

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

Attendance: Councillors:

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

Officials:

Ms. Carolynne Godkin, Director of Services
Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer,
Mr. Brian Galvin, S.E.E., Special Projects
Mr. Tom Fox, E.E., Special Projects
Mr. Tom Banville, Sen Ex Officer, Planning
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Ms. Roseanne Redmond, SSO, Housing
Ms. Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer
Ms Mary Clince, A/SO.

Visitors:

Ms. Verona Murphy, T.D.

Apologies:

Ms. Bernie Quigley, A/District Manager.

Congratulations

- Cllr Codd Nolan congratulated the Duffry Rovers U 14 Camogie Team on their recent County Final win.
- Cllr O' Rourke congratulated the Bree/Davidstown U 11 Boys, U12 Boys & Girls and U 13 on their success at Community Games, with U 10 Boys representing the county at Community Games Finals.
- Cllr Browne congratulated Tom & Dina Hogan on their participation and success at the Hyrox – Championship of Fitness in Leipzig, Germany.

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the September Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 20th September 2021

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Codd-Nolan, the Minutes of the September Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 20th September 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 housing of the vulnerable.

Cllr Owens asked when the pedestrian crossing at Mace would be repaired.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

It was agreed to take the following item next on the Agenda.

2.4 Presentation on the masterplan for the 'Enniscorthy North Business District'

Tom Fox, Special Projects Department, Wexford County Council made a presentation outlining the main elements of the draft masterplan for the Old Dublin Road/Enniscorthy North Business District.

This area is a key commercial, business and industrial area with over 90 businesses and employing circa of 2000 people.

The draft masterplan plan recognises the importance of the area and outlines a proposed redevelopment of the streetscape that will support the existing businesses by improving the transport, landscaping and signage infrastructure and services for the area.

The vision of the masterplan is to create a clear identity for the area in keeping with its commercial/business role. This can be achieved by improving the existing public infrastructure, developing landscape and signage plans and identifying opportunities to support active travel. These elements will provide a roadmap for future growth in this zone that will support a consistent & attractive streetscape for the retail and commercial businesses in the area.

The masterplan covers the zoned lands which extend from Blackstoops Roundabout to Scarawalsh Roundabout along the existing Old Dublin Road.

Wexford County Council undertook a public consultation in July to outline the proposed plan to the public and the feedback received was considered in developing this draft plan.

The draft masterplan consists of 3 phases as outlined below:

- Phase 1 focuses on immediate improvements to pedestrian safety. This will see the introduction of 2 pedestrian crossings which will be located close to the Teagasc entrances and at the Campus service station. New footpaths will be introduced and an

entry sign with landscaping will be erected at the southern entrance to the business district.

- Phase 2 proposes upgrades to the existing road, footpaths, landscaping and signage infrastructure between the Blackstoops roundabout and Kilcannon Garden Centre. An active travel loop is envisaged for this zone by utilising the R772, a rest area including outdoor exercise equipment and an active travel link back to Enniscorthy town are all planned as part of this phase.
- Phase 3 proposes the provision of new footpaths and street works that will mirror phase 2 for the area from Kilcannon Garden Centre to Scarawalsh roundabout.

The next steps for the project will be to finalise the detailed design and tender the Phase 1 works. Wexford County Council has allocated €200,000 to fund the development of the masterplan and to implement the Phase 1 works which are scheduled to commence in Q1 of 2022.

Wexford County Council will be seeking grant funding for the delivery of Phases 2 and 3 which have a construction budget cost of €2.1m and €3.5m respectively.

Mr Fox stated that other sources of funding would also be pursued.

Cllr Murphy welcomed the plan which was vital if Wexford County Council was to receive active travel funding and asked for information on the shared footpaths and whether they would be available to both pedestrians and cyclists. Mr. Fox stated that the footpaths will have a mixed use of pedestrians and cyclists with a width of 3 metres, with 2 – 2.5 metres currently available, and discussions would take place with the business owners. Mr Galvin stated that it was vital to that the active travel links between the town and the Old Dublin Road were developed.

The provision of a bus stop in the vicinity of the new Primary Care Centre was raised by the Cathaoirleach.

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. The Members put forward a number of queries to Ms. Lennon, including: -

Out of hours responses in relation to breaches of planning. Ms Lennon stated that written complaints were investigated and pursued by Enforcement staff and timelines under the Planning Act were adhered to.

2.1.1 Derelict Sites Update October 2021

Mr. Tom Banville attended the meeting to discuss Derelict Sites and updated the Members on the Derelict Sites Report which was circulated prior to the meeting.

Mr. Banville stated that currently there were eight properties on the derelict sites register and three of these were engaging with Wexford County Council to bring the properties up to standard. Kickham House is owned by Wexford County Council and four properties are under consideration for compulsory purchase, with one site being removed recently. Resources dedicated to derelict sites was one Executive Technician and one Assistant Staff Officer.

The Members raised concerns over the derelict property at 34 Island Road which had been derelict for 15 years.

Kickhams House – Concerns raised by Cllr Murphy of young people congregating with danger of fire and she asked that it be boarded up. Mr. Banville said that he would arrange for an inspection with a view to securing the site. In answer to Cllr Murphy, Mr. Banville stated that the current levy was 7% of the market value, but that collection rates had been low.

The Rock Factory / Springvalley Nursing Home – Cllr Codd Nolan asked if anything could be done regarding dereliction of these properties. Mr. Banville stated that contact had been made with the owner of Springvalley Nursing Home, who was looking to put it up for sale.

Old Convent, Templeshannon and House at St. Mary's Cemetery.

It was noted that the site at Raheenahoon has been assessed and a dangerous place notice has been placed.

Derelict sites in Bunclody, Ferns and Camolin were being investigated and Mr. Banville asked Members to email him with details of any further sites they wished investigated.

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.

A number of queries were raised by the Members, in particular: -

- Good wishes to Jason Martin who was moving from the Housing Grants Section of WCC.
- Need for housing for elderly close to amenities.
- Vacant house in Carrig Bán.
- Affordable housing plan for Gorey, similar scheme needed for Enniscorthy and Bunclody.
- Members welcomed the new Housing Officer for Enniscorthy, Tracey Maguire
- Concerns regarding tenants opting for RAS being taken off the housing list not very fair.

- Possibility of acquiring houses in Ferns.
- Vacant house at 16 Carrig Bán, Bunclody.
- Under HAP who is responsible for the condition of the house.
- Position of the HAP place finder position being filled shortly.
- Need for the provision of extra emergency accommodation, 1 and 2 beds for people that are single.
- Apartments not suitable for families.

In relation to housing supply Ms. Redmond informed Members that land for the provision of social housing continues to be identified through expression of interest that are advertised periodically and building outside towns was subject to demand and available land. Carrig Bán – Ms Redmond advised that No. 16 Carrig Bán had become vacant, the estimated return date for Nos 16, 17 and 18 and that No. 38 was ready for allocation.

Members were advised that the criteria for reviewing applicants for social housing supports was dictated by the Department.

Affordable Housing Scheme – scoring information was awaited from the Department, which will determine eligibility under the scheme. The homeless unit was in place and can be contacted at County Hall, Wexford County Council.

Under HAP scheme the Landlord is responsible for keeping up the standard of the house. RAS, under legislation tenants housed are deemed to have their housing needs met, however, may be prioritised for social housing supports should their tenancy be terminated.

Ms Redmond advised the Members that she would provide an update in relation to acquiring social housing in Ferns before the next Meeting.

Community, Environment, Libraries and Fire Service

Community

The Community Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Environment

- Councillor Codd Nolan thanked the Community Warden for works undertaken in Carrig Bán with the control of dogs.
- Removal of Public Convenience in Market Square.
- Position of Caretaker for public convenience in Bunclody.
- Monitoring of smoke levels.
- Monitoring of accumulation of rubbish for Halloween bonfires.
- The provision of public conveniences in towns needs to be carefully looked at.

Ms. Godkin replied to all queries raised and undertook to get a report for the November Meeting in relation to 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 Municipal District Report

It was noted that the Municipal District report would be circulated in the following days.

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.

Local Improvement Scheme progressing well, with 3 of the 5 lanes completed. Community Involvement Scheme works to commence shortly. Works progressing on the Active Travel Scheme

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

- Thanks for the new paths in Moran Park.
- Restoration of lights at Pedestrian Crossing at Mace, Bellefield, Enniscorthy.
- Trees at Springvalley – Pole No. 4 and 6.
- Road Markings from Milehouse Road Roundabout to Cherryorchard.
- Resurfacing at Greenville Lane
- Members joined in wishing M J Rossiter, GSS, Roads, well on his retirement
- Signage at Coolteigue where works had been completed.
- Consider changes to junction at Graiguebeg, Bunclody.
- Work completed in Mackmine from the junction at Borodale and Wilton Gardens.
- Provision of salt to large residential areas for gritting in bad weather conditions.

Mr. Dempsey replied to all queries raised stating that the pedestrian crossing at Bellefield involved a full upgrade at a cost of more than €10,000. He stated that there was no plan to add Greenville Lane to the salting routes as there was no capacity to do residential roads.

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 and stated that liaison was on-going and no request for further information had been received from the Minister. Members asked if a letter requesting an update could be forwarded to the Department.

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.

Members were informed of a proposed road closure at St. Senan's Road from 8th November to 17th December 2021 to carry out necessary works to the water mains. Members felt the timing was not helpful to traders coming up to the Christmas shopping period. Mr. O'Corcora undertook to see if the dates could be brought forward and undertook to circulate detour plans to the Members.

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

6.1 Residents Association Grants Scheme 2021

As previously agreed, the following applications were considered for funding under the Residents Association Grants Scheme, 2021.

- Millbrook, Enniscorthy
- Urrin Valley, Enniscorthy

It was proposed by Councillor Owens, seconded by Councillor Browne and agreed by all Members that a grant of €600 be awarded to Millbrook Residents Association and a grant of €600 be awarded to Urrin Valley Residents Association under the Residents Association Grants Scheme 2021.

6.2 Civic Honours proposals 2021

The Cathaoirleach informed the Members of the provisional dates for the holding of civic honours functions, 10th November and 1st December 2021. Cllr Byrne proposed holding a Meeting of the Sub-Committee prior to the November monthly meeting.

7. Correspondence.

None.

9. Any Other Business.

Cllr Owens raised the matter of only one gate being open in the Bunclody Graveyard. Cllr Murphy complimented the Council on works carried out to upgrade of the graveyard.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Owens, it was agreed to go into Committee at this juncture of the Meeting. Cathaoirleach asked the Press and Deputy

Verona Murphy to leave the Meeting. Deputy Murphy objected to leaving the Meeting but did so on the further request of the Cathaoirleach.

Community Allotments

A discussion took place regarding the suitability of proposed sites for the provision of community allotments.

The Cathaoirleach undertook to work with the Director of Services to achieve a reasonable compromise in finding a suitable location.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE