

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON MONDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT 3.00 P.M.

Attendance: Councillors:

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

Officials:

Ms. Carolyn Godkin, Director of Services
Ms Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance
Ms. Liz Hore, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Bernie Quigley, A/District Administrator
Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer
Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Ms Melissa Goff, Senior Staff Officer, Environment
Mr. Ian Plunkett, Executive Technician, Environment
Ms Mary Clince, A/Staff Officer

Apologies:

Cllr. Jackser Owens
Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer

Votes of Sympathy

- Sincere sympathy to the family of Marks Redmond, Vinegar Hill Villas, Enniscorthy.
- To Johnny Mythen, T.D., on the death of his father Jim Mythen.
- To the Donohoe Family, Grange, Ferns on the death of Martin Donohoe.
- Sympathy to the family of Matt Murphy, Davidstown.

Congratulations

- To Baile Dubh Tire/Marshalstown on winning the Ladies Junior A County Final.
- The Rapparees U14 Camogie team on winning their recent County Final.
- Festy Ebosele on scoring his first goal for Derby County and on his return to the Irish U21 Soccer Team.
- Harry Kehoe on receiving a Garda Youth Award.
- Starlights Junior B Team on winning the District Final.

The Cathaoirleach stated that the duration of this Meeting would be 1 hour and 55 minutes.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the October Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 18th October 2021

On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Codd-Nolan, the Minutes of the October Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 18th October 2021 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Matters Arising

Cllr. O Rourke asked for an update on the possibility of taking over the old St Patrick's Special School site for sheltered housing and of the possibility of securing another emergency house. Ms. Godkin replied that she had spoken with Tony Larkin, DOS, and was awaiting a response from the H.S.E., and that the additional emergency house was in place.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

2.1 Planning

Ms. Niamh Lennon sent her apology.

Cllr. Codd-Nolan referred to the recent town centre urban regeneration meeting, which she felt highlighted several good ideas and proposals. She asked that the policy around the provision of public conveniences be examined.

2.2 Housing

Ms. Roseanne Redmond attended the meeting to update the Members on Housing and highlighted the main points of the Housing Report circulated prior to the meeting.

Several queries were raised by the Members, in particular: -

- Costing of newly built house on Ross Road.
- Following recent Age Friendly survey by Wexford County Council in conjunction with the HSE, 84 per cent of people were not aware of the availability of house adaptation grants. Could a public awareness campaign be done around this issue?
- Of the 44 houses for retrofitting – how many of these are in the Enniscorthy district.
- Look to do an audit on over and under occupancy of 3 bedroomed houses, with the shortage in supply of one and two bedroomed houses.
- Vacant units awaiting completion in 2022.
- D.P.D Grant – is there much of a waiting list
- Necessity to build in areas outside the town of Enniscorthy, where people have family support in rural villages.

- Thanks to Eddie Doyle, Tenant Liaison Officer for assistance with removal of caravan from vacant house in Bunclody.
- No houses built in Bunclody for 20 years since Termon Barry, high demand which was not being met.

In relation to retrofitting of houses, Ms. Redmond informed the Members that there were 54 units approved, 7 of which were not proceeding for various reasons and approximately 40% of the units approved were in the Enniscorthy District.

The lack of certain building supplies/materials were a contributory factor to the timeframe required for works to be completed on vacant units.

In relation to the additional funding required for the unit at Ross Road, the under/over occupancy of 3-bed units and the drawdown of funding approved from DPA Grants, Ms. Redmond informed the Members that she would discuss with the relevant officials and update the Members in advance of the next meeting.

Building outside of towns was subject to demand, availability of land and infrastructure being in place.

Ms. Godkin informed Members of a refusal rate of 25 – 33 per cent regarding the allocation of housing.

Ms Redmond stated that there was a 4 – 6 week waiting list for Disable Persons Grants being allocated and undertook to raise with housing staff.

Community, Environment, Libraries and Fire Service

Community

The Community Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Environment

Ms. Melissa Goff, Environment Section attended the meeting and updated the Members on the main points of her report on the National Inspection Plan on wastewater systems, circulated prior to the meeting. An overview of the domestic wastewater system and their inspection rates from 2018 to date was given.

Members expressed the difficulty for some elderly people on low incomes who did not have the resources to upgrade their wastewater systems and the position of householders who did not register their septic tanks. The disposal of asbestos from roofs was also raised.

In reply to Members, Mr. Ian Plunkett informed the Meeting that septic tanks had to be registered prior to 01/02/2013. Wexford County Council act by issuing advisory notices to give people time to carry out remedial works required and only when people are not complying with the advisory notice and not working with Wexford County Council, cases

are recommended for court proceedings. Those who have not registered their tanks are not eligible to apply for a grant under the National Inspection Plan however there is other assistance that may be available for people aged over 66 years of age under Housing adaptation grants for older people. Wexford County Council would welcome the revision of the prescribed date, but this would require national Legislation to be updated.

Relocation of APC - Members were informed that Mr. Gerry Forde would attend the December Meeting to discuss the relocation of the public convenience in the Lymington Road Car Park.

Libraries & Fire Service

The Libraries and Fire Service Reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted.

2.3 Economic Development

Ms Liz Hore, Sen Executive Officer, attended the meeting and updated the Members on the main points of her report circulated prior to the meeting, including:-

- Enniscorthy is designated a UN Centre of Excellence at COP 26.
- Tradebridge
- Georgia Southern University
- Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme
- Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021
- LEO Training/Mentoring
- Leadership to the fore at LEO Wexford Women in Business Network
- Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Businesses (OSAS)

The Members thanked Ms Hore for the comprehensive report.

2.4 Municipal District Report.

Ms Quigley outlined the following items for discussion; -

- Enniscorthy Technology Park
- Sports Hub
- Enniscorthy Trails Feedback
- Outdoor Summer Assistance
- Historic Towns Initiative
- Working Group for the Urban Regeneration Plan for Enniscorthy Town Centre
- Enniscorthy Christmas Festival
- Local Live Performance Scheme 2021 (Round 2)
- Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy

On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Codd-Nolan, it was agreed that the working title of **Enniscorthy North Business District** be adopted as the business district name and to be used on the gateway signage which will be erected as part of the Phase 1 works.

Members raised the following queries: -

- If the tenders for Phase II of the Sports Hub had been advertised.
- The possibility of further monies being applied for under the Historic Towns Initiative, commending the works undertaken in Slaney Street.
- Management of Santa's Enchanted Castle.
- The costing and progressing of the Enniscorthy Technology Park.

Ms. Godkin stated that the works undertaken in Slaney Street had worked out very well. While the running of Santa's Enchanted Castle was being closely monitored under health and safety. The provision of suitable venues was an issue in the holding of live performances under the Local Live Performance Scheme 2021 (Round 2), and she undertook to revert to the Members on queries raised regarding units currently let at the New Technology Park.

2.5 Draft Budgetary Plan 2022 – GMA Allocations

Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance attended the meeting to discuss the Draft Budgetary Plan Report 2021 – GMA Allocations.

Ms. O'Neill briefed the Members on details of the report circulated prior to the meeting and asked for Members support for adoption of the plan as presented. She stated that it was a reserved function of the Members to adopt the budget plan with or without amendments. It had been difficult to put the budget in place against the backdrop of uncertainty and negative buoyancy against many of our income sources presented many challenges in making it difficult to deliver, with the ongoing threat of rising covid numbers. Ms. O'Neill informed Members that it was intended to retain the GMA allocations at the same level as 2021 for the Districts. The overall total GMA allocation for the county being €1,798,000, with €358,000.00 being allocated to the Enniscorthy District.

Cllr. Murphy asked if monies, or portion of monies unspent on Town Twinning could be moved to tourist operation and asked how much of an impact the falloff in parking revenue would have. Cllr. Codd Nolan highlighted the difficulty for small businesses of future payment of rates.

Ms. O'Neill stated that economic activity was not coming back as strongly as predicted with the challenge being whether we can reduce income without reducing the services. The reality was that some business may not survive once the government supports are withdrawn or reduced.

Following further discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. Murphy seconded by Cllr. Codd-Nolan the Members approved the proposed Draft Budgetary Plant Report 2021 - GMA Allocations as presented.

Ms. O'Neill thanked the Members for their support.

3. Roads Report.

Mr. Tadhg O Corcora undertook to take this item on behalf of Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer and updated the Members on the main points of the roads report circulated prior to the meeting.

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

- Footpath from Cherryorchard to The Still Pond.
- Excessive speeding levels through local villages
- Clohamon – needs barriers to get cars to slow down – no protection.
- The putting in place of a gully cleaning programme.
- Speeding at Ryland Cemetery – introduction of flashing sign to slow down.
- Road surface at Tinnakilla Lane, Ballyhogue.

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 Cathaoirleach informed Members that he had briefly met with Minister Patrick O'Donovan the Chief Executive and the Director of Services on the Ministers recent stop off in Enniscorthy. He was told by the Minister that the Office of Public Works have signed off on the project and have funding in their department for this Scheme. The Scheme was awaiting signing by Minister McGraths office and once restrictions had lifted he would happy to attend a Meeting with 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 several questions to Mr. O'Corcora to which he responded.

Cllr. O Rourke thanked officials for the public information given on the recent boiled water notices. Cllr. Murphy raised the matter of leak detection in Bunclody, saying the present system was close to capacity.

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

6.1 Disposal of property to Ajax Athletic AFC.

It was proposed by Cllr. O Rourke, seconded by Cllr. Browne and agreed that land adjacent to the current grounds of Ajax Athletic AFC at Patrick Mernagh Park, Daphne View Enniscorthy, measuring 0.322 Ha, and contained in Folio WX13701 be transferred to Francis Farnan, Colette Murphy-Buckley and Fenwick O'Shea, Trustees of Ajax Athletic AFC. Members asked that Ajax, as a good will gesture, would allow other soccer clubs the use of this ground for training.

6.2 Taking in Charge of Housing Development at Oak Tree, The Moyne, Enniscorthy, under Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

It was proposed by Cllr. O Rourke, seconded by Cllr. Murphy and agreed that the

Housing Development at Oak Tree, The Moyne, Enniscorthy, be taken in charge under Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

6.3 Festival Allocations – GMA Allocations 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr. O Rourke, seconded by Cllr. Browne and agreed that under festival allocations an amount of €1,500.00 to Bunclody and €20,000.00 to Enniscorthy would be allocated for Christmas lighting, with monies for Ferns to be considered.

7. Correspondence.

7.1 Disability Participation and Awareness.

Members noted correspondence from Access Officer, Caroline Horan in relation to funding targeted specifically for Disability Participation and Awareness.

8. Any Other Business.

“Wilkie Way” – Cllr. O’Rourke asked if the proposition of former Cllr Sean Óg Doyle back in 2010 to name the steps opposite Enniscorthy Castle in honour of Sam Wilkie Thorpe could be re-examined.

A/District Administrator advised the Members that Christmas free-parking arrangements would be administered in unison across all municipal districts. Details to follow.

Cllr. O’Rourke raised concerns on behalf of the residents of Millbrook and Urrin Valley regarding the proposed walkway including in the planning application for a Strategic Housing Development at Carrleysbridge.

Cllr. Murphy informed Members that the Bunclody Switch-On of Christmas lights would be on Saturday, 27th November at 5.00 p.m.

It was noted that the Enniscorthy Switch-On would take place on Friday, 26th November 2021.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE