

**MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE
PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON TUESDAY,
16th July at 9.30 a.m.**

Attendance:

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

Officials: Ms Carolyne Godkin, Director of Service
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Manager
Ms. Edel Nolan, Staff Officer
Ms. Lisa Moore, Assistant Staff Officer.
Mr Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer.
Mr Larry McHale, Project Resident Engineer.
Ms Siobhan Murphy, Executive Scientist.
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Mr. David Codd, Chief Technician, Roads.

Via Teams: Mr Marcus Linehan, Executive Planner.
Ms Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer.
Mr. Sean Myler, Senior Engineer.

Guest Speaker: Ms. Mary B O'Leary, Local Link, General Manager.

Apologies: Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer

Votes of Sympathy:

The Members expressed their sincere sympathies to the following:-

- The Goff Family, Enniscorthy on the passing of Henry Goff RIP.
- The Larkin Family, Enniscorthy on the passing of Theresa Larkin RIP.
- The Turner Family, Enniscorthy on the passing of Tony Turner RIP.
- The O'Connor Family, Gimont Avenue on the passing of Terry O'Connor RIP.

Congratulations:

The members extended their congratulations to Mr Ned Murphy, Moran Park for the achievement of his Greyhound coming second in the English Derby.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

- 1.1 Minutes of the May Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 20th May 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. Murphy the Minutes of the May Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 20th May 2024 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 26th June 2024

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. Murphy the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 26th June 2024 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.3 Matters Arising

Cllr O'Rourke thanked Officials for the assistance and funding provided to the works carried out recently at The Still Pond.

Cllr Murphy requested clarification on the lighting of the new pedestrian crossing in Bunclody as the lights did not seem to be working. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer committed to looking into this matter.

2. Consideration of Reports & Recommendations:

2.1 Planning

The Planning reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted.

The Members raised the following query:

- What is the current wait time for a pre planning meeting?
- How many derelict sites are in Enniscorthy District

The Executive Planner committed to reverting to the members with a reply.

2.2 Community, Environment, Libraries & Fire Service

The Community, Libraries and Fire Service reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted.

The members raised the following queries:

- Waste companies not collecting bins that are no longer in service, can they be contacted to request prompt removal and request the provision of Food Waste Bins.
- Can a campaign be commenced requesting private landowners to cut roadside hedges once permitted.
- How many Septic Tank inspections have been carried out in the District to date this year?
- An update on the use of mobile CCTV for illegal dumping purposes?
- Contact made with Waste Companies using Rafter Street to inform them that bins must be emptied on Rafter Street prior to the Street being closed each day.
- Update on the Playground in Bellefield?

Director of Services Ms Godkin and Siobhan Murphy, Executive Scientist answered all the members queries and committed to contacting the Waste Companies in regard to the issues raised.

2.3 Housing

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

- How many houses are expected to Built in Enniscorthy District in the next 2 years?
- More information on the proposed PPP houses in Bunclody.
- Expected date for releasing the houses at Castleland estate?
- Clarity on issues with Choice Base Letting system.

Director of Services Ms Godkin, Ms Helen Meehan Senior Staff Officer answered the members queries. Cllr Byrne proposed as Housing was such a major topic during the election that a Special Meeting be held with representatives from the Housing Section and the Members of Enniscorthy Municipal District prior to the September Meeting, Cllr Owens seconded this.

Cllr Murphy then proposed that Uisce Eireann be invited to attend the Monthly September Meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Owens.

2.3.1 Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme.

The draft policy was noted by the Members which will be brought to full council.

2.4 Municipal District Report

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

St Johns Community Activity Garden

A tender was advertised for the design and build of a new community activity garden with a small outdoor amphitheatre and sensory garden. Monageer Contracting have been appointed to carry out this work which will commence in the next couple of weeks. The garden will be open to the public.

The terms of the lease have been finalised with the HSE.

Playful Spaces Project

Funding was secured for Enniscorthy Municipal District from the Department of Health for musical equipment for the Orchard Peace Park

The aim of the project is to improve physical activity through playful ideas. The project will add more colour and bring more users to the park. The musical instruments will encourage the old and young to the park and improve activity and mental health while also encouraging interaction with others. Shaded areas to be included and access for all. The order for the musical instruments has been placed and expected date of delivery is early August.

All-Weather Astro Pitch, Ross Road, Enniscorthy

The official signing of the Maintenance and Operation contract between Wexford County Council and Wexford Community Alliance took place on Monday 20th May. The update on the project is as follow:

- Drainage Foul & Storm diversion (Irish Water) now complete this week and pressure test been carried out this week.
- Dug outs installed, floodlights installed, generator installed, fencing complete.
- Final blinding and grading to commence next week to the pitch for carpet install
- Astro carpet installed circa 3 weeks time (commencing on week of 6th August)
- Moving, shaping and grading of soil to rear of pitch to commence next week

The expected completion date of the project is week commencing 19th August.

Shopfront Painting & Flower Grant Scheme 2024

We had a fantastic response to the scheme this year. The total number of applications received are as follows:-

29 applications for the Painting/Awning Grant Scheme

26 applications for the Flower Grant Scheme.

The total cost of the scheme for this year is approximately €11,500. The Flower Scheme deadline for submitting receipts is 17th July. Paint/Awning deadline for completion of works is 11th September. The scheme was introduced to improve the attractiveness of the town and make it a better to place to live, work and invest.

Enniscorthy MD Planting Programme

The EMD Planting Programme has commenced. The roundabouts were planted including Black Stoops, Aldi/Lidl roundabout and near Abbey Square.

Planters were also filled and planted in various locations around the town including Island road, Abbey Square and at the Railway Station.

Boxes were placed on the municipal building and on railings in Abbey square.

The Still Pond Forgeland, Enniscorthy

The Engineer has met with both the Environment section and some of the residents regarding the future works in maintaining this pond.

The island was cut back and cleared of dead trees and invasive plants. Some of the trees taken out were replaced with new ones.

Enniscorthy Tidy Towns

Enniscorthy Tidy Towns were successful in obtaining grant funding to link up with a local artist and secondary school to bring a colour to utility boxes around town. Permissions are being sought at present and draft artwork will be submitted to EMD for approval.

Tidy Towns Groups Appreciation Evening

Enniscorthy Municipal District hosted a Tidy Towns Appreciation evening on Thursday 23rd May in Enniscorthy Castle to thank them for their commitment and continued efforts in keeping Enniscorthy District tidy and looking its best.

The Tidy Towns Groups that attended on the night were from Bree, Bunclody, Ballindaggin, Enniscorthy, Ferns and Killealy.

Informative presentations given at the event were from Frank Burke, Climate Action Co-Ordinator Wexford County Council and Christy Boylan, Adjudicator for the Tidy Towns Competition (Ireland). Entertainment was provided by well-known Wexford harpist Una Walsh.

Enniscorthy Walking Trails

Works were completed on the extension of 600m to the Slaney River trail. This work will allow accessible access to the complete river walk where previously the Urrin Bridge provided a barrier to persons in wheelchairs or mobility scooters.

Users can enter the loop before the footbridge at the end of the Prom and walk on a new path up to Munster Hill, across St. Johns Bridge, enter the Davis Mills site and walk down by the side of the Urrin and rejoin the main Slaney River trail by walking under the railway bridge. The only outstanding item is the height control barrier at Davis Mills.

The Riverside walk was also widened and resurfaced along its length.

The official opening will take place in the coming weeks.

Creative Places Enniscorthy Project

Enniscorthy MD are delighted to support the Creative Places Enniscorthy project. Following on from a recent Open Call 20 projects will be funded through the programme. Creative Places Enniscorthy is dedicated to fostering creativity cultural diversity and community engagement through innovative arts and culture programmes.

Festival Programme 2024

Fleadh Cheoil Fringe Events Enniscorthy

Enniscorthy was buzzing with excitement as EMD played host to the internationally renowned TikTok sensation, The Gardiner Brother in a spectacular Fringe Fleadh

event. They wowed crowds at Vinegar Hill , Enniscorthy Castle, Market Square and Slaney Street under the colourful umbrellas. The video has reached almost 100k plays on social media which will be viewed by their fans all around the world.

There was plenty of Cheoil & Craic when The Wild Turkey's played at The National 1798 Rebellion Centre for Rebellion Day.

A Traditional Irish Music Busking Competition took place on Saturday 22nd June in Enniscorthy Town. Prizes for the competition were:-

1st Prize €500 – 2nd Prize €300 3rd - Prize €150.

Well done to all that took part and provided some great entertainment to the Town. 1st Place was awarded to the O'Donoghue Family, 2nd Place went to CarraigBan CCE and 3rd place went to Brother and Sister Group Ar Nos Na Gaoithe.

Celtics Routes played at The Village at Wheelocks Strawberry weekend on Saturday 6th July

Unfortunately, due to the weather Danescastle Music Group pop up events were cancelled.

The members raised the following queries:

- An update of future plans for extending the country walk and if an application will be ready for future ORIS Funding?
- Update on CCTV Schemes for Enniscorthy and Bunclody?
- An update on the proposed works on the old Murphy Flood's site.

Cllr O'Rourke commended the Staff of Enniscorthy Municipal District Office on the running of the successful Fleadh Frige events in Enniscorthy. Cllr O'Rourke requested that the traffic bye laws be reviewed to include weekend closure for Rafter Street.

Cllr Murphy also thanked the Staff of Enniscorthy Municipal District for the beautiful planting around the town.

Cathaoirleach Browne at this juncture called for a break in the meeting to allow for tea 10.20am.

Meeting resumed at 10.36am.

2.5 Roads Report.

2.5.1 New Default 60km/h Speed Limit Presentation.

Mr. David Codd, Chief Technician, Roads Section presented to the Members the new default 60km/h speed limit scheme. A discussion took place around clarity of requirements

and the roll out of the scheme and when the Scheme would be brought to main council for adoption.

At this juncture Ms. Mary B O'Leary joined the meeting at 10.48am.

The Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. The members raised the following queries:

- When would line marking throughout the District take place?
- Could a review be carried out on the junction at the top of Weafer Street?
- Parking issues at Railway Square.
- Various roads throughout the District are in poor condition and will need attention.
- The small bridge at the Still Pond – Can a yield-and-go system be put in place similar to Carley's Bridge?
- A request for an audit of Signs and poles throughout the town to remove any that are unnecessary or damaged.
- The need for traffic management to be put in place on big match days in both GAA grounds within the Town, by the GAA Boards.

Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer for roads replied to the members queries and committed to speaking with GAA Boards with regards to traffic management on big match days.

2.5.2 Wexford Local Link update.

Ms Mary B O'Leary, General Manager of the Local Link Service gave the members a presentation on the current Local Link Service provided to Enniscorthy District. The members thanked Ms O'Leary and all at local Link for providing such a vital service in the District and requested further information on the Community Car Scheme. The Members also committed to assisting Local Link to ensure a Town bus Service is secured for Enniscorthy Town.

2.6 Flood Defence Report.

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Mr Larry McHale updated the members and queries were raised to identify the what the options are going forward Cllr Byrne requested a presentation on this matter for the September Meeting.

The members queried if any response had been received further to the letter requesting a meeting with the new minister of Office of Public Works. The District Manager updated the members that receipt of correspondence had been acknowledged and it will be brought to the attention of the Minister.

2.7 Special Projects.

The Special Projects report circulated prior to the meeting was noted and Mr Sean Myler answered the Members queries.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne proposed that a special meeting with representatives from the Part XI/Part 8 for Market Square & Surrounding Streets (Revised Traffic arrangements & Public Realm Improvements) Plan be held in early September and Cllr Owens seconded the proposal.

On the proposal of Cllr. Bryne, seconded by Cllr. Kehoe it was agreed to suspend the Standing Orders for twenty minutes to allow the meeting to continue.

Cllr Owens wanted his dissatisfaction at the removal of 104 carparking spaces in the current plan noted as a matter of record.

A discussion took place around the upcoming works on the old Murphy Flood's site in the town centre, Mr Myler updated the Members that works are commencing in August and some minor traffic disruption will be expected. Cllr Byrne requested that Officials reach out to large retailers to see if they would be interested in the site.

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

3.1 Chair-designate to the following:

- Subcommittee to Erect a Memorial Plaque. Cllr Byrne proposed the Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne, Cllr Kehoe and Cllr Owens, this was seconded by Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne.
- Municipal Civic Honors Committee. Cllr Byrne proposed the Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne, Cllr Kehoe and Cllr O'Rourke, this was seconded by Cllr Owens.
- The Board of the National 1798 Rebellion Centre. Cllr O'Rourke proposed the Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne, Cllr Murphy and Cllr Byrne, this was seconded by Cllr Kehoe.

3.2 Schedule of Meetings.

The schedule of meetings with one amendment to change the March meeting to the fourth Tuesday of March was proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Kehoe.

On the proposal of Cllr. Bryne, seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke it was agreed to suspend the Standing Orders for a further ten minutes to allow the meeting to continue.

4. Correspondence.

The District Manager read to the Members a letter received from the Mayor of Blacktown City Council inviting a delegation to visit in 2025. Cllr Owens proposed that Cllr O'Rourke should attend as he was the Cathaoirleach when the delegation from Blacktown visited Enniscorthy in 2024. The was seconded by Cllr Murphy. The Director of Services noted that this would be brought to full Council for approval.

5. Any Other Business.

Cllr Murphy proposed that the Enniscorthy Municipal District explore the Electric Bike Scheme and the feasibility of this scheme for Enniscorthy Town. The Director of Services informed Cllr Murphy that Wexford County Council are already pursuing this Scheme. Cllr Owens requested that a Skate Park would be considered for Enniscorthy also.

Mr Neil Dempsey as a point of information noted to the Members that resurfacing works are due to commence in the second week of August at the junction of Hendricks Tyre's and Rectory Road which will cause some disruption to traffic.

Cllr's O'Rourke, Murphy, Byrne and Kehoe all noted their apologies for the Memorial Event on Thursday 18th for the Late John Urney Bryne.

This concluded the business of the Meeting at 12.30am.

Cllr Aidan Browne
CATHAOIRLEACH

17th September 2024
DATE