

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON MONDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2021 AT 3.00 P.M.

Attendance: Councillors:

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

Officials:

Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive
Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Services
Ms. Bernie Quigley, A/District Administrator
Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer,
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer
Mr. Shay Howell, Senior Exec Architect
Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Ms Mary Clince, A/Staff Officer

Visitor:

Deputy Verona Murphy, T.D.,

Apologies:

Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the In Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 15th October 2021 – CCTV Enniscorthy & Bunclody.

On the proposal of Councillor Codd Nolan, seconded by Councillor O Rourke, the Minutes of the In Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 15th October 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 November 2021 – CCTV Bunclody.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Codd Nolan, the Minutes of the In Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of

Enniscorthy held on 15th November 2021 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the presence of Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive at the meeting.

1.3 Minutes of the November Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 15th November 2021.

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

Matters Arising: -

Cllr. Browne asked for a breakdown of the applications from businesses for the new Technology Park.

Cllr. O Rourke asked for an update on the possibility of taking over the old St Patrick's Special School site for sheltered housing and of the possibility of securing another emergency house. The question of this property being in the ownership of the Diocese of Ferns was raised.

In relation to the naming of the steps on Castle Hill, across from Enniscorthy Castle, Cllr. O'Rourke proposed that they be named Wilkie Way after Sam Wilkie Thorpe. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Owens and agreed.

Cllr. Murphy asked that further grant aid be sought under the Historic Towns Initiative funding.

Cllr. Owens raised the matter of emergency accommodation for people presenting homeless.

Ms. Godkin replied that in relation to St. Patrick's Special School, she had spoken with Tony Larkin, DOS, and was awaiting a response from the H.S.E. In relation to emergency accommodation, she stated that following public advertisement for the provision of accommodation, responses had only been received from businesses in New Ross and Courtown, and that each case was dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

In response to Cllr. Browne, Mr. Enright stated that it was proposed to accommodate new businesses in the Technology Park, and it was not intended to displace established businesses in the town.

1.4 Minutes of Special Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 1st December 2021 – Enniscorthy Community Allotments.

On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor O'Rourke, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 1st December 2021 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.5 Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 10th December 2021 – Strategic Housing Development at Carley's Bridge, Enniscorthy.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor O'Rourke, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 10th December 2021 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

2.1 Planning

The Planning Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

2.2 Housing

Ms. Roseanne Redmond attended the meeting to update the Members on Housing and highlighted the main points of the Housing Report circulated prior to the meeting.

Several queries were raised by the Members, in particular: -

- 38 Carrick Bán – Cllr. Murphy asked if this house had been relet.
- Costing of new build at Ross Road.

Ms. Redmond informed the Members that covid restrictions and, in some cases, shortages of materials, were currently a factor in delays with re-letting houses. It was proposed to readvertise for emergency accommodation in early 2022, when it was hoped some Enniscorthy properties would become available. The final account for the house on Ross Road was being prepared and a submission would be made to the Department, with Members being updated.

Community, Environment, Libraries and Fire Service

Community

The Community Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Environment

Cllr. Codd Nolan raised the matter of stags on the Ballycarney Road, which were causing a danger to motorists and asked if some signage could be erected.

Cllr. Murphy asked if the Roads or Environment Department were in a position to undertake a litter pick on the R746 from Doran's Bridge out to the Wexford boundary with Co. Wicklow.

Libraries & Fire Service

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

2.3 Municipal District Report

Ms. Quigley outlined the following items for discussion; -

- Enniscorthy Technology Park
- Sports Hub
- Enniscorthy Trails Feedback
- Outdoor Summer Assistance
- Historic Towns Initiative
- Enniscorthy Christmas Festival
- Local Live Performance Scheme 2021 (Round 2)
- Enniscorthy North Business District

The Members raised the following items:-

Lack of music and activity in the Market Square prior to Christmas.

Poor condition of bridge at the end of the Promenade – monies in place for its replacement with wheelchair access being available. Funding allocation of €200,000 widely welcomed for the resurfacing of the Riverside Trail.

Santa's Enchanted Castle – Members congratulated all involved in the staging of this event, stating that it added greatly to the vibrancy of the town and a lot of work had completed to ensure the safe running of this initiative.

3. Roads Report.

Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer updated the Members on the main points of the Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting.

Mr. Dempsey referred specifically to the Local Councillors Roads Discretionary Budgets, with some well worth projects being completed that would not have been achieved under normal roads funding and he outlined the draft proposals under this Scheme for 2022.

The Members put forward several queries, in particular: -

- Slabbed pathway on Templeshannon Quay opposite the Bus Stop Shop – slabs loose.
- Pedestrian Light not working outside the 1798 Centre.
- Sean Brown Court/Crescent – Footpath near the old Premium site.
- Road surface outside the Main Post Office in Enniscorthy.
- Hillview, Bree, - Path to be dropped one and a half metres to make assessable for wheelchair user.
- Need for ramp on St. Patrick's Street.
- Provision of footpath on road between Red Pats Cross and Tomduff – very dangerous presently for walkers and runners.
- Provision of footpath on Milehouse Road across from the Vocational College
- Trees to be cut at Springvalley – trees growing over the public lights.

Mr. Dempsey addressed all queries raised.

3:41 p.m. – At this juncture Cllr. O'Rourke left the Meeting.

Murphy Floods Hotel Site

Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive, attended the Meeting and informed Members that following efforts for some time to acquire the entire former Murphy Floods Hotel site, an offer has now been accepted. He said that since September 2005, when the hotel was burned down, the site had been an eyesore in the centre of town.

It is proposed that the new development will include a new Library, which will be a new resource, with longer opening hours and which will act as a meeting place, a space for students to study and a place for people to meet up. It was hoped to develop 10,000 sq. ft of retail space, with a direct link to Market Square, 18 two-bed apartments, with 24 car parking spaces in the basement. The provision of public toilets was also included in the plan, with direct access off the Main Street.

Mr. Enright stated that this was a positive day for Enniscorthy, with this derelict site coming into the possession of the Council. The Council will move to Part VIII in January and it is envisaged that this development would complement other proposed regeneration schemes, i.e. the Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme and developments of Templeshannon and around Enniscorthy Castle.

Mr. Enright said that there were two options in developing the site, one being Government funding and the other being the private sector. He concluded by thanking all involved in the acquisition and planning of this site.

Mr. Shay Howell, Senior Executive Architect proceeded to give Members a presentation of the plans with a detailed breakdown of the mixed-use development of the site. It was noted that the space above Wickhams Butchers would not be developed.

The Cathaoirleach and Members were unanimous in welcoming the announcement of the acquisition of this site, which has been an eyesore for many years. Cllr. Owens welcomed this great news and the contribution of the Wall family to Enniscorthy town over the years. Cllr. Codd Nolan asked that a café with seating area for the public be considered. Cllr. Murphy asked if the apartments would be under approved housing bodies and stressed the importance of having people living in the centre of the town. Cllr. Browne also welcomed this announcement and asked if any further car parking spaces could be accommodated. The possibility of the Main Street / Irish Street link accommodating two-way traffic was also raised.

Mr. Enright informed Members that the project would come with a construction cost of around €8m. He confirmed that the planning process would now be progressed, and he looked forward to the delivery of the project.

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. Owens thanked Deputy Verona Murphy for raising the matter of the Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme approval in the Dáil, and again stressed the urgency in having approval for the scheme signed off. Cllr. Codd Nolan also expressed dismay at the length of time taken for the approval of this scheme and she asked that the Ministers be invited to a Meeting. Cllr. Browne asked that Members stay united in the hope of getting approval to the scheme. Cllr. Murphy also expressed disappointment that the scheme's approval was still being assessed. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Byrne stated that he shared the frustrations of the Members and the fears of residents of the Island Road and Templeshannon areas.

Mr. McHale assured Members that the scheme was ready to progress once approval was granted and the Members thanked Mr. McHale for his patience in this matter.

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.

Mr. O'Corcora referred to the boil water notice, which was issued on 7th December, and lifted on 10th December 2021 and thanked Members for getting the information out to the public.

Cllr. Owens asked that the area where works were undertaken at the back of St. Senan' s Villas be re-instated to its original condition.

4:25 p.m. – at this juncture Cllr. Owens left the meeting

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

None

7. Correspondence

None.

8. Any Other Business.

Congratulations

Cllr. Codd Nolan congratulated the Kinsella Family on wining Irelands Fittest Family and congratulated Oulart The Ballagh Camogie Team on winning the All Ireland Camogie Championship Final.

Cllr. Browne congratulated Dina Hogan on her recent win in Madrid.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Byrne congratulated Ms. Mary Clince on her retirement from Wexford County Council after over 43 years' service and thanked her for her dedication over the years. All Members were unanimous in their good wishes to Mary on her retirement.

The Cathaoirleach wished everyone present a very happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE