

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD THROUGH MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY 15TH MARCH, 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. Carlyne 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. Barry Browne, Staff Officer, GDPR Project
Ms. Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services

Votes of Sympathies

The Members expressed their sincere sympathies to the following:-

- The Wall Family on the death of their Mother Nancy.
- The Dempsey Family on their recent loss.
- The Dillon Family on their recent loss.
- The O'Brien Family on their recent loss.
- The Murphy Family on the death of Lucy Murphy.
- The Reck Family on their recent loss.
- The Byrne Family on their recent loss.

Congratulations

The Members wished Tom Connors the best of luck in the upcoming Virgin Media Film Awards. Mr. Connors is nominated for an award for his film 'Innocent Boy'.

1. Special Projects Update.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that this item is deferred for a future meeting of this Committee.

2. Confirmation of Minutes:

2.1 Minutes of the February Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 15th February, 2021

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Browne, the Minutes of the February Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 15th February, 2021 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2.2 Minutes of the In Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy with the Enniscorthy Gardai – 26th January, 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 26th January, 2021 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2.3 Matters Arising

Cllr. Murphy asked for an update on the recent survey carried out by Wexford County Council regarding the collection of household refuse.

The District Manager confirmed that an analysis had been completed by the Environment Section on bin usage in a number of housing developments along with one street premises in Enniscorthy Town. It was found that 36% of all residential properties examined did not have a refuse bin.

Mr. Mackey continued by stating that litter picking and dog litter takes up around 60% of staff resources. In particular he stated that recently staff had collected 36 bags of rubbish on the Killealy Road. He continued by stating that it will be necessary to establish bin ownership in the hotspot areas of the town and to encourage people to act responsibly and dispose of rubbish in the correct manner.

Cllr. O'Rourke asked if anything could be done with Local Authority Tenants stock piling rubbish in their back gardens, which can cause an infestation of rats to the household in question and neighbouring households.

The Members expressed their shock and frustration with the numbers of households who do not have refuse bins and with the continuing problem of litter throughout the district. A discussion took place on how this issue could be tackled more effectively.

Cllr. Browne asked that consideration be given to signage and education. Cllr. Byrne stated that once convictions are made stronger action is needed, perhaps, naming and shaming.

The Director of Services spoke of enforcement and the issues around same. It was noted that under the Waste Disposal Regulations households are required to show that they are disposing of their rubbish legitimately. It was further noted that the court system can be slow, however, Wexford County Council do pursue people they find to be in breach of the regulations. Ms. Godkin also stated that by the end of this year, early next year there will be further resources available to Wexford County Council to continue with the survey.

The Members thanked Mr. Clinton Donovan for his work and commitment.

A brief discussion took place around naming and shaming and it was noted that it is only through the court system that this can be done.

The District Manager informed the Members that in one housing development it was found that the compliance rate was below 80%, however, with some determination and focus by Wexford County Council it is now up to 92% compliant. He continued by stating that while efforts can be time consuming, the Council will continue to work in this area and look at the position again at the end of 2021.

3. Section 40 Representations.

Ms. Amanda Byrne, Director of Services and Mr. Barry Browne, Staff Officer joined the meeting to discuss the above. Ms. Byrne stated that to ensure Members representations are dealt with in compliance with the GDPR Regulations and Principles which came into effect in 2016, Sections 40(1) and (2) were included in the National Data Protection Act, 2018 to provide Elected Representatives with a legislative basis for the processing of the personal data (including special categories of personal data) of individual constituents in order to perform this role.

Mr. Browne made a presentation to the Members under the following headings:-

- What is a Section 40 Rep?
- Section 40 Obligations.
- Suitable and Specific Measures – Representatives Forms.
- Members Portal for Section 40 Representations and other queries.
- Representations not using the Members Portal when making Section 40 Reps.
- Members Portal Development.
- Actions.

A discussion took place and the Members put forward a number of questions to Mr. Browne and Ms. Byrne.

It was noted that a working group has been set up to assist with all queries relating to the portal. It was further noted that feedback from the Members was very welcome. Some concerns were raised by the Members regarding the lack of personal contact with staff of Wexford County Council when using the Members Portal, however, the Director of Services confirmed that this was supporting communication and was not there to replace personal contact between staff and Elected Members.

4. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

4.1 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. Cllr. Murphy enquired about the current position on the County Development Plan. Ms. Lennon stated that she had no further update, however, it was proposed to bring the plan to the Members at their April Meeting.

4.2 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:-

- Cllr. Owens asked for a more regular report on the number of applicants on Wexford County Councils Housing List and queried the eligibility of a client living in a RAS House for consideration for Wexford County Council Housing List.
- Cllr. Byrne asked for an update on the provision of Social Housing in villages and the position of Affordable Housing.
- Cllr. Browne enquired why the scaffolding was re-erected on the house in Ross Road.
- Vacant Houses at Marconi Park.
- Carleysbridge – reason why work has ceased.
- Maintenance Grants for Residents Associations in Local Authority Housing Estates.
- Cllr. O'Rourke asked if Wexford County Council could speak to the appropriate Housing Body or the HSE regarding the provision of a second Independent Living Unit for the district, similar to Lorretto Village.

Ms. Donoghue responded to all queries raised and it was noted that RAS Tenants are deemed to be in receipt of housing support and therefore are taken off the Housing List.

It was further noted that if a client comes to the end of their contract they will be considered for Social Housing, however, this does not apply if the client leaves the premises voluntarily.

The Director of Services stated that the Council are currently reviewing their landbank regarding housing in villages.

It was also noted that Ms. Donoghue was not aware of any site in Enniscorthy for Affordable Housing.

Ms. Godkin informed the Members that work to Social Housing Developments could only continue under Level 5 Restrictions if the houses were due for completion by February, 2021. This date was extended until April, 2021, however the scheme at Carleysbridge did not fall within these regulations and therefore work had ceased.

Ms. Donoghue stated that she was not aware of any closing date for the maintenance grant for Local Authority Housing Estates and advised that they contact the Area Housing Officer in this regard.

The Director of Services informed the Members that the Housing Capital Team were looking at the long-term vacant properties throughout the County. It was noted that if the premises were not fit for purpose then the Council would consider setting the house. Ms. Godkin undertook to bring a report to the Members at their April Meeting.

Community, Environment, Libraries and Fire Service

Community

Cllr. Codd-Nolan raised her concerns regarding parking at the green area of Fr. Murphy Park and asked that the District Manager consider other arrangements to make it easier for people to drop off and collect kids of St. Senans Primary School.

The District Manager stated that he had met with the residents of Fr. Murphy Park and it is proposed to erect a fence over the Easter period which should solve the problem.

Cllr. O'Rourke mentioned a proposed Biodiversity Project by St. Senans School and asked if this could be explored. Mr. Mackey stated that he was willing to sit down with the Parents Council to come up with a suitable Biodiversity Project as this was a great opportunity to work with the kids.

Environment

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

- Cllr. Murphy asked if any investigations had been undertaken regarding noise and air quality, in particular air quality following the ban on smoky coal.

The District Manager confirmed that a report would be brought to the Members at their April Meeting. Ms. Godkin stated that she had requested a report, however, would ensure a more detailed report be circulated to the Members. It was noted that there was evidence of a slight improvement in air quality in Enniscorthy Town since the ban, but at this stage it was too early to make a conclusion.

Libraries & Fire Service

Cllr. Browne asked for details of the proposed new Library for Enniscorthy. Mr. Mackey undertook to have an update on same for the April Meeting.

Cllr. Murphy took this opportunity to thank the Library Service for the utube videos on National Women's Day.

4.3 Enterprise

The Members expressed their disappointment with the lack of an Enterprise Report at their monthly meetings.

Cllr. Codd-Nolan expressed her disappointment with the fact that the Enniscorthy District did not receive any funding under the Urban Regeneration Grant. She continued by stating she welcomed the fact that Wexford had received funding under the scheme, however, felt that with the Enniscorthy District was worthy of the grant being the homes of the Enniscorthy Castle and Ferns Castle.

The Members concurred with Cllr. Codd-Nolan stating that the district needs and is worthy of investment.

4.4 Municipal District Report

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

- **Technology Park** – works temporarily suspended as a result of Level 5 restrictions.
- **Sports Capital Programme** – the EMD has submitted an application for funding for an Astro Turf Pitch at the Ross Road, Enniscorthy.
- **Sports Hub** – design work has commenced of the pavilion building for the Sports Hub. It is expected that construction works will commence in September, 2021.
- **Historic Towns Initiative** – the EMD application for heritage conservation works on Slaney Street has been successful with the award of €170,000. The project must be completed by November, 2021.
- **Enniscorthy Trails Feedback** – extension of the Promenade Walk including the replacement of the existing footbridge over the River Urrin to include the loop to Boro

Dale should be considered for design and preparation for funding calls which will be announced later in 2021.

- **Litter Pollution in Enniscorthy** – significant litter pollution problem created by a minority of citizens taking up a significant amount of the outdoor staff workload.
- **Casual Trading** – enquiries received regarding the issuing of Casual Trading Licences outside of the designated areas that currently exist in the town. Report to be brought to the April Meeting for consideration.

The District Manager informed the Members that the Municipal District has applied for a label/brand relating to the Tour De France.

Mr. Mackey also informed the Members that the Riverside Park Hotel had made an application for approval to erect outdoor table and chairs.

The Members thanked Mr. Mackey for his report and welcomed both the application for funding for the development of an Astro Turf Pitch at the Ross Road and the funding secured under the Historic Towns Initiative for Slaney Street.

The Members also expressed their support for the erection of outdoor tables and chairs by the Riverside Park Hotel and the application for funding for the extension of the Promenade Walk.

The Members asked Mr. Mackey if consideration could be given to the following:-

- Provision of an additional Public Toilet for Enniscorthy Town.
- Provision of an event/festival to take place in Enniscorthy in September, 2021 in line with Covid-19 restrictions/regulations.
- The addition of the route link to Boro Dale to be included in the 1st application for funding for the extension of the Promenade Walk.
- Hub for young people as part of the plans at Slaney Street in conjunction with the FDYS.
- Provision of a Skateboard Park for Enniscorthy.

It was noted that the Slaney Street Project will enhance the visible appearance of the street making it attractive for future use.

Cllr. Byrne asked what the current position of the site at Turret Rocks was and was the bridge at Slaney Street part of the application under the Urban Development Funding. The District Manager undertook to report back on both these queries at the April Meeting.

The District Manager stated that if an event/festival was to occur in Enniscorthy in September it would be low key. It was noted that last year a lot of infrastructure was put in place to ease the problems faced by the hospitality sector.

Mr. Mackey stated that he would talk to FYDS on the provision of a hub for young people.

5. 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. Mr. Dempsey stated that the Roads Allocations had now been received, however, he was still waiting on the allocation for the Local Improvement Scheme, the Active Travel funding and finalisation of the Community Involvement Scheme.

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

- Pedestrian Crossing between the old Graveyard at St. Marys and the new Graveyard.
- Loose Manhole Cover – St. Aidans Villas, Enniscorthy.
- Ballyhogue – patching works.
- Safety measures at Killealy School – signage.
- Pedestrian Crossing from Church to School in Killealy Village.
- Consideration to place the road at St. Johns to Loughderg on the list for works for 2022.
- Footpath repairs.
- Driver Feedback Signage in Killealy.
- Cycle Lane extension to Clohamon Junction.

Mr. Dempsey noted and responded to all queries. In relation to the Pedestrian Crossing it was noted that funding would need to be sourced. It was further noted that under the Active Travel Scheme some works were scheduled for Killealy and Mr. Dempsey undertook to investigate the other issues raised.

Mr. Dempsey also undertook look at the provision of Driver Feedback Signage in Killealy Village and recommended that the extension of the Cycle Lane to Clohamon Junction be added to the Active Travel proposals.

6. 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. In particular Mr. McHale stated that Wexford County Council decided to readvertise the tender for the new Road Bridge Contract.

Cllr. Owens proposed that the Enniscorthy Municipal District meet with the relevant Ministers to discuss the reasons why the scheme has not been signed. Cllr. Byrne asked Mr. McHale if the readvertising of the tender for the bridge would delay the project in any way, to which Mr. McHale replied that he did not expect this process to cause any delays.

A discussion took place. Ms. Godkin stated that that she can appreciate the Members frustration, however, there is no timeframe for scheme confirmation at the moment and she suggested that no meeting take place until June/July until the information is compiled.

Cllr. Browne asked if the scheme was now on the Ministers desk or still with Wexford County Council. Mr. McHale confirmed that the confirmation documents were sent to the Minister for review. Wexford County Council are now compiling supplementary information to assist the OPW and DPER with the approval process.

It was noted that Cllr. Owens did not agree with waiting until later in the year to meet the Minister in this regard.

Cllr. Codd-Nolan confirmed that she had met with the Minister who had indicated that he had no issue meeting the Enniscorthy Municipal District once level 5 Restrictions were lifted.

Cllr. Murphy informed the Members that she had received a letter via James Browne T.D. from the Minister Patrick O'Donovan regarding the Flood Defence Scheme which she would circulate to the Members for their information after the meeting.

7. 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.

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

8.1 Schedule of Municipal District Works 2021

The District Manager presented the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2021 to the Members. It was noted that 2 figures were missing from the document as the district did not have access to same, however, as this would not material change the contents of the document Mr. Mackey asked for approval with the inclusion of the 2 figures, when available.

On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Browne the Members unanimously approved the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2021 as presented with the inclusion of the figures missing from the document, when available.

Cllr. Byrne asked that the playground at Ferns be included in the document next year to ensure a more permanent arrangement for maintenance of same.

8. Correspondence.

None.

9. Any Other Business.

None.

17:17 p.m.

At this juncture, on the proposal of Cllr. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. Codd-Nolan the Members agreed to go into Committee.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE