

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD ON MONDAY
15TH JUNE, 2020 AT 3.00 P.M. IN
THE PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY**

Attendance: Councillors:

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

Officials:

Ms. Carolyne Godkin, A/Director of Services
Mr. Ger Mackey, District Manager
Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Ms. Bernie Quigley, Staff Officer
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer
Ms. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer
Ms. Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the February Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 17th February, 2020

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Murphy the Minutes of the February Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 17th February, 2020 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Matters Arising

None.

It was agreed to take Item No. 3 at this juncture in the meeting.

3. Roads Report.

Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer highlighted the main points of the Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting, in particular the Roads Programme, Community Involvement Scheme, Hedge Cutting, Traffic Lights and School Safety works.

The Members put forward a number of queries to Mr. Dempsey:-

- Traffic Lights at Gaelscoil, Enniscorthy.
- Pedestrian Crossing at Duffry Gate, Enniscorthy. The Executive Engineer to bring a report to the July Meeting of this Committee.
- Hedgecutting – R746, Ballycreacus and Church Road, Bunclody.
- Condition of Road at Mandoran, Lucas Park, Carleysbridge and Davidstown.
- Glaslacken Bridge – repairs needed.
- Public Lighting at Ryland Cemetery, Bunclody.
- Replacement of Trees at The Mall, Bunclody.
- Drainage at Stone Park, Davidstown.
- Hedgecutting – media activity for landowners.
- Ballycarney Bridge.

Mr. Dempsey, Executive Engineer responded to all queries raised.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

2.1 Planning

Ms. Niamh Lennon attended the meeting to discuss planning matters. Queries highlighted included Part 5 Agreements and the current status of the County Development Plan. Ms. Lennon responded to all queries raised.

2.2 Housing, Community, Environment, Libraries and Fire Service

Housing

Ms. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer highlighted the main points of the Housing Report circulated to the Members prior to the meeting. A number of queries were highlighted by the Members, in particular:-

- Design of property at Ross Road.
- Number of properties for re-letting in Enniscorthy.
- What plans are in place, if any, to build social housing in the smaller villages throughout the Enniscorthy District.

A discussion took place regarding the need for social housing in smaller villages and towns. The Members asked what measures need to be in place to accommodate the provision of social housing in these areas, to which the officials responded. It was noted that the percentage of demand for housing in the larger towns is higher, however, the Director of Services stated that housing will look at the current list and provide a report for the July Meeting.

Community

The District Manager informed the Members that under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, five projects can be submitted from the County for funding. It was noted that the closing date for applications was the 3rd July, 2020. Mr. Mackey stated that he felt Bunclody would be suitable for the scheme and recommended that an application be made on their behalf.

On the proposal Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor O'Rourke it was agreed to submit an application for funding for Bunclody under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

The Members asked if Playgrounds were now open to the public following their closure due to the Covid-19 restrictions. The Director of Services stated that Wexford County Council Playgrounds were open with relevant signage in place. It was noted however that parent supervision was needed and that users were responsible for bringing their own sanitiser and any other safety provisions they felt necessary. It was further noted that Wexford County Council were not presently undertaking any disinfectant programme for playgrounds.

Councillor Browne asked if a designated time could be given for vulnerable children or children with special needs. The Director undertook to look at this but stated that the difficulty would be in policing the initiative. The District Manager suggested that perhaps this is an initiative that could be piloted in Enniscorthy.

Environment

A number of issues were highlighted by the Members, in particular illegal dumping. Mr. Mackey stated that engagement with the public is needed to educate people about the effects of illegal dumping.

The burning of rubbish at a site in Galbally was raised by Councillor Byrne and a brief discussion took place. It was noted that this issue was presently going through the necessary internal process in County Hall.

Issues with dog fouling and air quality were also raised and discussed.

Councillor Murphy congratulated the Library Service for the service they provided to the community during the pandemic.

2.3 Enterprise

The Members discussed the proposed capital projects for Enniscorthy and highlighted the importance for all projects to be completed within the timeframe specified.

Councillor Owens asked for an update on the Enniscorthy Sports Hub. The Director of Services responded by outlining the main points of the report circulated to the Members. Councillor Owens stated that it was the intention that the green area in the middle of the track be used for underage soccer clubs in the town.

A discussion took place and the District Manager stated that he would look at the history of the Sports Hub and bring a report to the July Meeting.

It was noted that there was a need for both an athletics track and a playing field for Soccer in the town.

Councillor O'Rourke enquired what the current position was on the possible switch of land at Turrett Rocks and land at the Milehouse. The District Manager stated that this was now in an advance stage.

