

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF
ENNISCORTHY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
HELD ON MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY, 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, Acting Director of Services
Mr. Ger Mackey, District Manager
Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Amanda Byrne, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Mary Cline, Assistant Staff Officer
Ms. Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner
Ms. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

- 1.1. Minutes of the January Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on the 20th January, 2020.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Rourke seconded by Cllr. Murphy, the Minutes of the January Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 20th January, 2020 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2. Matters Arising.

Cllr. Owens asked that the new Members of the Municipal District, be informed of any relevant decisions taken prior to them joining the Municipal District.

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. Regarding derelict sites, Cllr. Murphy asked if the five sites had been selected for attention, in the Enniscorthy Municipal District area. Mr. Mackey undertook to bring a full report back to the March Meeting.

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. Browne questioned how many of the 72 vacant houses were in the Enniscorthy district. A discussion took place in relation to maintenance and the length of time it takes to re-let. Ms. Godkin informed Members that, on average, it took 30 weeks and assured Members that funding was not an issue where urgent repairs were required. Repairs were broken down into emergency, routine and planned, with 504 calls dealt with in January, 2020.
- Cllr. Owens raised the problem with water pressure and public lighting in Fr. Murphy Park and Fr. Murphy Close.
- Emergency accommodation was raised by Cllr. Byrne, and in reply Ms. Donoghue stated that there was 1 emergency house occupied in Enniscorthy, with another occupied on a leased basis, together with a homeless unit in Wexford and emergency B & B.
- Cllr. O' Rourke asked if Wexford County Council could look at including a deposit as part of the tenancy agreement which would be used to cover defects when tenants are transferring from one house to another. Cllr. Murphy asked if tenants could be signed up to refuse disposal before taking up tenancy, as the accumulation of rubbish was a big problem.

Ms. Godkin stated that only a small proportion of properties are be left back in bad condition, but refits could be very costly and solutions needed to be developed through the Strategic Policy Committee.

Community

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Mr. Mackey undertook to circulate Members with details of the €30,000 Healthy Ireland Small Grants Scheme before the March Meeting of the Municipal District.

Ms. Amanda Byrne was welcomed to the Meeting.

Environment

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Cllr. Browne raised the issue of dog fouling in the town, while Cllr. Owens enquired in relation to the provision of bins for dog fouling. Mr. Mackey stated that the problem was with the dog owner and it was their responsibility. A campaign was needed to highlight the issue and he undertook to talk to the Environment Section in relation to same.

Libraries & Fire Service

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

2.3 Enterprise

Update on the Enniscorthy Technology Park included in the Municipal District Managers Report.

2.4 Municipal District Report

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

- **Leo Rowsome Weekend 2020** - Proposal before the Members that the Municipal District will organise the inaugural Leo Rowsome Weekend in Ferns over the 18th, 19th and 20th September, 2020. This inaugural event will celebrate the contribution that Leo Rowsome made to traditional Irish music and in particular the Uilleann Pipes, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his death.
- **Paint the Shop Scheme 2020-2025** - The establishment of a “Paint the Shop Scheme” in Enniscorthy and Bunclody. In return for a “Paint the Shop Grant” the owner would arrange to have the business façade painted. It would be important that the advice of a colour consultant would be sought in order to achieve an overall look for both towns
- **Men’s and Women’s Sheds in Enniscorthy East** - A Public Consultative Meeting will be held over the coming weeks for the purpose of developing two new sheds on the East side of the town. The establishment of both community hubs will be the first steps in building a community development framework for the east of the town.
- **Smart Town Team** - Steering Group will take place directly after the February Meeting of the Municipal District. It is proposed that the membership of the team will be finalised and be approved at the March Meeting of the Municipal District.
- **Transforming Enniscorthy Team** - The high level Transforming Enniscorthy Team held its inaugural meeting on 14th February. The establishment of the team is an Invest Wexford initiative in partnership with the Municipal District and the Enniscorthy & District Chamber.
- **Public Realm Painting** - It is proposed to develop a community development initiative to clean and paint the street furniture and signs that make up the public realm in Enniscorthy. The public realm is in need of a “freshen up” and it is proposed to involve community groups in this initiative.
- **Enniscorthy Technology Park** - The development of Phase One, of the Technology Park is on schedule to commence construction in April, 2020. It is expected that this will be an 18 month construction project.
- **Connecting Fairgreen** - It is proposed to examine the feasibility of opening up the Fairgreen Public Park connecting to the Orchard Peace Park. Traffic movements have changed in the town since the opening of the motorway extension and this may have created an opportunity to reduce the priority of traffic over pedestrians creating a more people friendly/centered environment in this area of the town.

- A map of the roundabouts to Enniscorthy was circulated to Members and Mr. Mackey stated that a draft Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme was being prepared and the business community had expressed interest.
- **Civic Reception** - Any groups/individuals worthy of a civic reception to be submitted by the Enniscorthy Municipal District Members.

Members asked that Ferns be included in the Shopfront Improvements Scheme. Cllr. Browne asked if the green area opposite the Rugby Club could be fenced off as there was a big problem there with dog fouling.

Cllr. Owens raised pedestrian safety on Templeshannon Quay near the Bus Stop Shop.

Following discussion on the proposals included in the District Manager's Report, Mr. Mackey stated that it was important to try and grow enterprise and to make the town attractive to those who want to work in it.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Owens, seconded by Cllr. C. Byrne and agreed that the proposals outlined in the District Managers report of 17th February, 2020, be implemented, with the addition of Ferns to the Paint the Shop Scheme.

3. Wexford County Council (Prohibition of consumption of intoxicating liquor on streets and in public places) Draft Bye-Laws, 2020.

Ms. Amanda Byrne informed the Members that the draft bye-laws were being prepared with Solicitors and the Gardai and there would be advertised in due course with a two month review period.

4. Community Development Annual Service Delivery Plan.

Ms. Amanda Byrne gave a presentation to Members outlining the work of the Community Department of Wexford County Council, through supporting, co-operation and collaboration with communities to provide community development services in partnership with the Municipal Districts. Ms Byrne stated that communities needed to think about the outcomes they wanted to achieve and they would be available to help areas to develop their own plans.

The Members were given notice of a Community Expo event to be held on the 12th March, 2020 from 4.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy, from which referrals and appointments would be taken. Members were also told that the dates for submissions under the Town & Village Renewal had not yet been announced.

Cllr. Owens asked if the provision of flower beds, a statue, bins and seats could be looked at for the new graveyard in Enniscorthy.

5. Roads Report.

Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer highlighted the main points of the Roads Report circulated prior to the Meeting.

The Members raised the following:-

- Belleview Court, Ballyhogue – Estate not taken in charge – outstanding works to be done at a cost of €65,000 - €15,000 in a bond with a balance of €50,000. Mr. Neil Dempsey to come back to Members at the March meeting.
- Roads Budget.
- Ramp at Slaney View Park – road broken up.
- Large manholes at 11 and 96 Gimont Avenue, Enniscorthy.
- N80 Bunclody – ramp taken away without any consultation – traffic northbound was coming up too fast while the ramp on the Southside was also causing problems. Church Road can't get out onto the roadway. Cllr. Murphy acknowledged the first 700m of work on the Church Road, Bunclody.
- Bellefield Road – footpath taken out and not put back.

Mr. O'Corcora informed the Members that Coffey Northumberland were undertaking works for Irish Water and were back on site since Christmas and he undertook to take up the matter of the footpaths at Bellefield Road with them.

Mr. Mackey circulated a petition to the Members from the Raheenahone/Galbally Road Action Group.

6. Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update.

Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer outlined the main points of the report circulated prior to the meeting. Mr. McHale confirmed that tender documents for the shortlisting of contractors for the first contract were published on E-tenders in February. Wexford County Council handed over the scheme confirmation documents to the OPW in December and the OPW expects to issue the documents to the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform within the next month for the approval of the Minister.

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.

8.1 Extinguishment of Public Right of Way at Chapel Lane, Enniscorthy.

Report circulated to the Members of Enniscorthy Municipal District in the matter of the proposal to extinguish the public right at Chapel Lane, Enniscorthy, County Wexford in accordance with the terms of Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993.

The proposed extinguishment was advertised in the local papers on 19th November, 2019 and the relevant Notices were erected on site on the same date. Copies of the relevant Notices Maps etc., were available to view at both Wexford County Council Offices and the Offices of Enniscorthy Municipal District during the required period.

One submission was received within the required timeframe from Superintendent G. McGrath recommending the closure of Chapel Lane.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Owens, seconded by Cllr. J. O'Rourke, it was agreed to extinguish the public right of way at Chapel Lane, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

9. Civic Receptions.

It was agreed to meet In Committee at 2.00p.m. prior to the March Meeting of the Municipal District at 3.00 p.m. and the District Manager Mr. Mackey asked Members to submit their nominations prior to that Meeting, for approval.

10. Correspondence.

None.

11. Any Other Business.

A number of issues were highlighted under this item for discussion, including the following:-

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Godkin in her new role as Director of Services with responsibility for Enniscorthy Municipal District.

Mr. Ger Mackey congratulated the town of Enniscorthy on the return of three T.D.'s to Enniscorthy, Deputy Paul Kehoe, Deputy John Browne and Deputy Johnny Mythen.

Cllr. Browne sought an update on the water fonts for the town.

Refurbishment of Market Square – Mr. Mackey stated that this project had gone out to public tender, while Ms. Godkin added that this was an onerous procurement process.

Cllr. O'Rourke extended congratulations to Aoife McCrea of the Rapparees/Starlights Club who was part of the Marino Institute College Team in Dublin who won the Úi Mhaolagáin Final recently.

Cllr. Byrne asked if an extra crossing could be provided at the Bus Stop Shop on Templeshannon Quay and at the bottom of Slaney Street. Mr. Mackey undertook to check with the Road Safety Officer.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE