

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF
ENNISCORTHY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
HELD ON MONDAY 18th NOVEMBER, 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
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Ms. Mary Cline, Assistant Staff Officer
Ms. Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner
Ms. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer
Ms. Helena Browne, Exec Technician, Road Design
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1. Minutes of the October Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on the 21st October, 2019.

On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke, the Minutes of the October Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 21st October, 2019 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of the In Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on the 21st October, 2019.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. Murphy, the Minutes of the In Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 21st October, 2019 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2. Matters Arising.

Cllr. Owens asked that he have access to the Minutes of a Meeting held last year with deputations from three Soccer Clubs in the town.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

2.1. Planning

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

- Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020.
Ms. Lennon informed the Members that the above scheme would be advertised in mid-January, 2020, with grant aid of up to 75%, applications would be dealt with on merit, with every effort to continue existing projects.

A discussion took place and the Members highlighted the following:-

- Cllr. Murphy asked for an update at the next Meeting on the preparation of the new County Development Plan. Cllr. Murphy also asked for an update on the Taking in Charge of Housing Estates.

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:-

- Cllr. Owens highlighted landlords selling properties, making it very hard for tenants to find property.
- Cllr. Browne enquired if Wexford County Council had any plans to buy houses at the back of Mace in Ferns.
- Cllr. Byrne thanked Ms. Donoghue for the comprehensive Housing Report. He welcomed the provision of 52 new houses in Greenville Lane being provided by Cluid. He enquired about the house on Ross Road. Mr. John Carley stated that this two bed house would be completed in the first quarter of 2020, with a tenant moving in in March, 2020.
- Cllr. Murphy highlighted the demand for housing in the rural villages and asked if there were any plans to build. Mr. John Carley stated that Wexford County Council's Architect had recently met with Irish Water, and this demand for housing was discussed. He said that the Council had land or 1 or 2 villages but that there was no definite proposals as of yet.
- In reply to Cllr. Codd Nolan, Mr. John Carley stated that the 17 house scheme at Carley's Bridge would take a year to 18 months for completion.

The Officials responded to all queries raised.

Community

- Cllr. Browne asked if a Town Committee could be set up for Ferns.
- Cllr. Codd Nolan stated that the provisions of the Community Grants Scheme needs to be narrowed down and asked that it be brought before the County Council Meeting in December, for further discussion.

Environment

- Cllr. Byrne stated that it was important to highlight that litter fines were being collected, with a total of €25,325 collected to date in 2019, up €5,000 on 2018 and stated that it was unfortunate that we have polluters.
- Cllr. O'Rourke welcomed the proactive approach taken this Halloween- volume of dumping went down hugely, calls outs down, signage in place, residents notified, costs significantly reduced, and he said well done to all involved.

- Cllr. Murphy highlighted that there were 83 cases of illegal dumping/clean ups in September, 2019 and asked if there were any prosecutions forthcoming from same. She also asked for an update on the survey being carried out asking people if they had litter bins.
- Mr. Carley assured Members that every effort was being made to bring prosecutions for litter offences and the Rapid Response Crews were proving very effective.
- In relation to air pollution, Mr. Carley informed Members that a report was brought before the SPC Meeting last week from which maps would be put on display and there were proposals to ban the sale of certain fuel items. He also said that a scientific report was being prepared.
- Cllr. Codd Nolan congratulated Ms. Cliona Connolly and the Environmental Team on the recent presentation of the Environmental Awards.

Libraries & Fire Service

- Cllr. Codd Nolan congratulated Bunclody Library on their initiative to provide radon monitors for monitoring of houses by members of the public.

2.3 Enterprise

- Cllr. Murphy requested a monthly report under Enterprise.

2.4 Municipal District Report

Community Development

Mr. Ger Mackey, District Manager, outlined the need for community development work to be undertaken in Enniscorthy Town and informed the Members that discussions were currently underway to develop an appropriate pilot model of community development in the east of town, to engage with the young people and to roll out to the whole town as a model of community development for Enniscorthy. A progress report will be presented at the December meeting of the Municipal District.

Smart Town Team

It is expected to start work shortly on the establishment of the Enniscorthy Smart Town Team. It is proposed to have a draft framework in place for consideration by the Municipal District Members at the December monthly meeting.

Vinegar Hill Greenway

Initial work has commenced on the concept of the Vinegar Hill Urban Greenway which is in essence connecting the historic and iconic battlefield site to the town. The process is at the very early stages, however, it is evident that the development of an urban greenway to the Hill is possible and has the potential to open up tourism and recreational possibilities for the town and district.

Christmas

Mr. Mackey informed Members that the Municipal District has invested in new and additional Christmas lighting for the town which will both enhance and compliment the festive atmosphere of Enniscorthy. The switch-on will take place on Saturday, 23rd November, 2019.

Santa's Enchanted Castle has returned to the Castle for 2019.

Mr. Mackey asked the Members to consider offering free parking over the Festive Season, with the recommendation of two hours free parking in all Town Car Parks

for the 30th November and 7th, 14th, 21st, 23rd and 24th December. This gesture would offer over 4,000 free parking spaces for shopping in Enniscorthy.

In relation to Vinegar Hill, Councillor Owens asked if it was possible to put in a toilet and also highlighted that a large bus was not able to access the Hill. Mr. Mackey stated that the main goal was to connect Vinegar Hill with the Town, there were constraints given the sensitive nature of the site, but that temporary facilities could be considered.

Cllr. Byrne welcomed the idea of free parking, stating that this was the first trading Christmas since the opening of the Bye-Pass, which had taken 6,600 cars out of the town.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Byrne, seconded by Cllr Owens and agreed that two hours free parking be implemented on Saturday, 30th November, Saturday, 7th, 14th, 21st, and Monday 23rd, Tuesday, 24th December, 2019.

3. Draft – County Wexford Road Traffic Special Speed Limit (Amendment) Bye Laws 2020.

Ms. Helena Browne, Exec Technician, Road Design, outlined details to the Elected Members of a Draft Amendment to the existing County Wexford Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2018. This Amendment, the “County Wexford Road Traffic Special Speed Limit (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2020” has been deemed necessary following the opening of the Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme and the proposed opening of the N25 New Ross PPP Scheme.

This amendment will allow the increase of the default Speed Limit from 80km/h to 100km/h on a section of the R723 (the old N25 – New Ross District) and sections of the R772 (the old N11 Enniscorthy and Gorey / Kilmuckridge District)

The sections of Regional Road on which it is proposed to increase the speed limits to 100 km/h are as follows;-

R723 (Old N25) Ballymacar Roundabout to Kents Cross Roundabout.

R772 (Old N11) Clogh Roundabout to Camolin

R772 (Old N11) Camolin to Ferns

R772 (Old N11) Ferns to Scarawalsh Roundabout

R772 (Old N11) Enniscorthy to Scurlocksbush Roundabout

Wexford County Council was further notified by Transport Infrastructure Ireland that they wish to review the current 120 km/h speed limit on the M11 Clogh Roundabout to the Frankfort Interchange.

The statutory process was set out and Members for informed that they could forward any comments or submissions directly to David Codd, Chief Technician, Roads Department or via the dedicated email address speedlimits@wexfordcoco.ie.

Mr. John Carley, told the Members that the stretch of road between Blackstoops Roundabout and Scarawalsh will remain at 80km/h because it is outside the Enniscorthy Development Plan area. He encouraged people to exercise increased safety precautions when out cycling or walking in the dark evenings.

Cllr Murphy enquired about the possibility of introducing cycle lanes.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr Owens, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Draft County Wexford Road Traffic Special Speed Limit (Amendment) Bye Laws, 2020. The bye laws will go through public consultation and will go back before the full County Council for adoption.

4. Roads Report.

Mr. Neil Dempsey attended the meeting to discuss roads matters and updated the Members on the contents of the Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting.

The Members raised the following items, to which Mr. Dempsey responded:-

- Roads and paths in Belleview Court, Ballyhogue.
- Potholes on Coolamela Lane and Knockduff Lane.
- Removal of speed ramps on the Main Street in Bunclody with no consultation.
- Tadhg O'Corcora informed the Members that foul sewer had been taken in charge in Belleview Court, Ballyhogue.
- Provision of ramp at Patrick's Street.
- Restoration of ramp at Duffry Gate.
- Traffic lights not working at the Gaelscoil.
- Bellefield Road, opposite GAA grounds – can that be looked at for a pedestrian crossing.
- Damage done by heavy vehicles to service roads by Contractors BAM, at Cooladine and Marshalstown. Road has sunk and water is not getting into the drainage system. They need to be held responsible for wear and tear.
- Works at the Gaelscoil causing damage to cars.

In relation to the Winter Ready Programme, Mr. John Carley assured Members that a Meeting of the Emergency Team had been held, Councillors should liaise with the District Engineer.

5. Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update.

Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer outlined the main points of the report circulated prior to the meeting. A brief discussion took place.

6. 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 and the Members raised a number of concerns to which Mr. O'Corcora responded.

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

None.

8. Correspondence.

None.

9. Any Other Business.

Congratulations

The Members extended congratulations to the following:-

- Cllr. Aidan Browne for being awarded Manager of the Year and his team Moyne Rangers on their successes during the year.
- Jockey, Patrick Dobbs, who had 5 wins in Dubai.
- Halfway House Bunclody on winning the Intermediate Football Final.

Votes of Sympathy

- Foley family on the death of Art Foley, Goalkeeper for Wexford Hurling Team for their 1955 and 1956 All Ireland wins.
- Dempsey Family, Moran Park, on the death of Lily.
- Sinnott Family, Moran Park, on the death of Bridget.
- Caffrey Family, Bohreen Hill, on the death of David.
- Connolly Family on the death of Mary.

Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora circulated a layout map to Members of proposals for erecting scaffolding/hoarding, pedestrian pathway and builders compound in the Market Square to facilitate renovation works to the Municipal District building, and it was envisaged that works would take in the region of 6 months. Adjacent shop owners will be notified.

The Members addressed a number of issues, in particular the following was discussed:-

- Provision of bins in Irish Street.
- 3 lights at Bellefield Lane – back of Bellefield Road.
- Signs for the Sports Hub.
- OPW to close Ferns Castle during winter months.
- Public consultation on the naming of the new roundabout.
- Plans for Templeshannon / double yellow line markings in Templeshannon.
- Disability parking spaces being taken up by people who have no disability discs.
- Planters stolen from graves in Bunclody – can overt CCTV be used.
- County Council Website – Community Group information – Members not notified.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE