

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD THROUGH MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY 21st JUNE, 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: Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Services
Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Bernie Quigley, A/ District Manager
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer
Ms. Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer
Ms. Mary Clince, A/Staff Officer

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the In-Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 14th May 2021

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Byrne, the Minutes of the In-Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 14th May, 2021 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Minutes of the May Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 17th May 2021

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Codd-Nolan, the Minutes of the May Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 17th May 2021 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.3 Minutes of the In-Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 21st May 2021

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Codd-Nolan, the Minutes of the In-Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 21st May 2021 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.4 Matters Arising

Ms Quigley stated that a late application had been received under the Amenity Grants Scheme from The Willows, Hospital Hill, Bunclody and asked if it could be included under this scheme. It was proposed by Cllr Owens, seconded by Cllr Browne and agreed that this application be included for funding.

Votes of Sympathy

The Members expressed their sincere sympathies to the following: -

- Family of former Councillor Tom Moorehouse – All members wished to be associated with a vote of sympathy to Tom's wife Teresa and his family on his recent passing. Cllr Codd Nolan stated that Tom had served as a public representative for over 20 years from 1994 – 2014 and took great pride in representing the people of Enniscorthy with so many people touched by his kindness and empathy. The Cathaoirleach Cllr Murphy thanked all the Elected Members, past and present, and the staff of the Municipal District for their presence at Tom's funeral and said that his kindness and generosity would be remembered. Cllr Owens stated that he joined the Council on the same day as Tom Moorehouse in 1994 and that Tom had always worked hard for the people of Enniscorthy Town.

Cllr O' Rourke asked if consideration could be given to naming a housing estate or the placing of a seat in the new housing development in memory of Tom.

- The O'Leary family on the death of Margaret O'Leary, Moran Park.
- The family of Martin Kirwan, Bellefield Terrace.

Congratulations

- Cllr Codd Nolan wished the incoming Bishop of Ferns Fr. Ger Nash good wishes in his new post. She also extended best wishes to the outgoing Bishop Denis Brennan in his retirement.
- Congratulations were extended to the Pettitts Group on opening their new store in Bray, creating 80 new jobs. Their family values and community ethos was noted.
- Cllr Aidan Browne wished Bernie Quigley all the best in her new role as A/District Manager.
- Cllr John O'Rourke congratulated the Co. Wexford Junior Camogie Team – Div. 3 title winners.

- Congratulations were also extended to Justin Heffernan on his recent refereeing of the Camogie League Final.
- Cllr Owens congratulated the five new businesses open in Enniscorthy in recent times.
- Cllr Murphy was delighted to see Bunclody Swimming Pool back open.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

2.1 Planning

Ms. Niamh Lennon attended the Meeting to discuss planning matters and to update Members on the Planning Report circulated prior to the Meeting. Cllr Codd Nolan was glad to see 83 dwellings being built at Greenville. Cllr Murphy noted that it was important to keep liaising with Irish Water regarding sewerage capacity and improvement to water supply, to allow for house building in the future.

2.2 Housing

Ms. Roseanne Redmond attended the Meeting to discuss housing matters and to update Members on the Housing Report circulated prior to the Meeting. In relation to the housing development at Ross Road, Ms Redmond informed Members that negotiations were ongoing with the relevant parties, with no action required for the moment.

Affordable Housing - Following a survey to establish demand levels, 152 expressions of interest were received for the entire county. Cllr Byrne asked if the Council had looked at available sites or if there had been any expressions of interest from landowners.

Cllr Byrne requested acknowledgment of representations when a house has been allocated. Ms Redmond undertook to speak with the Allocations Officer and advise accordingly.

A response was being sought from the Clerk of Works in relation to boundary at Bellefield Springs and Ms Redmond undertook to revert to the Members on same.

Cllr Browne asked if anything had been received in relation to funding for house repairs in Marconi Park. He also raised the matter of houses being left vacant for long periods before being re-let.

Cllr Owens expressed great concern over the necessity to submit Section 40 Applications when dealing with queries for housing applicants. Cllr O'Rourke agreed with Cllr Owens saying that they as elected members were working on behalf of the people in their district. Cllr Murphy felt that the portal introduced for logging queries was actually distancing Members from the Officials, who they previously had a very good working relationship with.

Ms Godkin said that Section 40 was a requirement under GDPR, and the portal was introduced as a mechanism to make its implementation easier. She undertook to speak to the Housing Officer in the area in this regard.

Following a lengthy discussion, with concerns also raised by Cllr Byrne and Cllr Browne, it was proposed by Councillor Jackser Owens, seconded by Councillor Aidan Browne and agreed that a representative from Corporate Services would be asked to attend the next Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting to discuss the Section 40 requirement.

Cllr Owens queried what conditions are placed on council properties being purchased by tenants and also expressed concerns over the length of time for allocation of one bedroomed properties.

Cllr O'Rourke raised concerns in relation to eligibility under the SEAI Scheme. Ms. Godkin responded by stating that the SEAI Scheme had certain terms and conditions which have to be complied with to demonstrate a level of improvement in energy. Ms. Godkin undertook to examine the scheme and come back to the Members on this issue.

Cllr Murphy raised the matter of rubbish in Bunclody and the importance of tenants keeping their bin providers. The length of time currently taken to retrofit houses for reletting was also raised by Cllr Murphy and she asked if this process could be expedited.

Community, Environment, Libraries and Fire Service

Community -

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Caim Community Development Group – Cllr O Rourke asked for help and support for this group who were having difficulties getting insurance cover for their proposals. Ms Godkin stated that this matter could be raised at the next L.C.D.C. Meeting.

Enniscorthy Community Allotments – Cllr Owens supported Cllr Browne who asked if there was any progress on plans to introduce allotments on the piece of waste ground at the back of the Enniscorthy Sports Hub. Ms Godkin informed Members that while she was supportive of community allotments, this was not necessarily the best site to locate them, with its proximity to a national sports hub, however, she undertook to further examine the selection of a suitable site and come back to the Members.

Cllr Murphy asked if Members could receive minutes of the L.C.D.C. Meetings and Ms Godkin undertook to have them forwarded to Members going forward.

2.2.1 Placenames – Housing Development at Hospital Hill, Bunclody

On the proposal of Cllr Owens, seconded by Cllr Codd Nolan, it was agreed that the housing development at Hospital Hill, Bunclody be called “The Willows”.

2.3 Enterprise –

Cllr Murphy asked that a monthly report be brought before the Members, with an update every two or three months and felt it important for the Members to know what was going on with the amount of grants and assistance being given by Wexford County Council to local businesses. Ms Godkin asked Ms. Quigley to see if such report could be included at each meeting.

2.4 Municipal District Report

Ms Quigley outlined the following items for discussion;-

Sports Hub - Design works are being progressed and works were expected to commence on site before the end of 2021.

Enniscorthy Trails Feedback – Following a meeting between officials and Mr. Humphrey Murphy, Consultant on 15th June, 2021, an application for funding is to be made in July to ORIS by Mr. Rory O’Mahony, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and a further report would be brought back to the Members in September. Cllr Byrne thanked Ger Mackey for his work on the Town Trails and stated that he looked forward to the creation of a link from the pedestrian bridge with Borodale.

Casual Trading - Ms Quigley informed Members that four applications had been received for the licenced use of outdoor motorised vehicles or other mobile facilities offering refreshments for sale. Applications to be assessed and successful applicants to be contacted.

Shopfront Painting & Flowers Scheme - Applications being received for these Schemes with closing date of 30th June, 2021. Cllr Codd Nolan enquired if smaller villages could apply. Ms Quigley stated that there had been no applications to date from villages but undertook to revert to Cllr Codd Nolan on this matter.

Outdoor Summer Assistance – Members were informed of an allocation of €119,688 to Wexford County Council, increased to €125,000 to assist with plans for the facilitation of an outdoor summer in the context of the safe reopening of the economy and proposals would be circulated to the Members for consideration.

Live Performance Scheme – Funding of up to €143,000 confirmed for the implementation of this scheme with a view to supporting the commercial sector, musicians, bands, performers, event managers, lighting and sound technicians, and particularly local artists in County Wexford. Wexford County Council advertised for

expressions of interest in an open call to Event Management/Professional Production Companies to be part of a panel for the delivery of services in relation to the Local Live Performance Scheme – Summer 2021.

HTC Benches - These benches have been installed in Quarry Park, Blackstoops in Enniscorthy and just outside Bunclody. A bench has been ordered for Ferns and it is hopeful that same will be delivered by the end of next week for installation.

Historic Towns Initiative - In March, 2021 the Heritage Council awarded €174,000 to the Enniscorthy Town Steering Group for the regeneration of Slaney Street. The proposals involve external works on up to 22 individual properties, to include painting, repair of sash windows, replacement of PVC windows with timber sash windows. Works to include upgrade of the public realm such as public lighting, pavement repairs and drainage improvements. This project is expected to commence in early August, with a completion date of October 2021 in order to fully avail of the grant funding. Property owners have been consulted at every stage of the process and will be required to make a financial contribution in the region of 25% to 30% towards the cost of the capital works on their premises.

Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Businesses Grant Scheme

This grant scheme was launched on the 12th April, 2021 with a closing date of 30th September, 2021 for receipt of applications. Maximum grant is €4,000 per applicant and the scheme is being administered by the Economic Department of the County Council.

URDF - A working group has been established by Enniscorthy MD that will work towards the preparation and submission of further applications for capital funding for Enniscorthy including URDF. The working group is made up of members of Enniscorthy MD, officials from the District Office, the Planning Department and the Special Projects section. Additional groups of special interest will attend by invite of the Elected Representatives, including Enniscorthy Chamber and groups such as Re-imagining Enniscorthy.

The focus of the group will be to work on developing an urban design and regeneration framework for Enniscorthy town centre that will support future applications for State funding and assist with and inform the preparation of the next Enniscorthy Local Area Plan. It will include for consultation across all sectors and with the community as to the key issues, vision and opportunities for regeneration of the town centre area.

Members welcomed this positive report and also raised the following items;-

- Restoration of the umbrellas in Slaney Street.
- Need for continued support for the business people of the District.
- Street Cleaning.

- Gratitude was extended to those involved in the placement of outdoor seating.
- Possibility of private refuse collectors to collect early in the morning.
- Possibility of pedestrianising Rafter Street on Saturdays.
- Need for slogans on a number of buildings around the town to be removed.

Mr. O'Corcora stated that due to proposed works at Slaney Street it may not be possible to install the umbrellas this summer, however, the Officials undertook to look at this matter and revert back to the Members at their next meeting.

3. Roads Report.

Mr. Niall Dempsey, Executive Engineer, attended the meeting and updated the Members on the main points of his report, circulated prior to the meeting.

Under the Active Travel 2021 programme Mr. Dempsey stated that Enniscorthy had applied for funding for 8 projects and were successful in gaining funding for 7, to the value of €355,000. These include works at Davidstown, Kiltealy, Clohamon, Ballyhogue, Tombrack, Milehouse and Convent Road. Works are completed in Ballyhogue, and works have started in Kiltealy with all other projects progressing through design phase at present. He thanked the Elected Members for their assistance in these projects.

Community Involvement Scheme – successful applicants to receive letters in relation to their submissions.

Safe Routes to School project – Mr. Dempsey stated that St. Aidans School had been successful in securing funding under this scheme.

The Members put forward a number of queries, in particular;

- Line markings and pedestrian crossing - St. Aidan's School.
- Fr. Cullen Terrace – traffic congestion.
- Laneway from Fr Murphy Park to Vinegar Hill.
- Bollards at Duffry Gate.
- Request for improvement works to a number of roads around the district.
- Funding under 2nd round of Local Improvement Scheme.
- Signage.
- Grass cutting – along sides of roads around the district.
- Road safety measures at Grotto, Ballybrennan, Bree.
- Provision of signs on junctions in Marshalstown.
- Finchogue Cross as you approach the main motorway leaving Wheelocks.
- Resurfacing at Cods Cross to Curraduff.
- Footpath improvements – Bunclody.
- Need for pedestrian crossing at Enniscorthy Graveyard.

- Gimont Avenue/Moran Park – grass left on pathway, areas left uncut, grass to be taken away.

Mr. Dempsey informed the members that hedgecutting had now commenced. It was noted that Mr. Dempsey hoped to apply for funding under the Active Travel Route for a pedestrian crossing at Enniscorthy Graveyard.

It was further noted that St. Senan's School was undertaking a new development and it was proposed to tie in traffic management proposals with this.

Mr. Dempsey undertook to examine all other matters raised by the Members.

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.

Mr. McHale said that he was continuously liaising with Irish Water, Iarnrod Eireann and the Department of Housing in relation to legal agreements and foreshore licences needed to allow for works on the Irish Water services and works near the railway line and existing railway bridge to be carried out. He stated that the detailed design for the flood defences pumping stations and new pedestrian bridge was continuing. It was noted that the detailed design of the new bridge is complete, as are the tender documents for the new bridge.

A discussion took place and the Members asked that letters issue immediately to the two relevant Ministers requesting a meeting in relation to the commencement of the Scheme, Ms Quigley undertook to ensure letters are issued immediately.

Mr. McHale responded to all queries raised by the Members.

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.

Queries raised by the Members included: -

- Provision of public toilets near the Promenade and country walk.
Ms Godkin stated that she was awaiting a reply from the Environment Section in relation to the relocation of the public convenience in Lymington Road Car Park to Abbey Square.
- Boundary to Nuns graveyard in the Orchard Peace Park to be strengthened.

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

None.

7. Correspondence.

None.

12. Any Other Business.

The Cathaoirleach stated the Annual Meeting would be held on Monday, 28th June, 2021 at 11.00 am in Kilcannon Garden Centre Meeting Room.

Cllr Byrne spoke of the longest day commemoration of the battle of Vinegar Hill taking place at 7.00 p.m. this evening. Apologies were given by a number of the Elected Members who were unable to attend. It was noted that invitations had not been issued to all Members in error.

Ms Godkin informed Members that she hoped to bring a Section 183 Notice before the July Meeting in relation to the allocation of ground to AJAX AFC.

Cllr Browne enquired if the Sports Hub could be made available to P.E. classes when secondary schools started back in September and possibly open to primary schools as well.

The outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr Murphy thanked everyone for their co-operation and assistance over the past year.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE