

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD ON MONDAY
20TH JULY, 2020 AT 3.00 P.M. IN
C.W.C.W., KILCANNON, ENNISCORTHY.**

Attendance: Councillors:

Barbara-Anne Murphy (Cathaoirleach)

Kathleen Codd-Nolan

Cathal Byrne

John O'Rourke

Aidan Browne

Jackser Owens

James Browne, T.D.

Officials:

Ms. Carolyne Godkin, A/Director of Services

Ms. Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services

Mr. Ger Mackey, District Manager

Mr. Brian Galvin, Sen Ex Engineer, Special Projects

Mr. Tom Fox, Temp Ex Engineer, Special Projects

Mr. Michael Jones, Ex Engineer, Special Projects

Ms Siobhan O'Neill, Special Projects

Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer

Ms. Mary Clince, Assistant Staff Officer

Ms. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer

Ms. Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner

Visitors:

Mr. Alan Sherwood, Sherwood Associates

Ms Maggie Moran, Sherwood Associates

Mr. Denis Byrne, Denis Byrne Architects

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the In Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 15th June, 2020

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Browne the Minutes of the June In Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 15th June, 2020 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Minutes of June Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 15th June, 2020

On the proposal of Councillor Codd Nolan, seconded by Councillor O'Rourke the Minutes of the June Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 15th June, 2020 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.3 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on Monday 29th June at 9.30 a.m in Block A, Training Room, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Browne the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 29th June, 2020 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach

1.4 Matters Arising

Cllr Browne raised the issue of the air quality in Enniscorthy, while Cllr Owens asked if there was any information on the provision of a university campus in Enniscorthy. Ms Godkin stated that the current air quality levels were good, and she would revert to the Members with further details.

2. Enniscorthy Tourism Project and Templeshannon Regeneration Project.

Mr. Brian Galvin, Head of Special Projects welcomed the opportunity to present the Members with a Tourism Plan Report prepared by Sherwood & Associates. He stated that following on from the investment in the Enniscorthy Bye-Pass and the upcoming Flood Relief Scheme, now was a good time to plan and to appraise different options and interventions to identify what people wanted as a tourism experience. The plan was compiled by Sherwood & Associates in conjunction with Denis Byrne Architects, Behaviour & Attitudes, Bright 3D and Storyline. Mr Galvin stated that an application for €15 million had been made in relation to the first two phases of the scheme and there would have to be an alignment to the Tourist Board in order to get funding.

As part of the study process the Consultants looked at various aspects of Enniscorthys potential, including defining the "offer of value" to visitors, assessing the key challenges and understanding the visitor market. The main aim of the plan was to develop Enniscorthy as a long-term sustainable tourism destination, capable of attracting in excess of 100,000 visitors to the town annually.

Mr. Alan Sherwood addressed the Members and outlined the following key objectives;

- To develop Enniscorthy as a long term sustainable tourism destination capable of attracting in excess of 100,000 visitors annually;
- Use the heritage and natural assets of the town for developing unique experiences that capture local distinctiveness, encouraging visitors to stay, explore and visit all year round;

- Design, develop and execute new tourism products/attractions/immersive experiences that meet and exceed visitor expectations and demands across all required market segments for overseas markets, domestic and local visitors and particularly those identified under Fáilte Ireland's proposition of Ireland's Ancient East and specifically under the Castles and Conquests (Norman) theme;
- Develop a positive use of Enniscorthys medieval town centre streetscape and the Slaney River as dominant and beneficial features of the town;

Mr. Denis Byrne, Architect felt that this was an opportunity to link the town, the castle and the river and to reveal Enniscorthy Castle again in its own grounds. He said the focus of the town would be placed on the Castle, Market Square, Abbey Square and Church Square in the area of St. Mary's Church.

Ms Siobhan O Neill of Special Projects stated that following an earlier consultation with the Members, it was agreed that Enniscorthy Castle would be put at the centre of any proposed development plan.

Mr. Sherwood outlined the following;-

The Castle Experience - The report recommended that the Castle grounds be returned to a landscaped open space that has potential to host events, while providing a constant link to the cultural offerings of the Castle and the Athenaeum. The Castle experience would be updated with guided and self-guided tours of newly designed exhibits. A wide range of interpretive techniques will be used to appeal to different audience groups, from actors dressed as Norman knights and 'real' historic characters, digital projections in the dungeons and fireplaces, interactive touchscreens, atmospheric lighting and soundscapes, tactile displays, set dressing and medieval games.

The Welcome Hub, Café/Retail - The 'Welcome Hub' projects above the roof line of the surrounding context; an urban gesture announcing the new public building. Enniscorthys new civic space encompasses Café, Retail and a 'Blackbox' /Immersive Experience within a flexible volume and provides a focal point for residents and visitors to the historic town.

The 'Blackbox'/immersive experience. The new 'Immersive Experience' will be a double-height flexible space capable of being used for seasonal events and festivals.

The Visitor Route – Enniscorthy has a particular feature that makes it unique for transport options – its river valley and Turret Rocks. The most compelling and impactful in terms of an approach would be the development of Ireland's only urban cable car. Visitors will arrive on Turret Rocks, and be transported by to Enniscorthy Castle by cable car. The Cable car will deliver a unique, signature experience

providing a thrilling sensory ride, when complete it will be the primary entrance route. Each car will have audio interpretation in multiple languages, giving visitors a warm welcome and brief introduction to Enniscorthy, pointing out key landmarks such as the River Slaney, Vinegar Hill and of course the Norman Castle, as they gain an overview of the landscape and providing unique photo opportunities.

These four key project elements encompass a number of different experiences, each works alone but together they create a 'must see' destination. They will be delivered in three phases.

- Phase 1 Castle enabling Works, Courtyard and Castle Upgrades
- Phase 2 The Welcome Hub, Café/Retail and Blackbox.
- Phase 3 Innovative Sustainable Transport - Turret Rocks, Car and Coach Park, visitor experience Cable Car.

The report outlined the following cost breakdown;-

- Phase 1 €8,225,000
- Phase 2 €9,100,000
- Phase 3 €13,100,000

Members welcomed the presentation, saying that it was ambitious and extensive.

Cllr Owens requested the facilitation of a public toilet on Vinegar Hill.

Cllr Codd Nolan welcomed the tourist plan, while highlighting parking as a possible obstacle.

Cllr O'Rourke referred to innovative ideas abroad and stated that the next generation would be so high tech and Enniscorthy needed to move with this very ambitious plan.

Cllr Browne also welcomed the overall plans presented and asked what the timeframe was. In reply, Mr. Brian Galvin said that land acquisition would be required but work could potentially begin in the third quarter of 2022, followed by Phase 2, with Phase 3 more likely being financed through the public sector.

Cllr Byrne stressed the strong republican and rebellion links with the town and the 1798 association with Enniscorthy, saying the story of 1798 and Vinegar Hill were unique, and needed to be preserved.

Deputy James Browne also attended the Meeting and welcomed the ambitious plans. He asked that Templeshannon be included as a fifth square in the overall plan. He referred to Vinegar Hill as a battle field and as a historic rather than a tourist site. He undertook to assist in any way he could.

Chairman, Cllr Murphy welcomed the very positive response to the presentation and said there was a lot of information to digest.

Templeshannon Regeneration Project.

Mr. Brian Galvin, outlined the objectives of the Templeshannon Regeneration strategy, as follows:-

- To develop a plan that will outline and support the urban renewal and development opportunities for the Templeshannon area;
- Enhance public realm and improve accessibility and traffic management in Templeshannon;
- Identify and deliver supporting infrastructural works;
- Improve the public realm and streetscape of Templeshannon;
- Manage the progressive transformation of the Swimming Pool & Leisure Centre car park to create a new public space and car park;
- Improve the connection to the west side of the river.

Mr. Michael Jones, Exec. Engineer, Special Projects, outlined proposals to develop a new pedestrian bridge over the River Slaney from the bottom of Slaney Street. This bridge would rise above the proposed new flood defence scheme work, would lead to the car park at the swimming pool in Templeshannon, and it would be an arched bridge.

Members were informed that the master planning for Templeshannon requires:-

- The delivery of an enhanced street and public realm in Templeshannon that facilitates all users;
- The transformation of the Leisure Centre car park;
- The construction of a new pedestrian bridge linking Templeshannon with the west side of the town.
- The development of the key urban blocks.

The preliminary design and planning of these elements is best achieved by the development of an overall masterplan that will co-ordinate the public works and the development of the new urban blocks by the private sector.

Delivery of the required infrastructural works, included;

- Developing, from the strategy, a masterplan that encompasses all aspects of the regeneration strategy;
- Securing planning from all aspects of the scheme (expected to require an application to An Bord Pleanála);
- Advancing the land acquisition, street works and transformation of the Leisure Centre Car Park as Phase 1 to facilitate development of Urban Block A and B.
- Advancing the pedestrian bridge to construction.

Mr. Brian Galvin informed Members that in May, 2020 Wexford County Council had made a URDF application for funding, which included three projects;

- Templeshannon

- Tourism Project
- Community / Food Hub.

It is proposed that these three projects will be delivered in a co-ordinated way to support urban regeneration and economic development within the entire town.

The successful delivery of these projects would require State, public and private sector investment.

Members were presented with the projected phasing and estimated costs of the works.

Cllr Byrne felt that it was important to highlight that there were two sides to the town, which should be funded equally. He also raised the width of the footpath at Toss Kavanaghs.

Following a discussion by the Members, the Cathaoirleach felt that a two-way system was absolutely necessary, while HGV's would not be allowed in the area and she looked forward to progressing with the scheme on receiving funding for same.

3. Town & Village Renewal Scheme – Covid 19 Acceleration.

Mr. Ger Mackey circulated Members with details of the new Town & Village Renewal Covid 19 Accelerated Measures Scheme 2020. There were six projects submitted under Round 1, and as outlined under the scheme criteria, five projects were approved by the Economic and Enterprise SPC, with a decision expected by the Department at end of July. Under Round 2 a further open call for projects was made.

It was proposed by Cllr Codd Nolan, seconded by Cllr Owens and agreed that funding be sought under Round 1 and Round 2 of this scheme.

4. Section 183 Notice for the Lease of Enniscorthy Courthouse.

Mr. Ger Mackey gave the Members notice of Wexford County Council's intention to lease Enniscorthy Courthouse, Court Street, Enniscorthy, in accordance with the terms set out hereunder:-

- To be leased to Opus Fund Services (Ire-Admin) Ltd., 118 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin 2.
- The term of the lease is for 10 years.
- The rent is €59,160 per annum with provision for adjusted lower rent until company grows its numbers of employees.
- The property to be leased is shaded in green on the attached map.

It was proposed by Cllr Owens, seconded by Cllr Codd Nolan and agreed to proceed with the lease of Enniscorthy Courthouse to Opus Fund Services (Ire-Admin) Ltd.

5. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

5.1 Planning

Ms. Niamh Lennon attended the meeting to discuss planning matters. Queries highlighted included the timing of the process for consideration and adoption of the County Development Plan. Ms. Lennon responded to all queries raised.

5.2 Housing, Community, Environment, Libraries and Fire Service

Housing

Ms. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer highlighted the main points of the Housing Report circulated to the Members prior to the meeting. A report was also circulated on the Housing Applications in Enniscorthy Villages (29/06/20).

Cllr Byrne stated that he was very concerned with the lack of social and affordable houses being built outside Enniscorthy, Ferns and Bunclody and he proposed that Wexford County Council proceed to build houses in these rural areas. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Owens.

Ms Donoghue stated that the issue of providing serviced land for housing was going to be a problem. Cllr Codd Nolan asked that a request for a Meeting with Irish Water be made, while Cllr Byrne stated that it was vital that the demand for building outside the main towns, in the rural villages, be addressed. It was agreed that Irish Water would be contacted prior to the September Meeting.

Environment

Cllr Byrne referred to the number of litter fines being issued with successful prosecutions and paid tribute to the Environment staff saying that a strong message needed to be sent out that Wexford County Council was prosecuting litter offences.

Mr. Mackey informed the Members that 10 – 12 Dog Fouling bins were being put in place around the town.

Councillor Murphy congratulated the Library Service for the service they provided to the community during the pandemic.

5.3 Enterprise

Cllr Codd Nolan asked for a report to come to the Meetings every second month on Enterprise.

5.4 Municipal District Report

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

- **Plot of Land at Ross Road** - With the approval of the Members, it was proposed to seek expressions of interest from the Clubs for the use of plot of Council land at Ross Road bordering Andy Doyle Close as a training only facility. Mr. Mackey stated that it would be run on the lines of the Sports Hub with a nominal fee for its use. It was proposed by Cllr Owens, seconded by Cllr Byrne and agreed that these proposals be proceeded with. Cllr O'Rourke asked if the local authority could look at an arrangement whereby people on local community involvement schemes could help look after the facility.
- **Floating Pontoon** - Members were in agreement to the placing of a floating pontoon on the River Slaney in the vicinity of the promenade to allow Slaney River Rescue to moor an emergency rapid response craft, to facilitate a quicker response.
- **Technology Park** - Final design specification and procurement are continuing at pace to commence construction work this autumn on the Technology Park. Members were circulated with a Section 183 Notice of Wexford County Councils intent to sell a long term leasehold interest in two sites at Enniscorthy Technology Park in accordance with the stated terms. They were also informed that this Notice would come before the next Meeting of Wexford County Council.
- **Enniscorthy Trails Feasibility Study project** - Project funding had been approved by LEADER and will commence in the coming weeks. This is an important step in developing an Enniscorthy Trails, to include a trail from Edermine to Scarawalsh and from the town to Vinegar Hill.
- **Santa's Enchanted Castle** - To continue again in 2020 with an expanded production incorporating an additional building and train. Work has commenced on the design and themes of this year's event, which has an important economic spin-off for the town.
- **Enniscorthy District Community Response (EDCR).**
The EDCR was established as a response to Covid 19, delivering at its peak 150 dinners a day 6 days a week. The numbers of dinners now being delivered is approx. 80 meals a day, three days a week. It was now felt that this service needed to be put on a sustainable footing as the need for it had been established.
- **Town and Village Renewal Expression of Interests**
There have been two expressions of interest received by the Community Department in responses to a call under the 2020 Town & Village Renewal Scheme.
Clohamon Community Group – to refurbish the Old School as a Community Centre and develop a playground on the grounds.
Tombrack National School – to construct a footpath and develop a biodiversity trail.

The Members put forward a number of queries, to which Mr. Mackey responded. He stated that 20 applications for the Painting and Flowers Shopfront Grant Schemes had been received to date, closing date for applications; 31/07/2020. Cllr Codd Nolan asked if the scheme could be extended to the villages.

6. Roads.

Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer highlighted the main points of the Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting, in particular, general Road maintenance, 2020 Roads Programme, Restoration Improvement Schemes, Community Involvement Scheme 2020 & 2021, and Enniscorthy Municipal District Discretionary Funding.

The Members put forward a number of queries to Mr. Dempsey:-

- School Safety measures and traffic signs at Davidstown National School.
- Improvement of general maintenance of Roundabout at Ross Road
- Ballycarney Bridge – signage and lights
- Footpath from Red Pats Cross out to the Still – completely overgrown, ditch needs to be cut back.
- Pothole repairs to road in Tomsallagh.
- Belleview Court – Bond monies of €15,000 to be matched with €15,000 included under EMD Discretionary Funding. Mr Dempsey undertook to price road and footpath works up to the left hand side of the Estate.
- **Enniscorthy Area Discretionary Funds 2020** On the proposal of Cllr Codd Nolan, seconded by Cllr Byrne, the proposals for Enniscorthy Area Discretionary Funds, 2020 in the amount of €54,000 were agreed.
- **Community Involvement Scheme** €37,000.00 for allocation. It was proposed by Cllr O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr Codd Nolan and agreed to divide the money between Craan and Coolree Lane.

Mr. Dempsey, Executive Engineer responded to all queries raised.

At this juncture in the Meeting, Mr. Mackey informed the Members that they had gone over the time limits for the Meeting and that Standing Orders were being suspended.

7. Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update.

The Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Progress Report of 3rd July, 2020 was noted.

Mr. Ger Mackey informed Members that he had written to Minister Michael McGrath, Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform with regard to expediting the commencement of the Scheme.

8. Water Services Report.

Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer, updated the Members on the Water Services Report circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Codd Nolan asked that the problem with the pipes network in Enniscorthy town be taken up with Irish Water.

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

None

10. Correspondence.

None.

11. Any Other Business.

Former Murphy Floods Hotel site – Members expressed concern at the present condition of this site. Mr. Ger Mackey informed Members that it was proposed to look at targeting 4 to 5 prominent sites in the town with a view to their upgrade.

Paths in New Graveyard, Enniscorthy.

Members expressed thanks for the provision of the paths in the new Graveyard.

Venue for future EMD Meetings - It was agreed to continue to meet in Conference Room in Kilcannon until further notice.

Meeting regarding Civic Receptions

It was agreed to hold a special meeting with a view to compiling a list of potential civic reception recipients throughout the town and district. Mr. Mackey suggested having a meeting before the next statutory meeting so that the recommendations would be ready for the September Meeting.

Next Meeting of Enniscorthy Municipal District: Monday, 21st September, 2020 at 3.00 p.m. at Kilcannon.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE