

**Minutes of the Rosslare Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on the 19th July 2023 at 14.30hrs in
the Council Chamber, County Hall, Carricklawn**

- Presiding:** Cllr Jim Moore– An Cathaoirleach
- Councillors:** Cllr Lisa McDonald - Leas Cathaoirleach
Cllr Ger Carthy
Cllr Jim Codd
- Officials:** Nóirín Cummins – District Manager
Annette O’Neill - District Director / Director of Services
Lynda Lacey – Financial Accountant
Sonia Hunt – Executive Planner
Caroline Creane – Senior Staff Officer (Housing)
Richard Morgan – RMD Housing Officer
Gerry Forde – Senior Engineer (Environment)
Cathrine Agnew – Ports, Past & Present Project Officer
Claude Clancy – Administrative Officer (Community)
Niall Conway - KPMG
Laura Gargan – Assistant Staff Officer
Dean Waters – Staff Officer
- Remote:** Cllr Frank Staples
Sharon Pettit on behalf of Verona Murphy TD - Oireachtas Member
- Apologies:** Ken Jones – District Engineer (Water)
Enda Waters – District Engineer (Roads)

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, welcomed all those in attendance, noted the apologies and commenced the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting 21st June 2023

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of June 21st 2023, were proposed by Cllr Ger Carthy and seconded by Cllr Jim Codd.

1.2 Annual Meeting 30th June 2023

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of June 30th 2023, were proposed by Cllr Ger Carthy and seconded by Cllr Jim Moore.

1.2 Matters Arising

The Members thanked the Executive for the completion of works at Carne Pier.

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

2.1 Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) – Discussion of draft LECP Actions, Objectives, and outcomes. Presented by KPMG

Claude Clancy, Administrative Officer (Community) gave an overview of the process to date, responded to the queries which arose before introducing the KPMG representative, Niall Conway.

Niall Conway proceeded to deliver his briefing to the Members.

An Cathaoirleach thanked Claude Clancy and Niall Conway for their attendance prior to their departure from the meeting.

2.2 Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Planning & Development Regulations 2000-2023 Part XI Application – Former Bank of Ireland Building, St Martin's Road, Rosslare Harbour.

On the proposal of Cllr Ger Carthy, seconded by Cllr Lisa McDonald, the Part XI application was approved as presented.

3. District Manager Report

3.1 District Managers Report

The District Manager delivered her monthly report and highlighted the following information;

Cullenstown Steps and Entrance

The galvanised steel railings at Cullenstown Steps have been installed. The official opening will take place on Friday 21st July.

Ashfield Roundabout - Update

The District Manager advised that agreement had now been reached with WCC's Roads Department, with the project now being at the advanced design stage.

The District Director then gave an overview of the project and expected timelines involved.

B2K (Bridgetown to Kilmore) Walkway/Greenway

Work has been progressing on a proposal to develop a 10km walkway/greenway from Bridgetown to Kilmore Quay. A feasibility study has been completed and a route has now been identified. Engagement with landowners is ongoing. Tender documents for a Single-party framework agreement for Design & Planning Related Consultancy Services are now being prepared for Phase 2 - Stage (i) Preliminary Design and Planning and this tender will be issued in the coming days. The outcome of this work will determine the planning process required and if the outcome is that this is a Part 8 process it is hoped that planning could be in place by the end of 2023 or early in 2024.

RMD Strategic Plan

Following the recent introduction of the Rosslare Municipal District Strategic Plan for 2024 – 2030 to the audience of community groups at the well-attended event at Johnstown Castle, the consultation process remains available to those still wishing to make a submission. Submissions can be made up to Friday 1st

September. After that date we will be finalising the plan and progressing to the implementation stage.

Rebellion 225

1798 Kilmore Quay Summer School – 3 Landlords, 3 Castles, 3 Leaders

As part of the 225th Anniversary of the Rebellion, Rosslare Municipal District hosted a three-part event in Kilmore Quay & Stella Maris Community Centre on Saturday June 24th.

The Members expressed their collective disappointment in connection with the advertising and event coverage of the RMD event in Kilmore Quay, which nonetheless had been a great success.

Following questions from the Members, the District Manager confirmed that an outside company/agency had been engaged by the Enterprise and Economic Section to publicise the countywide 225 Rebellion events.

The Members requested that a report on the matter be submitted from Billy Byrne, Senior Staff Officer- Economic Development, providing further detail of the works undertaken by the Company/Agency.

3.1.1 Project Update - Kilmore Quay Sewerage Scheme / Newsletter No.7

Noted

3.1.2 TFI Local Link Wexford - Route 387

Noted

3.1.3 Report on the Official Visit to Dunkirk

Noted

4. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, requested the reports as required noting the absence of the District Engineer or District Technician or any other representative from the Roads Department.

4.1 Roads Report

The District Manager confirmed that both the District Engineer and District Technician were on annual leave and that due to a meeting with TII no other representative was available attend.

The District Director advised the meeting that it was unfortunate but had been caused by the District Engineer's recent transfer to the District and pre-booked annual leave for both parties.

It was agreed that a full Roads Report should have been submitted even with the scheduled absence of the Engineer and Technician.

The District Manager advised the meeting that she had received an e-mail from Mark Collins, A/Senior Executive Engineer (Roads) confirming the following;

- *Road to St Margarets – ditches cut early this week*
- *Road at Murrintown (Cllr McDonald) – drainage started and contractors lined up for August*
- *Bus Shelters – Design works for Tagoat traffic calming to incorporate Bus Shelters is ongoing, it was a 14-week timescale for the design work to be completed, I would expect any return on this before the end of September. I've tried the consultant for an update but I've no answer yet.*

The Members agreed that the consultant's report be forwarded to TII with a subsequent response to be received by WCC prior to the September meeting.

Cllr Ger Carthy requested a full review and report from the first time that the Bus Shelters in Tagoat were raised. The report to include all timelines and **Wexford County Council** correspondence with **Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) / National Transport Authority (NTA)**.

The District Director agreed that the process was frustrating but that the District Team would continue with their efforts to ensure delivery wherever possible.

The Members expressed their frustration with the non-attendance of a Roads Department representative and requested that all their general maintenance issues be logged, if not already done so, and also that updates be made available on the following items;

- *Update on traffic counter for Our Lady's Island*
- *Codd's Cross*
- *Grange Road reinstatement works by contractor*
- *Browne's Castle hedge cutting scattergun approach*
- *Kilmore Quay traffic plan - Speed concerns*
- *Advertisement signs removal*
- *Bridge at Rackardstown*
- *Continuation of Roads Programme Timelines*
- *Grass to be cut back at crossroads, re safety concerns - New Line etc etc*
- *Accident at Hodge's Mill - request for a speed review and for foliage to be cut back. Serious concerns with the speed cars are traveling*
- *Traffic calming in Tagoat – Serious safety issue*
- *Cross of Scar – Collapsing*
- *Speed Limit Review - Update*

The District Manager agreed to raise the issues of concern with the District Engineer, agreeing to request the circulation of updates and responses.

4.1.1 Bus Shelter Progress Report

The Members requested that a progress report / update on the following outstanding works be made available;

- *Progressing – Bridgetown (#2)*
- *Progressing - Killinick*
- *Active Travel - Wellingtonbridge x2*
- *Active Travel – Kilrane x2*

- *NTA Application – Tagoat x2 (North & South)*
- *NTA Application – Drinagh x2 (North & South)*

4.2 Water Services Report

The absence of a Water Services representative and a Water Services monthly report was noted by the Members.

Draft Regional Plan

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, advised the meeting that a Draft Regional Plan was currently being developed for the South East by *Uisce Éireann* and that RMD needed to be aware of this process.

4.3 Housing Report

The Senior Staff Officer introduced the new RMD Housing Officer, Richard Morgan, and then delivered the previously circulated report.

Cllr Lisa McDonald emphasised the need for the RMD Housing Officer to be present at future monthly meetings.

The Senior Staff Officer agreed to investigate the feasibility of this request.

4.3.1 Rosslare MD Specific

The Housing Senior Staff Officer delivered the Rosslare MD specific housing report and responded to queries from the Members.

One bedroom accommodation

Following comment from the Members regarding the need for a plan of action in the delivery of 1-bedroom accommodation within the district, the Senior Staff Officer agreed to investigate and respond on this at the next meeting.

Emergency Accommodation

Following comment from the Members, the Senior Staff Officer advised that there had been no uptake with the emergency accommodation EOI after the ongoing advertisement campaign.

A discussion followed.

The Senior Staff Officer confirmed that she will request an update on the homeless situation from the Homeless Coordinator agreeing to circulate to the Members once received.

Integrity of Information within the Housing Report

The Members noted that 2 substantial developments were missing from the Housing Reports, Grantstown and Murrintown.

The Senior Staff Officer confirmed that an update would be requested and circulated.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, requested that any updates regarding Housing be circulated to all the Members.

4.3.2 Choice Based Lettings

The Senior Staff Officer Caroline gave an overview and presentation on the new CBL application process before responding to questions from the Members.

The Senior Staff Officer confirmed that staff in the Housing Department, Libraries, & District Offices have completed training sessions and will be available and able to assist.

4.4 Planning Report

The previously circulated report was introduced by the Executive Planner.

Refusals & Pre-Planning Meetings

Following comment from Cllr Frank Staples regarding the refusal rate and whether each applicant had applied for and subsequently received a pre-planning meeting, the Executive Planner agreed to again assess the refusal reasons and pre-planning meeting ratio for any obvious connection between the figures and to provide an update at the next meeting.

4.4.1 Planning Decisions – Grants

Noted.

4.4.2 Planning Decisions – Refusals

Noted.

4.5 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

The content of the previously circulated report was noted.

4.6 Community Development Report

The content of the previously circulated report was noted.

4.7 Environment Report

The S.E. Environment delivered the previously circulated report before responding to the queries raised by the Members, whilst also confirming or giving updates on the following items:

Carne Pier

The S.E. Environment advised the meeting that works were now complete.

Bearlough Beach – Accessible Parking

The S.E. Environment confirmed that accessible parking was now complete at the entrance to the beach.

Rosslare Strand

Following observations at the previous meeting from Cllr Lisa McDonald regarding the increasing number of stones on the beach, the S.E. Environment confirmed that the situation was being monitored, whilst again recognising the difficulties in addressing the problem.

The S.E. Environment also confirmed that the Beach Wheelchair Mat area was now fully operational and accessible.

Cllr Lisa McDonald acknowledged and thanked the S.E Environment for this work and requested that Beach Wheelchair Mat signage be erected.

Ballygrangan's

Following comment at the previous meeting from An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, regarding the ever-worsening coastal erosion situation and impending road collapse, the S.E. Environment confirmed that following a site visit, his department would be engaging closely with Roads department to secure funding for road protection works at the site.

Water Safety

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, expressed concern over the safety of some of the Beaches in the District and requested a review of swimming notices / signage and an audit of life buoys, whilst acknowledging that local knowledge and local communities had a significant role to play in advising and assisting newcomers or visitors to a location.

The S.E. Environment agreed to liaise with the Water Safety Officer in this regard.

4.7.1 Seaview / Coastal Erosion - Update

The S.E. Environment gave a presentation to the Members on the coastal erosion scheme and confirmed the following;

- *Final draft design of erosion works completed.*
- *Consultations underway with relevant landowners.*
- *Ecological/Environment reports indicate that an NIS is not required and Part 8 process will apply.*
- *Part 8 process to commence August/September.*
- *Tenders for works will be sought while Part 8 process is in progress.*

4.7.2 Ports Past & Present – Project Officer, Cathrine Agnew

The Project Officer, Cathrine Agnew gave a presentation to the Members on the Ports Past & Present Project, advising that the project was now coming to an end.

The S.E Environment thanked Cathrine Agnew for her great work over the last few years and stated that she was leaving behind a great legacy. The Members agreed with the comments of the S.E. Environment.

4.8 Fire Services Report

Noted.

4.9 Special Projects – Greenway Update

The District Manager advised the Members that no further update was available at present.

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Notice of Motion/s –

None

7. Any Other Business

Joint Policing Committee – Quarterly Meetings

Following a request from An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, for the next meeting to be arranged in September, the District Manager advised that she would send the appropriate invitation to Divisional Officer, Chief Superintendent Derek Hughes and District Officer, Superintendent James Doyle.

Retirement of the District Director / Head of Finance and ICT

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, paid tribute to the District Director in advance of her forthcoming retirement in her 44th year of loyal & dedicated service to Wexford County Council, reserving most praise for her leadership, integrity, drive, and commitment in her role as District Director of Rosslare Municipal District over the last 4 years.

The Members both individually and collectively congratulated the District Director on her fantastic career and acknowledged that she was a fine public servant, before voicing their appreciation for all the work she had completed in the Rosslare District.

The District Manager also acknowledged the support, guidance, and assistance that the District Director had shown in their time working together in the District, stating that her passion and love of the District had really shone through over the last 4 years in all the projects that she was involved with.

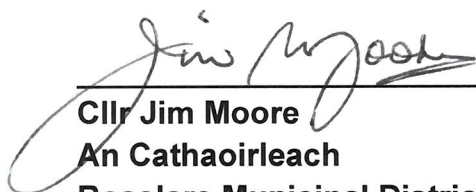
The District Director, Annette O'Neill, thanked everyone for their kind words and acknowledgements, stating that she was extremely proud of the District and that she was leaving it in safe hands to continue to build on the momentum and progress that the Members and District Staff had made over the last 4 years.

8. Special Business (*Internal / External Presentations etc*).

None

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed on the 20th September 2023


Cllr Jim Moore
An Cathaoirleach
Rosslare Municipal District