their report that this development would not seriously injure the amenity of the area, and highlighting that 140 submissions were made against the development.

Cllr Dwyer added to Cllr M. Murphy's comments noting that Councillors have lost their input regarding such applications.

Cllr Barden highlighted that this decision represents a major shift from what local people want, and this decision has now set a precedent for further developments.

The Executive Planner responded to the members as follows:

- The figures for exempted developments in her report refer to New Ross only.
- The full list of exemptions is set out in a schedule in the regulations.
- Still no update on new legislation.
- The Gusserane solar farm planning application is still within the appeals period and is therefore a live application and cannot comment on same.

2.4a. Planning – Grants

Noted.

2.4b. Planning - Refusals

Noted.

2.5. Environment Report

The Senior Staff Officer delivered her report before taking queries from the members:

Cllr Dwyer acknowledged the Environmental Warden's visit to the town and noted that the bins have been removed from Mary Street.

Cllr M. Murphy enquired about an update on works to the slipway in Fethard.

The SSO responded to the members as follows:

- Since the Warden called to some properties on Mary Street, 9 bins have been removed and a further 2 brought in by the owners.
- The Coastal Engineer has contacted the Department of Environment for an update on funding, but no response yet.

2.6. *Special Projects Report*

In the absence of a member of the Special Projects team, District Manager, Alan Fitzhenry, took queries from the members:

Cllr Fleming asked for an update on the Dunbrody extension noting the projected costs are above the budget and asking how much of a delay this might cause.

Director Eamonn Hore advised that Special Projects team will need to apply to the Department for additional funding.

2.7. *Libraries, Archives & Arts Report*

District Manager, Alan Fitzhenry, took queries from the members:

Cllr Dwyer enquired about the process to view the old corporation minute books.

Mr Fitzhenry advised they are awaiting a specialist cabinet for the display, which can then be loaned to New Ross.

2.8. *Community Development Report*

Noted.

2.9. *Fire Services Report*

An Cathaoirleach noted that the members are due an update from a member of the Fire Services and asked that they are invited to attend the next meeting.

2.10. *Members Portal Report*

Noted.

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

4. Other Business

5. Notice of Motion/s

6. Correspondence

6.1 Acknowledgement From Dept. of the Taoiseach

6.2 Letter of Invitation for New Ross Council to Danville, California

6.3 Minister letter regarding vacant housing units- Mercy Convent & Dept
Acknowledgement

6.4 Minister letter regarding CLÁR

Mr Fitzhenry checked with the members that the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach are ok to travel to Danville so that the District could proceed to book the travel.

7. AOB

Cllr Barden enquired if Wexford County Council signed an agreement with Kilkenny to allow the works to Ferry bridge to proceed, and if compensation will be made available for businesses affected by the closure.

Director Eamonn Hore confirmed an agreement has been signed, and that no compensation is available for necessary road improvement works.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed on the 8th July, 2026

Cllr John Fleming
An Cathaoirleach
New Ross Municipal District