2.4 Municipal District Report

Mr. Mackey, District Manager updated the Members on the main points of his report, circulated prior to the meeting, in particular:-

- Pedestrianisation of Market Square and adjoining streets after 7.00 p.m. to 11.30 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and possibility another day. The areas in question were outlined to the Members.
- Paint the Shopfront Scheme.
- Window Box Scheme.
- Proposal for a deep clean of the town centre and adjoining streets on the 22nd June, 2020, a process which will take approximately 10 days.
- Santas Enchanted Castle – proposal to make preliminary plans for same.
- Launch of social media platform to market the town as “Enniscorthy Smart Town”.

The Members put forward a number of queries, to which Mr. Mackey responded. Queries included whether any consultation had taken place with Hackney Companies regarding the proposed pedestrianisation, relocation of the Farmers Market, erection of stalls by the Mens and Womens Sheds during festivals taking place in town.

4. Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update.

Mr. Larry McHale attended the meeting to update the Members on the Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme.

It was noted that the Enniscorthy Scheme requires formal confirmation to proceed from the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (MPER). This is a statutory requirement under the Arterial Drainage Act, which now, under the recent European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Arterial Drainage) Regulations 2019, also requires the MPER to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed scheme. This will involve, inter alia, a formal review by MPER of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) prepared by the Commissioners and recently submitted (along with a Natura Impact Statement) to the MPER as part of the formal confirmation process.

In order to assist the MPER an informed decision to consent to the scheme, the EIA will require appropriate assessment, as required under the 2019 regulations, public consultation for a period of 30 days and a detailed technical review of the scheme by environmental consultants appointed by the MPER.

The Members outlined their disappointment with the delay in the scheme and on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Browne the Members agreed to write to the Minister Michael McGrath, Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform in this regard.

5. Water Services Report.

Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer updated the Members on the Water Services Report circulated prior to the meeting. The Members put forward a number of questions to Mr. O'Corcora to which he responded.

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

6.1 *GMA Festivals 2020*

The District Manager informed the attendees that due to the COVID-19 Pandemic a significant majority of festivals have been cancelled. It is hoped that Santas Enchanted Castle will go ahead in some way for 2020.

A discussion took place and it was noted that Mr. Mackey would seek advice from Finance regarding the budget allocated for Festivals in the Enniscorthy Municipal District for 2020.

The Members recommended that Santas Enchanted Castle be expanded to include a food element.

The District Manager asked for approval to transfer monies from the Festivals Budget 2020 to the Rock N Food Festival to clear a deficit from the 2019 festival. A brief discussion took place and on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor O'Rourke the Members agreed to the transfer of €13,000 from the 2020 GMA Festival Budget Allocation to the Rock N Food Festival.

6.2 Amenity & Arts Grants and Residents Association Grants Scheme 2020

The Members were presented with the final list of allocations to groups under the Amenity & Art Grant and the Residents Association Grant Schemes 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions it was agreed that no awards night would be facilitated for 2020.

On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Owens the Members unanimously agreed the allocation of monies to the successful groups as presented by the District Manager.

6.2 Schedule of Municipal District Works 2020

The Schedule of Municipal District Works 2020 as presented by the District Manager was agreed by the Members.

7. Correspondence.

None.

8. Any Other Business.

The Members took votes of sympathy under this item.

The Members expressed sincere sympathy to Mr. Diarmuid Houston, Senior Planner on the death of his mother.

Councillor Browne asked that the Enniscorthy Municipal District apply for funding under the initiative announced for the provision of cycle ways and footpaths which was announced recently to include for a cycle path from Enniscorthy to Ferns and the extension of the Walking Trails. The District Manager stated that the Walking Trails are being looked at as part of the Smart Town Project.

A number of other issues were raised by the Members, discussed and addressed by the Officials.

1798 Centre

The Director of Services briefed the Members on the proposed sale of the 1798 Centre. It was noted that the purchaser is proposing to create a Design Centre with Café to exhibit the work

of Eileen Gray. It was further noted that a Section 183 is still required and the Director of Services asked for the Members support for the proposed sale.

Councillor Byrne asked what plan was in place to rehouse the 1798 exhibit. The Director of Services responded by stating that Wexford County Council are not presently looking for an alternative venue for the exhibit. Ms. Godkin continued by stating that the exhibit would be stored in the short term with proposals to locate it in the Enniscorthy Castle in the long term.

Councillor Byrne stated that he had serious reservations about not rehousing the 1798 exhibit for viewing and couldn't support the sale unless a plan was in place to do so. Councillor Byrne highlighted the significance of 1798 as part of our history and did not feel that rehousing it to a small display in the Castle was appropriate. Councillor O'Rourke concurred with Councillor Browne and a discussion took place.

Annual General Meeting

On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Browne the Members agreed that the Annual General Meeting be held on Monday 29th June, 2020 in the a.m. in the County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE