

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF
THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE
PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON MONDAY,
15th JANUARY at 9.30 a.m.**

Attendance:

Councillors: Cllr. John O'Rourke (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Jackser Owens (Leas-Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Kathleen Codd-Nolan
Cllr. Cathal Byrne
Cllr. Barbara-Anne Murphy
Cllr. Aidan Browne

Officials: Ms Carolyne Godkin, Director of Service
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Manager
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Ms. Edel Nolan, Staff Officer
Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer
Mr Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer.
Ms Siobhan Murphy, Executive Scientist.
Mr Donal Gordan, Senior Staff Officer.

Via Teams: Mr Ronan Griffin, Assistant Staff Officer
Ms Dymphna O Connor, Senior Executive Officer
Ms Tara Farrell, Staff Officer
Ms Caroline Creane, A/Administrative Officer
Mr Mark Devereux, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr Liam Mannix, KPMG.

Apologies Officials:

Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer

At the request of Mr Ronan Griffin, the Cathaoirleach proceeded with item 2.2.2 Presentation on the 2-year Implementation Plan for the LECP and approval of the LECP, including the Implementation Plan, prior to same going to the full Council for adoption, as first item to be discussed.

Mr Liam Mannix from KPMG outlined the main points of the plan which had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

The members raised the following queries:

- How will the plan be implemented, will there be separate Town Teams?
- Funding where is it coming from, is it available?
- Is LCDC funding included for this?
- Who will have responsibility for implementation?
- Cllr Byrne requested that the work already carried out by the farming community in terms of Climate Action be reflected in the plan.

Mr Mannix responded to the members on all matters raised. Cllr O'Rourke then requested the members to vote to approve the plan.

On the proposal of Cllr Browne and seconded by Cllr Codd Nolan the members unanimously approved the plan.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the December Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 18th December 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Owens, the Minutes of the December Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 18th December 2023 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Matters Arising

Cllr Owens requested an update on the staff safety issue he raised regarding the closing of the Orchard Peace Park at December Meeting. The District Manager informed him that all relevant members of staff had been spoken too and there were no issues with continuing to close the park. She also informed the members that a quote for an extra CCTV camera had been ordered for the Presentation Centre which would cover the entrance to the park.

Cllr Byrne requested an update on the green space at Abbey Square. Senior Executive Engineer Mr Neville Shaw updated Cllr Byrne that plans for paving and planting are agreed with a contractor and works are due to commence in the next three to four weeks.

2. Consideration of Reports & Recommendations:

2.1 Planning

The Planning reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted.

Cllr Murphy requested that it be noted that there was no representative from Planning to answer members queries.

2.2 Community, Environment, Libraries & Fire Service

2.2.1 Creative Places Programme Steering Group.

Cllr O' Rourke requested a proposal for a councilor to go on the Steering Group. Cllr Owens proposed Cllr Murphy and Cllr O' Rourke seconded this.

2.7 Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update.

At this juncture Cllr O' Rourke noted Mr. Larry McHale's apologies and informed the members that Mr. Neville Shaw would take any questions on the Flood Defense Scheme report circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Owens wished Mr McHale all the best and will await his next update.

Cllr Codd Nolan requested an update on the date to lodge the application. Senior Executive Engineer Mr Neville Shaw committed to reverting with the update to Cllr Codd Nolan.

2.3 Rates and Other Matters Act 2019 Presentation.

Mr Donal Gordan, Senior Staff Officer, Rates collection section gave a presentation to the members on the Rates and Other Matters Act 2019.

The members raised the following queries and observations:

- The 8% interest rate on arrears is very high and will cripple some small businesses.
- If businesses are not in a position to use online portal will they still receive communication via post?
- If a business has an arrangement in place to pay by instalments, will they be charged interest if late on each instalment?
- Is this legislation or are the members being asked to vote on this?
- If a business owner has an outstanding rates bill from previous years will the interest be charged on this?
- With regards to buildings for sale, can money from sale of property be used to clear outstanding rates?
- Will Solicitors and Accountants be updated on this new Legislation?
- Will training be provided for the new online self-service portal?

Mr Gordon informed the members that this is legislation, no vote is required, the 8% interest will be charged from 1st January 2026 per annum on any rates outstanding from previous financial year. Training will be provided if requested on the online self-service portal and postal communication will still be available if requested. Wexford County Council will be issuing a Press release to notify all people concerned.

Community

The Community Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Cllr Byrne queried if Enniscorthy are applying for Community Recognition Funding?

The District Manager committed to arranging an update on the Community Recognition Funding for February's meeting.

Environment

The Environment Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Cllr Murphy queried if the LGMA have given an update on the use of CCTV cameras for illegal dumping? Cllr Murphy also requested a report on payment of fines upon conviction, are they paid in full? Cllr Murphy also queried if the Council can enforce the provision of the Brown Bin with waste companies?

Ms Siobhan Murphy, Executive Scientist with Environment answered all queries and confirmed that the Brown Bin provision is a contract between the bin provider and customer. Ms Murphy also committed to providing a report of payment of fines to the members.

Director of Services Ms Godkin update the members on the CCTV use and indicated that due to the need for review and approval by an internal board it would be the summertime before implementation of the Policy with regards to use in illegal dumping convictions.

Libraries & Fire Service

The Libraries and Fire Service Reports circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Cllr Owens requested an update on vacant positions in the Fire Service, Director of Services Ms Godkin committed to forwarding the numbers of vacancies to the members.

At this juncture the meeting paused for tea break.10.31am.
Meeting resumed at 10.45am.

2.3 Housing

The reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted. The Members put forward several queries and concerns, in particular:

- An update on the housing estate at Castlelands, Ferns?
- Report on the house for sale by Wexford County Council in Marley, Marshalstown.
- Clarity on the Emergency accommodation procedure for Homeless.

Director of Services Ms Godkin and Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer answered the members queries.

Cllr Byrne thanked the officials for the replies which were forwarded to them from last months meeting.

A discussion took place on the merits of the Choice Based Letting service to which Director of Services Ms Godkin committed to investigating the option of an automated reply email to notify applicants that they were unsuccessful.

Cllr Murphy requested that the motion she raised in the November meeting that the area choice should allow housing applicants to choose a district rather than specific towns/villages. Cllr Murphy also requested a breakdown of figures of numbers of housing applications by village in the district for next months meeting.

Cllr O Rourke commended the out of hours service provided by Wexford County Council and requested that contact is made with the Approved Housing Bodies Out of Hours service to try and improve their service and request that local trades people are used to ensure a more timely response.

2.4 Municipal District Report

The Municipal District report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

The District Manager noted that the date for the March meeting is on the Patricks weekend bank holiday. She requested the members to approve the change of date of the March meeting to 25th March 2024. This was proposed by Cllr Owens and seconded by Cllr Byrne.

Irish Business Against Litter National Survey

The latest nationwide survey by business group Irish Business Against Litter shows Enniscorthy: 8th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

This is a very strong result for Enniscorthy with six of the sites surveyed getting the top litter grade and three just shy of top ranking. There were no heavily littered sites.

Well done and thank you to all involved including Enniscorthy Municipal District Outdoor Staff and Enniscorthy Tidy Towns in keeping the town clean and tidy.

Director of Service Ms Godkin noted the excellent result and thanked everyone for their support and hard work to achieve same.

Policy to erect Civic Memorial Monument or Plaque – Enniscorthy Municipal District

The Enniscorthy Municipal District recognises that public commemoration monuments, plaques, trees and benches offer opportunities to honour, celebrate or remember persons or events of significance.

A Civic Memorial Committee was established in January 2023 comprising of the Chair of the Enniscorthy Municipal District and two nominated Elected Members, the Town Engineer, and the District Manager. Proposals for memorials by any person (including a member of the Committee) is submitted in writing on the official application form to the Town and District Manager.

Proposals will be assessed by the Civic Memorial Committee on a case-by-case basis and only one Civic Memorial per annum will be considered.

Enniscorthy Municipal District Tidy Towns Appreciation Evening

The appreciation evening for the Tidy Towns groups has been postponed. More details to follow when date and time has been agreed.

All-Weather Astro Pitch, Ross Road, Enniscorthy

Contractor to re-commence works on site next week 15th January 2023.

Works complete to date:-

- Excavation works and formation of levels complete.
- Drainage to pitch complete.
- Hardcore filling to pitch complete (final blinding layer required).
- Fencing in 90%.
- Retaining complete.
- Floodlight ducting and bases installed.

Contractor has informed that it will be 6-8 weeks to complete the project, pending no Irish Water delay.

Cllr Browne requested that officials ensure that all documents are in order to prevent any delays.

Orchard Peace Park

Prices are currently being sought to continue with the laying of macadam on the pathways through the park.

Macadam will give a much better surface for pedestrians and prevent water runoff erosion of the existing gravel pathways. It is hoped to carry out this work in the coming months when the weather is more suitable.

A Contractor Ger Kielty has been appointed to carry out repair work on the fencing surrounding the Nuns Graveyard. This specialised work has to be carried out sensitively and in line with good conservation practice, as this fence is of historical importance.

We currently do not have CCTV in the park, but we are investigating the option of providing CCTV coverage of the gates to the park from the existing system based at the Presentation Centre.

Quad

We are currently looking at converting a quad which we own in the area, and fitting it with a small Snow Plough

and gritter to the rear. The intention is to use this to help clear footpaths in the event of heavy snowfall.

It will be a number of weeks before this machine will be ready.

Civic Awards

The Civic Awards nomination forms have been circulated to the Members with a suggested timeline of.

- Recommendation of Sub Committee, for consideration by Members at the March Meeting of the Municipal.
- Presentation of awards at a function in May 2023.

Town and Village Renewal - Enniscorthy Well Being & Active Garden

The Part XI for the project has been approved by the Members and the project will now go to detailed design stage before going to tender. The main design concept will be kept.

Amenity & Arts Grants and Residents Associations Grant Scheme 2024

The Amenity & Arts Grants and Residents Associations Grant Scheme 2024 will be advertised shortly. More details to follow. Closing date for receipt of application will be on the 16th February 2024.

Cllr Murphy and Cllr O Rourke requested that the Amenity and Arts Grant and Resident Association Grant 2024 would be advertised as soon as possible and it would be made clear that it is for minor grant amounts.

Sister Cities Friendship Agreement – Blacktown City Council

Since the signing of our Sister Cities Friendship agreement with Blacktown City Council, they have planned to celebrate our relationship with a Battle of Vinegar Hill Memorial on the morning of 3rd March 2024 followed by an afternoon of Irish music, dance, food and culture. It will be the launch of our relationship into the community in Blacktown.

Various historical groups have been identified within their local area and are excited to be part of our relationship.

They will share the film and photographs with us following the event.

Outdoor Dining Structures

Awaiting receipt of Notice from the Dept of Housing, Local Govt & Heritage in relation to Section 254 Street Furniture fees and if the fees will be waived for 2024.

A review of the outdoor dining structures will commence shortly, and a report will be brought to the Members at the February Meeting of the Municipal.

Enniscorthy Heritage Led Plan

The draft plan has been circulated to the Steering Committee and the Members for their comments and observations. The final plan will be presented to the Members at the February meeting.

Vinegar Hill

Seating for the trails will be delivered at the end of January and will be installed by a local Contractor. Update on Heritage Panels will be provided at the February meeting.

Festival Programme 2024

St. Patricks Day Parade

The St. Patricks Day Parade Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th January at 6.00pm in the Enniscorthy Municipal District Office, Market Square. New Members are Needed! Please come along and make it a great St. Patricks Day Parade for Enniscorthy. Email emdreception@wexfordcoco.ie if you are interested.

Best Christmas Window Display Competition

Enniscorthy Municipal District Office in conjunction with Enniscorthy and District Chamber were delighted with the beautiful Christmas Window displays throughout the district this Christmas. Out of the 27 businesses who entered the most imaginative window display competition in both Enniscorthy and Bunclody the esteemed judges Mr Michael Dunbar and Mrs Annette Wall Dunbar chose the Heavenly Café as the overall winner.

The standard was very high, and the following were highly commended by the judges:

- Bernie's Florist, Ryland Rd, Bunclody
- D'arcy Blinds, Dunnes Carpark
- Evolv Healthcare, Castle Hill

Congratulations to Anastasija Liadova and Alberto Frongia of Heavenly Café, situated on Weafer Street. All the beautiful decorations and craftwork in the winning window are handmade by Anastasija's mother Jolanta. With 27 entries the standard was very high, the overall winner received €500 in Enniscorthy shopping vouchers and a beautiful trophy.

Cllr Owens queried when the Rock N Food Festival is scheduled to take place this year. Cllr Owens also requested that the District Manager arrange a meeting of all parties concerned with the parking/traffic issues in Pearse Road to try and find a solution. He also requested if something could be done to prevent bin lorries entering Rafter Street around lunchtime.

Cllr Murphy questioned if contact could be made with the Garda Commissioner's Office and ask that the CCTV schemes for both Enniscorthy and Bunclody could expedited.

The District Manager committed to arranging a meeting for the parties in Pearse Road. She also informed the members that the Rock N Food committee were discussing a change of date. A review of Rafter Street will also be undertaken to see if there is an issue.

Cllr Byrne requested an update on the online booking system for the Sportshub for the next meeting and also if a similar system is to be used for the New Astro Pitch upon opening.

2.5 Roads Report.

The Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Mr Dempsey, Executive Engineer informed the members that no allocations of funding have been received and once they are received he will draft a programme of works for the District in 2024.

The Members raised several queries to which Mr. Dempsey, Executive Engineer responded:

- The connection of lights on pedestrian crossing at bottom of Slaney Street.
- Works for the Galbally to Kereight Cross and the Ballagh road and the Stump Lane in Ferns to be added to draft programme of works.
- Schedule of works put in place for the cleaning of Streets in Enniscorthy to ensure Enniscorthy looks well for the tourist months.
- Various issues in Bunclody and surrounding areas with regards to speeding, signage and road repairs.
- Road at Monfin, Tommalossett with issue of water logging.
- Lights from Drumgoold to Castel Gardens Retirement Village not working.
- Various road repair issues in around Enniscorthy town needing attention.
- Road from Ballyorril to Marshalltown village requires repairs works and also the road from Boolabawn Lane to Davidstown GAA Grounds..

Cathaoirleach O Rourke thanked the roads crew for the works carried out in Carleysbridge and raised the issue of H.G.V.'s in built up areas that are not suitable for large vehicles and if more signage could be erected and if consulting with the Gardai may be a solution. He also requested that a speed ramp be reinstated outside the National School in Killealy to reduce speeding and the occurrence of accidents.

2.7 Special Projects.

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Mr Mark Devereux, Senior Executive Engineer updated the members on the Capital Programme for Enniscorthy District.

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

None

4. Correspondence.

None

5. Any Other Business.

5.1 District Development Projects 2023/24 Allocation. Deferred to the February Meeting. Mr Dempsey requested that if the members had specific projects in mind to please forward them to him and he would get costings for the next meeting.

This concluded the business of the Meeting at 12.05pm.

John O'Rourke
CATHAOIRLEACH

19/02/2024
DATE