

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD THROUGH MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY 19TH APRIL, 2021 AT 3.00 P.M.

Attendance: Councillors:

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

Officials:

Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Services
Ms. Elizabeth Hore, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Ms. Bernie Quigley, Staff Officer
Ms. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer
Ms. Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer

Visitors:

Ms. Verona Murphy, T.D.

Apologies:

Mr. Ger Mackey, District Manager

Votes of Sympathies

The Members expressed their sincere sympathies to the following:-

- The Fox Family on the death of Charlie Fox.
- The Carton Family on the death of Ita Carton.
- The O'Donoghue Family on the death of Paddy O'Donoghue.
- The Kearney and Hayden Families on the death of their mother Toni Kearney.

Congratulations

The Members acknowledged the Enniscorthy Defibrillator Initiative, an App which informs its users of the location of the nearest Defibrillator in the event of an emergency and congratulated Harry Nolan, 5th Year Student who designed the App.

The Members also extended congratulations to Ms. Maria Nolan on the completion of her first novel.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the March Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 15th March, 2021

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Byrne, the Minutes of the March Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 15th March, 2021 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Minutes of the In Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 15th March, 2021

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Owens, the Minutes of the In Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 15th March, 2021 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.3 Minutes of the Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy and Irish Water – 19th February, 2021

On the proposal of Councillor Owens, seconded by Councillor Codd-Nolan, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy with Irish Water held on 19th February, 2021 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.4 Matters Arising

Cllr. Byrne asked for an update on lands at Turrett Rocks. The Director of Services stated that there was no update regarding these lands, but she would come back to the Members as soon as available.

Cllr. O'Rourke asked if any progress had been made on the provision of a second Independent Living Unit for Enniscorthy. He continued by querying the current status of the Biodiversity Project at St. Aidan's Park. Cllr. O'Rourke stated that he welcomed the figures on Rent Debt circulated by the Housing Department and queried if the number of 312 related to the whole County or just the Enniscorthy District.

The Director of Services, Ms. Godkin stated that she had no further update on the provision of a second Independent Living Unit for the town. She stated that in relation to the Biodiversity Project she would meet the District Manager on site to look at the options available.

Cllr. Codd-Nolan asked if building had commenced in the Technology Park. It was noted that under the current restrictions only residential and childcare constructions was permitted, however the building was expected to commence once restrictions allow.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

2.1 Planning

Ms. Niamh Lennon attended the meeting to discuss planning matters and updated the Members on the Planning Report which was circulated prior to the meeting. The Members put forward a number of queries to Ms. Lennon, including:-

- Availability of a Planner on a daily basis to discuss general queries. Ms. Lennon confirmed that queries are dealt with through the CSU and that the Planners respond to all queries through this central service. It was noted that if a caller asks to speak to a specific Planner then they will contact them directly.
- If the widening of an entrance in a residential property requires Planning Permission. Ms. Lennon confirmed that this would require Planning Permission.
- Cllr. Murphy asked why the Planning Department did not make a submission on the planning application for a Wind Farm on the Blackstairs in Co. Carlow close to the Wexford Border. Ms. Lennon undertook to get back to Cllr. Murphy in this regard.

2.2 Housing

Ms. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer attended the meeting to update the Members on Housing and highlighted the main points of the Housing Report circulated prior to the meeting.

A number of queries were raised by the Members, in particular:-

- Taking in Charge of The Willows, Bunclody. Following a brief discussion, it was noted that the Willows was an affordable house initiative whereby Wexford County Council sold six sites. The residents wish that it be recognised as an estate and require works to be carried out.
- St. Joseph's Park – playground maintenance, grass cutting, ramps and footpaths.
- Lights in Moran Park out of order.
- Vacant Houses – Marconi Park, Bellevue Cottages and Carrigbawn.
- Re-Commencement of construction at Carleysbridge.
- House in Newtown Ferns – query regarding plans for this property.
- Urban Renewal Generation – request for Wexford Council Council to consider funding under this scheme as a priority.
- Mount Leinster Park – works to boundary wall, funding for same.
- Housing improvements for disabled persons – concreting of yard for safety of guard dog.
- Provision of housing in Enniscorthy Town by Housing Agencies.

Ms. Donoghue and Ms. Godkin responded to all questions raised. Ms. Donoghue undertook to investigate the Taking in Charge of The Willows in Bunclody. It was noted

that playground maintenance is dealt with under Community, however, Ms. Donoghue would speak to the Area Housing Officer in relation to the grass cutting.

It was further noted that the provision of funding under the Traveller Accommodation Programme is being explored in relation to the vacant house in Marconi Park and that Wexford County Council's Capital Section are dealing with the house in Newtown, Ferns.

The Director of Services spoke on affordable housing and confirmed that no serviced site initiative fund has yet been sought by Wexford County Council for Enniscorthy. The Housing section have progressed an affordable housing scheme in the Gorey area and as part of that a service site fund grant was secured at around s part of that a service site fund grant was secured at around €225,000. The key issue is that the legislation for affordable housing has yet to be passed, with the Bill due before the Oireactas in the coming weeks. The detail of this will provide the necessary framework for the local authority to commence the provision of affordable housing options. Ms. Godkin continued by stating that any affordable scheme will be a challenge as the gap between the cost of building a residential property and a subsidised proportion may still be a struggle for a significant number of people, however where there is demand the Council will seek to deliver.

Ms. Godkin undertook to investigate the issue of concrete works under improvements for a particular couple with special needs and the boundary wall at Mount Leinster View.

In relation to the construction of residential properties by Housing Agencies, Ms. Godkin stated that Wexford County Council had received expressions of interest and she would update the Members in due course, once these projects had received the necessary departmental approval.

Community, Environment, Libraries and Fire Service

Community

Under Community the Members outlined a number of concerns and requests, the following was discussed:-

- Maintenance of the Orchard Peace Park – provision of a Caretaker 2 – 3 days per week.
- Fairgreen Playground/Park – Anti Social Behaviour.
- Cleaning of the Promenade Playground.
- Cleaning of monuments in the town and district.

It was noted that the Community Department had in place an upgrade and cleaning programme for playgrounds with all playgrounds being checked regularly to ensure safety of all play equipment. The Director committed to a report on playgrounds for the next meeting.

Environment

Illegal dumping was raised and discussed, in particular the dumping of large items such as furniture and fridges. Cllr. Byrne asked if there was a sufficient number of bottle banks throughout the County as the bins located in the town are currently overflowing. Cllr. Browne asked if any progress had been made on a motion he put forward at a Wexford County Council Meeting for the provision of CR Codes on our bins. The Director of Services confirmed that there are 108 sites across the County and work has been completed with the private providers to ensure they are emptied. Ms. Godkin also confirmed that Wexford County Council currently have a 3 to 4-year contract in place but would look at the option of CR Coding when the contract ends.

Cllr. O'Rourke queried if a mattress amnesty was planned for Enniscorthy and asked if any plans had been made for the 'Old Dump' on the main Enniscorthy to New Ross Road.

Cllr. Murphy asked that for an extension of the Bottle Banks in Bunclody are they are constantly at their capacity.

The Director undertook to look at a potential extension. She continued by stating that funding has been sought from the department to facilitate a mattress amnesty and that Enniscorthy has been proposed as a location.

Air Quality

Mr. Brendan Cooney joined the meeting to discuss Air Quality. The report circulated by Mr. Cooney prior to the meeting was noted.

Mr. Cooney informed the Members that since the ban on smoky coal there has been some improvement on air quality in the district, however, further evidence will be necessary to ascertain the full impact. It was noted that next Winter should see the full extent of the benefits of switching to smokeless coal.

Mr. Cooney continued by stating that the EPA are in the process of taking over the air quality monitoring and it is being displayed on their website.

The Members welcomed the ban on smoky coal.

Libraries & Fire Service

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

2.3 Enterprise

Noted.

2.4 Economic Development Report

Ms. Liz Hore, Senior Executive Officer attended the meeting to update the Members on Economic Development. Ms. Hore highlighted the main points of her report, as follows:-

- Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC) - €1 Million funding for Businesses.
- WCC and Failte Ireland Outdoor Seating & Accessories Grant for Tourism & Hospitality Sector (OSAS).
- Wexford LEO National Pilot Initiative for SME's with Google, Facebook, Instagram and Shopify.
- Green for Micro.
- LEO Student Enterprise Awards.
- LEO Wexford Covid 19 Supports 2020.
- Film Industry Business.
- Wexford Tourism Recovery Taskforce.
- Visit Wexford.
- 2021 Marketing.

The Members thanked Ms. Hore for her report and welcomed the Outdoor Dining Initiative. Cllr. Browne asked if the funding granted last year for the self-employed was available this year. Ms. Hore confirmed that this scheme ended in December, 2020, however, she would enquire if there are any plans to extend to 2021.

A discussion took place and the Members thanked Ms. Hore for her attendance.

2.5 Municipal District Report

The main points of the Municipal District Report were highlighted by the Director of Services on the District Manager's behalf, as follows:-

- **Technology Park** – expected building works to commence at the end of April, 2021, subject to Covid restrictions being eased.
- **Sports Hub** – design work has commenced of the pavilion building for the Sports Hub. It is expected that construction works will commence in September, 2021.
- **Enniscorthy Trails Feedback** – extension of the Promenade Walk including the replacement of the existing footbridge over the River Urrin to include the loop to Boro Dale should be considered for design and preparation for funding calls which will be announced later in 2021.
- **Casual Trading** – enquiries received regarding the issuing of Outdoor Dining Trading Licences outside of the designated areas that currently exist in the town and which are governed by the Town Casual Trading Bye-Laws. A draft proposal was circulated to the Members.

Ms. Godkin asked the Members to consider a proposer and seconder for the proposal to allow the Enniscorthy Municipal District to pursue this amendment in the interim of the formal county wide review of the Bye-Laws.

The Members asked if areas other than that mentioned in the proposal would be considered. Ms. Godkin stated that a public call would be made and if any response from other areas outside Enniscorthy Town are received they will be considered.

A discussion took place and the Director of Service responded to all queries raised.

On the proposal of Cllr. Browne, seconded by Cllr. Codd-Nolan the draft proposal for Outdoor Dining Trading Licences as presented was approved by the Members.

3. Roads Report.

Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer attended the meeting and updated the Members on the main points of his report circulated prior to the meeting. Mr. Dempsey stated that works have commenced under the Active Travel Scheme.

Mr. Dempsey asked the Members for approval to commence works under the Discretionary Scheme as highlighted in the list circulated prior to the meeting. On the proposal of Cllr. Codd-Nolan, seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke, it was unanimously agreed to progress with works as outlined by Mr. Dempsey.

The Members put forward a number of queries, in particular:-

- Potholes – Killealy.
- Pedestrian Crossing – Blackstoops.
- Lights at Bridgemoor, Enniscorthy.
- Laneway at St. Senans to Salville – consideration for re-opening of laneway.
- Right of Way – Nunnery Road to Irish Street – consideration for re-opening.
- Footpaths – Tomduff.
- Local Improvement Scheme – update.
- Broadband – area to be covered.

Mr. Dempsey noted and responded to all queries. In relation to the Local Improvement Scheme, Mr. Dempsey confirmed that he has received no notification of funding to date.

Mr. Dempsey also stated that he is not fully aware of the roll out map for Broadband, however, he undertook to seek provision of a map and circulate to the Members. Mr. Dempsey continued by stating that funding will need to be sourced for the Pedestrian Crossing at the Graveyard, however, he could proceed with the design and feasibility report for same.

Mr. O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that the Right of Way at Nunnery Road was closed due to severe flooding and was currently not in a good state of repair and therefore could not be re-opened at this time. Mr. O'Corcora undertook to meet Cllr. Owens at the location to view.

4. Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update.

Mr. Larry McHale updated the Members on the main points of the Flood Defence Scheme Report circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr. Byrne asked that once the document goes back to the department that this Committee write to the Minister requesting a speedy approval. The Director of Services stated that once the document is returned to the OPW and subsequently signed by Minister McGrath, it will then go to Minister O'Donovan's department for signing. A letter could certainly be issued by the members once the details being sought have been addressed.

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 *Amenity & Arts Grant Scheme 2021 and Residents Association Grant Scheme 2021*

The Director of Services asked that this item be deferred to another meeting of this Committee to enable all Members to complete their group allocations. Cllr. Murphy asked that a Special Meeting be considered to allow for payments of the grants to be processed as soon as possible.

6.2 *Nominee to Sub Committee – Litter/Waste Action Committee*

Ms. Godkin asked for the Members nomination to the above Committee. Cllr. Browne expressed his interest in this position and on the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Codd-Nolan the Members agreed to nominate Cllr. Browne to the Litter/Waste Action Committee.

6.3 Section 183 – Lease of Drumgoold Community Centre to Ferns Diocesan Youth Service

A brief discussion took place around the services provided by the FDYS. Ms. Godkin undertook to source further details.

On the proposal of Cllr. Codd-Nolan, seconded by Cllr. Browne the Members approved the Section 183, Lease of Drumgoold community Centre to Ferns Diocesan Youth Service.

6.4 Taking in Charge – Numbers 1 – 42 inclusive, An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. Owens, seconded by Cllr. Byrne it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the Taking in Charge of Number 1 – 42 inclusive, An Glasan, Greenville Lane, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

8. Correspondence.

None.

9. Any Other Business.

Cllr. Browne asked if reports on the URDF Funding and Special Projects could be submitted each month for discussion at the monthly meetings of this Committee. Cllr. Byrne also asked that the Members consider the formation of a Sub Committee to deal with the future URDF Application and planning and to facilitate the preparation of a plan for Enniscorthy to 2040.

On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Codd-Nolan the Members agreed to the formation of a Sub Committee as outlined above.

The Director of Services stated that it was agreed that the Special Projects Team would report quarterly across all projects to the Committee, due to the fact that they are complex and move reasonably slowly over a monthly time period. In terms of the URDF application specifically, the members had agreed at the special in-committee meeting held recently, that once the team had received the detailed feedback from the department on the application, a special meeting would be convened with the full committee to review and consider next steps. As a separate piece of work to the URDF application, the Director committed to progressing work on developing a 2040 plan.

The Director of Services stated that while she fully appreciated the Member's views on this matter she would not be in favour of forming a new committee to deal with this topic, as the Enniscorthy Municipal District Committee is small, with only six Members, that the Members could consider dealing with the matter as part of the current committee by way of special

meetings. Cllr. Byrne responded by confirming that he had no issue with all six Members sitting on the committee and was happy to make this amendment to his proposal.

The urgency and importance of the matter was highlighted by all Members. A discussion took place and Cllr. Browne suggested that this item be discussed at the proposed Special Meeting to discuss the Amenity & Arts Grants and Resident Association Grants 2021.

Ms. Godkin stated that it was unlikely that any feedback from the department would be received in the next week, however if the feedback was received that the item could be added to the above meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. Browne, seconded by Cllr. Owens the Members agreed to the provision of a Buddy Bench for Ferns, to be funded by Wexford County Council.

Cllr. Byrne asked that Wexford County Council look at the provision of CCTV at the graveyards to tackle the issue of vandalism to graves.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE