

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF  
ENNISCORTHY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT  
HELD ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019 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:**

Mr. John Carley, Director of Services  
Mr. Ger Mackey, District Manager  
Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms. Bernie Quigley, Staff Officer  
Ms. Deirdre Kearns, Senior Executive Planner  
Ms. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer  
Mr. Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer  
Mr. Niall Carroll, Liaison Officer, Roads

**Apologies: Officials:**

Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer  
Mr. David Minogue, Senior Executive Officer

**1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

**1.1. Minutes of the November Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke, the Minutes of the November Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**1.2. Matters Arising.**

The Members queried a number of issues discussed at the November Meeting, in particular:-

- Taking in Charge, Belleview Court.
- Update on the issue of damage to road surface at Cooladine and Marshalstown by Contractors carrying out works on behalf of BAM.
- Issue of dust on a number of houses in the Marshalstown and Moyne area by roads used for transportation.
- Information on the outcome of the recent survey carried out to identify the way in which households dispose of their rubbish.

Mr. Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer undertook to bring these issues to the attention of Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer.

A number of other issues were raised by the Members at this point in the meeting, including Accessible Water Fountains throughout the town. Mr. Mackey, District Manager stated that the provision of Accessible Water Fountains can be included as part of the Health Town Initiative.

The Members raised the issue of the P.E. Hall at St. Aidan's School and the condition of same. Funding for the refurbishment of this building to facilitate a number of ASD Units for the school is not forthcoming resulting in the building being left empty and in bad condition for approximately 3 years.

The Members discussed the need for these units, St. Aidans being one of the biggest primary schools in the County with a number of children in the district waiting for access to same.

Cllr. Murphy proposed that this Committee write to the Minister asking for funding to be made available to this school. This was seconded by Cllr. Browne.

Cllr. Owens proposed that this Committee meet with the Minister by way of deputation to request funding for the school for the provision of ASD Units.

Following a lengthy discussion and recommendation from the District Manager, on the proposal of Cllr. Owens, seconded by Cllr. Byrne the Members agreed to contact the Board of Manager of St. Aidan's Primary School in the first instance, following which to contact Minister Joe McHugh, Minister for Education.

Cllr. Owens proposed that the Enniscorthy Municipal District offer free parking in Enniscorthy Town until Christmas Eve. Mr. Mackey responded by stating that this is a practice that has not worked in any of the towns over the years and that he would not be in favour of this proposal. Cllr. Owens proposal did not receive a seconder.

Cllr. Codd-Nolan stated that perhaps this could be reviewed next year.

## **2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:**

### **2.1. Planning**

Ms. Deirdre Kearns, Senior Executive Planner attended the meeting to discuss Planning Matters and responded to all queries raised, in particular the following was discussed:-

- County Development Plan.
- Amendments recommended by the Enniscorthy Municipal District to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. Ms. Kearns stated that the submission was very successful around the economic objective that Enniscorthy would be designated as a key town and as an exemplar of smart growth. Cllr. Byrne thanked Ms. Kearns and all the officials for their input into the submission and felt that this success was a demonstration of how the Members and Officials can work together for the betterment of the town.
- Taking in Charge – Mr. Tom Banville stated that all applications for Taking in Charge will be reviewed with the hope of significantly increasing the number of applications processed each year.
- Taking in Charge – Irish Water.

## **2.2. Housing, Community & Environment**

### **Housing**

Ms. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer attended the meeting to discuss Housing Matters as outlined in the report circulated prior to the meeting. The Members highlighted a number of concerns, in particular:-

- Homelessness.
- Provision of building houses in Villages throughout the district – water and sewerage capacities. A brief discussion took place regarding demand and it was recommended that this Committee invite Irish Water to a meeting to discuss lands identified by Wexford County Council for the provision of housing.

### **Community**

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

### **Environment**

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

### **Libraries & Fire Service**

Cllr. Codd Nolan highlighted the great services provided in the Libraries for children with special needs.

## **2.3 Enterprise**

Cllr. Byrne asked if the Officials would look to submit a proposal for the Enniscorthy District under the Rural Regeneration and Development Initiative by the Department of Rural & Community Development for large scale projects. The Officials undertook to examine this and report back to the Members at their January Meeting.

## **3. Derelict Sites – Mr. Tom Banville.**

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

Mr. Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer attended the meeting to update the Members on Derelict Sites.

In particular, Mr. Banville stated highlighted the following:-

- Increase in the collection of the Derelict Site Levy.
- Return to Housing Project – from Vacant to Valued.

A discussion took place and the Members highlighted a number of properties throughout the district that do not appear on the list. Mr. Banville asked the Members to submit any details of properties in question and he would review same.

It was agreed to return to Item No. 2.4.

## **2.4 Municipal District Report**

Mr. Ger Mackey, District Manager, outlined the main points of the Municipal District Report circulated to the Members. A brief discussion took place and all issues raised were noted, including:-

- Proposed Branding for Smart Town Initiative.
- Expression of Interest submitted for Leader Funding for feasibility study, following which, if successful, an invitation will be extended to make an application.
- Blueway – Enniscorthy to Wexford Town and Bunclody.

Mr. Mackey asked the Members for approval to commence with the proposed strategy for a Smart Town and for the appointment of a consultant to develop same. On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke the Members approved this proposal as presented by Mr. Mackey.

- Santa visit to East side of Town. The Members welcomed the provision of projects on this side of the Town.
- Provision of Mens and Womens Sheds.

## **4. Customer Service/Members Queries System – Mr. David Minogue.**

An apology from Mr. Minogue who was unable to attend the meeting was noted by the Members.

## **5. Roads Report.**

Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer took this item and an apology from Mr. Neil Dempsey who was unable to attend was noted.

Mr. O'Corcora updated the Members on the contents of the Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting.

The Members raised the following to which Mr. O'Corcora responded:-

- Condition of Greenville Lane, Church Lane, Monart, Marshalstown and Clonmore, Bree.
- Widening of Footpaths.
- Upgrade of Public Lighting.
- Lighting Improvements at Pedestrian Crossing on N80, Bunclody and at Roundabout.
- Community Involvement Scheme – online availability.
- Street Lighting at Roundabout at St. Mary's Cemetery, Enniscorthy out of order.

**6. Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update.**

Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer outlined the main points of the report circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Owens asked what the timeframe was for commencement of the scheme. Mr. McHale outlined the process with a proposed commencement date of the latter part of 2020.

The Director, Mr. Carley acknowledged the volume and complexity of work completed by Mr. McHale to bring the scheme to its current position. Cllr. Codd-Nolan thanked Mr. McHale for this work.

**7. Water Services Report.**

Mr. Tadhg O’Corcora attended the meeting to update the Members on Water Services. The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

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

None.

**9. Correspondence.**

None.

**9. Any Other Business.**

**Greyhound Track, Enniscorthy**

Cllr. Codd-Nolan aired her concerns with the proposed closure of the Greyhound Track in Enniscorthy and stated that she felt the Members needed to do their best to ensure that it remains open and operational. It was noted that a meeting was due to take place with the Minister this week in relation to same.

The Members agreed with Cllr. Codd-Nolan stating that the track was a business that provided employment, a hobby, a social gathering, a great community hub and the closure of same would be a loss to the Town.

Cllr. Browne asked if a representative from this Committee could attend the meeting. Cllr. Codd-Nolan undertook to make the necessary enquiries.

The Members outlined a number of other queries, including:-

- Springvalley Lane to Kilagoley – overgrown.
- Closure of Right of Way at the Nuns Field during construction of St. Aidan’s School. Request to be reopened.
- Barrier at Hillview Heights.
- Repairs needed to barrier at Fr. Cullens Terrace.
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## **Sports Hub**

Cllr. Browne highlighted his concerns that the Sports Hub is not being used to its full potential and queried the potential use of the green infill area as an Astro Pitch.

Mr. Mackey stated that a review of the hub will take place in 2020 which includes a proposal for the development of dressing rooms. Mr. Mackey continued by saying that it is important that any use of the inner field does not compromise the running track in any way and that the priority for next year is the provision of dressing room facilities.

## **Director of Services**

The District Manager took this opportunity to thank Mr. John Carley, Director of Services who is now retiring from Wexford County Council. Mr. Mackey stated that Mr. Carley has always been approachable and fair, a good Director to Enniscorthy, one who never stood in the way of a good idea. The District Manager on behalf of the staff at the Enniscorthy Municipal District wished Mr. Carley many years of health and happiness and thanked him for the support and kindness afforded to him over the last five years.

The Members wished to be associated with these words and praised Mr. Carley for the excellent work carried out by him during his time as Director to the Enniscorthy Municipal District. The Members thanked Mr. Carley for his help and wished him the best of luck in his retirement and good health to him and his family.

Mr. Carley thanked the Members and Officials for their kind words stating that he enjoyed his time in Enniscorthy. He highlighted a number of projects completed during his time in Enniscorthy giving a special mention to the 1916 Commemoration Programme. The Director continued by saying that anything he achieved in Enniscorthy was done so through the staff and Members who work together for the betterment of the Enniscorthy District.

Mr. Carley thanked all the staff in the Enniscorthy Municipal District for the work carried out by them in 2019, in particular Ms. Bernie Quigley, Secretary to the Committee. Mr. Carley also mentioned the press and thanked them for their contribution.

## **Congratulations**

- The Lions Club and St. Vincent De Paul for their contribution to the festivities in the town at the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December.
- The Hogan family from Ferns on reaching the final of Ireland Fittest Family 2019.
- The Live Crib which took place outside the I.F.A. Centre on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

Cllr. O'Rourke mentioned the loss of Touched by Suicide, especially at this time of year, which can be a sad time for a number of people. He continued by stating that support is available through the 'Talking Tom' service.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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**DATE**