

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD ON MONDAY 18TH JANUARY, 2021 AT 3.00 P.M.

Attendance: Councillors:

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

Officials:

Mr. Ger Mackey, District Manager
Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Services
Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Ms. Bernie Quigley, Staff Officer
Ms. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer
Ms. Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer
Mr. Paul L'Estrange, A/Senior Executive Officer

Sympathies

The Members extended sincere sympathies to the following:-

- The Kehoe family on the death of their grandson Michael Kehoe.
- All who have lost loved ones due to the Covid-19 Virus.
- The family of Joe Doyle, Enniscorthy on the death of Joe.
- The Doyle, O'Neill and Gall families on their recent losses.

Congratulations

The Members wished to congratulate Mr. Darren Jacob, Jockey on his recent success.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the December Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 21st December, 2020

On the proposal of Councillor Codd-Nolan seconded by Councillor O'Rourke, the Minutes of the December Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 21st December, 2020 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 – 21st December, 2020

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Browne, the Minutes of the In Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 21st December, 2020 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.3 Matters Arising

Councillor Owens asked for an update on his query regarding the closure of the laneway at Salville Road as this laneway had previously been a Right of Way.

Councillor Browne enquired of the provision of Dog Bins for the Milehouse area for Enniscorthy Town and Ferns Village.

Councillor Byrne asked if any consideration had been given to the proposal to allow people to dig the graves of their family members and if a report on water leaks in the town was yet available to assist the Members when meeting with Irish Water.

The District Manager dealt with all queries raised and it was noted that a comprehensive report on the laneway at Salville would be prepared for the Members. He continued by stating that he would look at the provision of dog bins for both suggested areas and confirmed that to his knowledge a mechanism is being put in place in the Burial Ground Bye-Laws to allow family members to dig their own graves under the supervision of the Undertaker.

Mr. O'Corcora confirmed that he would make a report on water leaks available to the Members prior to their meeting with Irish Water.

Mr. Mackey updated the Members on a number of issues raised at the December Meeting. It was noted that the Chimney Cleaning Programme was no longer in place. Councillor Murphy stated that she felt the figures for chimney fires in Wexford County Councils social housing were high and when such programmes are ceased that the Members be informed.

It was noted that the Orchard Peace Park is maintained on a weekly basis, however, the heavy rain will affect the surface in the park.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

2.2 Housing

Ms. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer attended the meeting to update the Members on Housing and highlighted the main points of the Housing Report circulated prior to the meeting. A number of queries were raised by the Members, in particular:-

- Illegal Dumping at Marconi Park. The Members asked that this issue be dealt with as soon as possible as this is an ongoing issue in the area.
- Number of vacant houses in the Enniscorthy District.
- Number of applicants currently on the Housing List, in particular applicants on the 1 Bed List and the lack of provision for this particular house type.

Ms. Donoghue undertook to speak to Mr. Mick Doyle, Executive Engineer, Housing Maintenance and Mr. Hugh Russell, Administrative Officer, Environment regarding the issue of illegal dumping at Marconi Park.

Ms. Donoghue confirmed that at present there are 22 vacant properties in the district, 7 of which repairs have been complete, 5 of which are presently under offer with the remaining 15 presently vacant.

2.1 Planning

Ms. Niamh Lennon attended the meeting to discuss planning matters and updated the Members on the Planning Report which was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was noted that it is proposed to bring the Draft County Development Plan to the Members for approval at the March Council Meeting.

2.2 Community, Environment, Libraries and Fire Service

Community

Councillor Codd-Nolan thanked the Clohamon Development Group, the staff of Wexford County Council, in particular, the District Manager, Mr. Mackey for their work and commitment to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Councillor Codd-Nolan also thanked Slaney Foods for their contribution to the project.

Councillor Byrne asked if the Playground in Ferns could be added to the list for cleaning.

Councillor Owens asked for consideration to be given to the continuation of the path in Bellefield to extend around the entire park.

Mr. Mackey responded to all queries raised.

Environment

A number of issues were raised under Environment, including:-

- Provision of Dog Bins in the Milehouse are of Enniscorthy.
- Provision of a Litter Bin on Milehouse Road.
- Cleaning of laneways.
- Illegal dumping on N30 – provision of trees – biodiversity.
- Provision of a path behind Grotto in Moran Park, Enniscorthy.
- Provision of public lighting at Grotto in Moran Park, on the laneway in Bellefield and in the Milehouse, Bridgemedows to Centra.

Mr. Neil Dempsey informed the Members that in relation to the N30 there was a three year programme in place which includes planting, however, he would endeavour to look at this when the contract expires and speak to T.I.I. and the Environment Section for extra planting.

Mr. Mackey stated that making some unofficial laneways more permanent pathways may be considered under an Active Travel Strategy under the Active Travel Scheme. Councillor Byrne asked that perhaps the footpath in Killealy could also be looked at under this scheme.

Councillor Murphy recommended encouraging communities to take part in the Keep Wexford Beautiful Campaign and asked that the 2K Adopt a Road Initiative be provided in the Enniscorthy District.

Libraries & Fire Service

The Libraries and Fire Service Reports were noted.

2.3 Enterprise

It was noted that the District Manager would follow up with the Economic Department regarding the provision of a monthly Enterprise Report.

2.4 Municipal District Report

The main points of the Municipal District Report were highlighted by the District Manager, as follows:-

- **Technology Park.**
- **Sports Capital Programme** – proposal to submit an application for funding for an Astro Turf Pitch at the Ross Road, Enniscorthy.
- **Active Travel Grant Scheme** – EMD submitting two projects for consideration under this scheme.
- **Town and Village Renewal Programme** – award of €100,000 to Clohamon Community Development Association to develop community facilities in the Old

School in Clohamon. The District Manager took this opportunity to thank Slaney Foods for their corporate gesture to the project.

- **Irish Water Meeting** – It was noted that it is hoped this meeting will take place before the end of January.
- **Community Development** – the need for community development in Enniscorthy and Bunclody was highlighted by Mr. Mackey.
- **Remote Working Hub** – it was noted that the District Manager was not in a position to present an update to the Members at this time.

The Members noted the above and put forward a number of questions to Mr. Mackey to which he responded. The Members welcomed the application for an Astro Turf and congratulated the District Manager on this initiative.

Mr. Paul L'Estrange, Senior Executive Officer updated the Members on the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. It was noted that this scheme would be advertised at the end of January. He also spoke about Mental Health Workshops and Digital Hubs and undertook to answer all queries raised.

3. Roads Report.

Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer attended the meeting and updated the Members on the main points of his report circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that critical works repairing potholes is ongoing. Mr. Dempsey informed the Members that the cost for the provision of lights at Bellefield is €20,000. It was further noted that the Active Travel Initiative includes a number of roads projects, some of which were highlighted by Mr. Dempsey.

The Members put forward a number of queries, in particular:-

- Provision of and repairs to footpaths – Bellefield, Red Pats Cross and Bunclody.
- Condition of road surfaces in a number of areas.
- Bollards at Duffry Gate.
- Local Improvement Scheme.
- Gritting – request for Greenville Lane to be added to list.
- Templeshannon – issue with parking.
- Overgrown hedging – masking the light from the LED lights.
- Additional car parking spaces at Carrigbawn.
- Condition of surface of R746 Road.
- Flooding – Spring blockage on R746.
- Hedgecutting.
- Lights blocked on Milehouse Road – Technical School towards Aldi.

Mr. Dempsey responded to all queries.

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.

The Members expressed their disappointment that the scheme has not yet been signed off by the Minister. Councillor Owens asked if a letter had been submitted on behalf of this Committee to the Minister. The District Manager confirmed that a letter was written in November, 2020 to which a response had been received, however, no further letter had been issued.

Councillor Byrne asked that when the further clarifications sought by the Department are submitted, can they come back looking for additional information. Councillor Byrne also queried the tender process.

Mr. McHale stated that he is doing everything necessary to ensure that all required information is submitted to eliminate any further queries by the Department, however, there is a chance that additional information will be sought.

Mr. McHale spoke about the tender process and informed the Members of the legislation requirements which led to the request for further clarification from the Department. Mr. McHale continued by stating that he is satisfied that construction will commence this year. A brief discussion took place.

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. The Members thanked the Water Service Crew for the works in Ballyhogue and for the leak repairs undertaken by them over the last few months.

6. Enniscorthy Trails.

Mr. Mackey, District Manager asked the Members to peruse the documents relating to the Enniscorthy Trails which were circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that this item would be discussed at the February Meeting of this Committee for consideration.

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

7.1 GMA Budget 2020

On the proposal of Councillor Owens, seconded by Councillor Byrne the GMA Budget 2020 amendments as presented by the District Manager were approved.

8. Correspondence.

The Members Support Report was noted by the Members.

9. Any Other Business.

Councillor O'Rourke asked that consideration be given to groups who received the Amenity & Arts Grant and the Residents Association Grant 2020 regarding their submission of receipts for 2020. The District Manager confirmed that he would work with the groups in this regard.

Councillor Owens thanks the District Manager on behalf of Slaney Search and Rescue for his assistance with the installation of the pontoon.

Councillor O'Rourke also asked if the District Manager would look at something to protect the Old Gate House at St. Mary's Cemetery which is no longer occupied.

The Director of Services took this opportunity to inform the attendees that the Enniscorthy Municipal District had formally moved from the Courthouse back to the Market Square Building and congratulated the staff, in particular Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora for the work undertaken to ensure a seamless return to Market Square. Ms. Godkin also thanked Tom O'Brien Construction. It was noted that the once safe the Members will be given a tour of the new offices.

The Members enquired about the provision of a Covid Test Centre for Enniscorthy to assist with the increasing number of positive cases in the district. Following a brief discussion, on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Owens it was unanimously agreed that this Committee write to the HSE proposing the facilitation of a test centre in Enniscorthy. The Director of Services undertook to issue the relevant contact details for the HSE. Councillor Browne asked that a proposal for the facilitation of a Vaccine Centre be added to the correspondence to the HSE.

It was noted that the Civil Defence have facilitated transport to people who are not in a position to drive to a test centre. Councillor O'Rourke stated that the Red Cross may also be in a position to assist with this.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Browne the Members agreed to go into 'Committee' at this juncture of the meeting.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE