

**WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council  
Held in the Ferrycarrig Hotel, Wexford Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 4.30pm**

**Attendance:**

**In the Chair:** Cllr. B. A. Murphy Cathaoirleach.

**Councillors:**

<b>BARDEN</b>	PAT				
<b>BELL</b>	MAURA			<b>MOORE</b>	JIM
<b>BOLGER</b>	ANDREW	<b>FLEMING</b>	JOHN	<b>MURPHY</b>	BRIDIN
<b>BREEN</b>	PIP	<b>FORDE</b>	TOM		
<b>BROWNE</b>	AIDAN	<b>HEGARTY</b>	JOHN	<b>O'SUILLEABHAIN</b>	FIONNTAIN
<b>BYRNE</b>	CATHAL				
		<b>KAVANAGH</b>	WILLIE	<b>SHEEHAN</b>	MICHAEL
<b>CODD</b>	JIM	<b>KELLY</b>	LEONARD		
<b>CODD-NOLAN</b>	KATHLEEN	<b>KENNY</b>	DONAL	<b>SULLIVAN</b>	JOE
<b>CONNCIK</b>	ANTHONY	<b>LAFFAN</b>	GARY	<b>WALSH</b>	OLIVER
				<b>WHELAN</b>	MICHAEL

**Officials:**

Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive  
 Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services  
 Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services  
 Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance  
 Ms. C. Godkin, A/Director of Services  
 Mr. D. Minogue, County Secretary

**Oireachtas:** Ms. V. Murphy, T.D.

**Apologies:** Cllrs: M. Farrell, D. Hynes, L. McDonald, J. Owens, F. Staples, G. Carthy,  
 D. Devereux, A. Donohoe, G. Lawlor, J. O'Rourke

Officials: Ms. A. Byrne, A/Director of Services

**Matters deferred from Council meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (2.30pm Meeting)**

**12. Deferred Notices of Motion from Council Meeting 13th September, 2021**

**12.1 Cllr. Leonard Kelly,**

*"I am calling on Wexford County Council, working with each municipal district to carry out a complete road safety audit on all estates that are taken in charge by Wexford County Council, with particular emphasis on the condition of existing speed ramps (and assessment of need for new ramp) and the erection of signage (Slow Down, Children at Play, etc.) as appropriate.*

*I have received many representations relating to reckless behaviour of some drivers within residential areas. The safety of residents and their children should not be dependent on makeshift signage or on discretionary funds being spent by individual councillors for things like speed ramps. Any and all safety upgrades need to be costed, budgeted and planned to give clarity to local residents.*

*We should not be found wanting in this regard."*

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. P. Barden and agreed by all.

**12.2 Cllr. Tom Forde**

*We ask for the Wexford County Council tenant handbook to be reviewed with a view to ensuring that the Council is held to the same standards and responsibilities that are expected of private landlords regarding repairs and other essential maintenance works*

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Forde, seconded by Cllr. F. O' Suilleabháin and agreed by all.

**13. Deferred Notices of Motion from Council Meeting 11th October, 2021**

**13.1 Cllr. J. Hegarty**

*"Wexford County Council commits to include all Council playgrounds, parks, beaches and areas designed for children and young people as part of the initial phase of the Healthy County Committee "Not around us" campaign. This will establish a series of places and spaces all over County Wexford where children and young people can enjoy themselves in a smoke and vape free environment."*

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan and agreed by all.

**13.2 Cllr. Tom Forde**

*"This council recognises that asking a homeless individual or family to take up emergency accommodation outside of their district and away from their place of work or school, can negatively impact their employment and the education of school children. In its efforts to support our homeless the council will endeavour, now and in the future, to secure or provide emergency accommodation within the district where an individual or family have become homeless.*

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Motion be amended as follows:

*"This council recognises that asking a homeless individual or family to take up emergency accommodation outside of their district and away from their place of work or school, can negatively impact their employment and the education of school children. In its efforts to support our homeless the council will endeavour, now and in the future, to secure or provide emergency accommodation within the **area** where an individual or family have become homeless.*

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. J. Codd and agreed by all.

**13.3 Cllr. L Kelly**

*"In 2021, Ireland's National Mental Health Budget represents only 5.1% of the national Health Budget. The World Health Organization recommends 12% Sláintecare recommends 10% The UK spends nearly 13% of their health budget on mental health.*

*Mental Health Reform, together with their 77 member organisations last month called on the Irish Government to increase Mental Health Budget spending to 10% of the total health budget by 2024. I ask the members of Wexford County Council to also support this call. "*

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde and agreed by all.

**13.4 Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin**

*"That Wexford County Council reviews what chemicals (and quantity of same) that we are adding to the county's water supply.*

*Working in cooperation with other bodies, we do an assessment of need and risk benefit analysis"*

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. F. O'Sullivan and seconded by Cllr. T. Forde.

Following discussion, it was agreed to send this Motion to the Transportation & Water Services SPC for consideration

**13.5 Cllr. Tom Forde**

*"This council calls on the government to recognise and vindicate the right of all persons to adequate housing by way of a referendum and asks that a date for a referendum on the right to housing is set for 2022."*

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Forde and seconded by Cllr. J. Codd.

Following discussion, the following amendment was proposed by Cllr. J. Hegarty and seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan

*"This council calls on the government to recognise and vindicate the right of all persons to adequate housing by way of a referendum and asks that a date for a referendum on the right to housing is set within the lifetime of this government to amend the constitution accordingly."*

The Motion as amended above was put and agreed on a show of hands.

**14. Notices of Motions**

**14.1 Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin**

*"That Wexford County Council recognises that there are a huge amount of vacant properties in this county, and that we will employ a full time Vacant Housing Officer for 2022 to endeavour to bring as many units as possible back into use, to help with affordable housing options"*

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. O'Suilleabhain, seconded by Cllr. J. Codd and agreed by all.

**14.2 Cllr. L. Kelly**

*"This motion calls on Wexford County Council to introduce new 'Hidden Disability' parking spaces at popular family locations across the county, similar to the very successful Hidden Disability Sunflower Spaces provided by Waterford County Council."*

*We all know families and individuals who are trying their best to navigate the world we live in, with a disability. It's a difficult thing to do, and we as a Local Authority have a duty to do all we can to improve our environment and make it more accessible.*

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan and agreed by all.

Following brief discussion, it was further agreed that the provision of "Hidden Disability" parking spaces would be initially implemented on a trial basis at some of the county's more popular visitor attractions.

#### **14.3 Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin**

*"That Wexford County Council acknowledges the need for clean, tasteless drinking water in all areas of the county, and that we will work with Irish Water to ensure we have UV filtration systems in place in all districts"*

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. F. O'Suilleabhain and seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly.

Following discussion, Cllr. F. O'Suilleabhain agreed to amend the Motion to remove the word "tasteless" and this was agreed by Cllr. Kelly.

The amended Motion thus read as follows:

*"That Wexford County Council acknowledges the need for clean drinking water in all areas of the county, and that we will work with Irish Water to ensure we have UV filtration systems in place in all districts"*

The amended Motion was put and agreed by all.

#### **15. Votes of Sympathy and Congratulations:**

The Members agreed a number of Votes of Sympathy and Congratulations. It was noted these are to be communicated by the proposing Member to the County Secretary in order to be properly recorded in the Minutes.

#### **16. AOB**

- It was agreed that the Council would write to the HSE to ask for a representative to attend a meeting of the Council to discuss the provision of homecare hours in the community.
- Housing Officers to recommence face-to-face meeting with their clients as soon as possible and when considered safe to do so.
- It was agreed that the Council would write to the HSE to ask that action be taken to address the current shortage of local General Practitioners.
- It was agreed to write to Eirgrid to urge the implementation of the necessary licencing system that would allow domestic producers of electricity to sell their excess electricity back to the national grid.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**

**Daingithe ar an                      lá de Nollaig, 2021.**

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***Cllr Barbara-Anne Murphy***  
***Cathaoirleach***

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***David Minogue,***  
***County Secretary***