

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL  
DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD ON MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup>  
SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 3.00 P.M., AT THE PRESENTATION  
CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY.**

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

**Officials:** Ms. Carolyne Godkin, A/Director of Services  
Ms. Bernie Quigley, A/District Manager  
Mr. Tadhg O Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer  
Ms Martina Furlong, Economic Development Officer  
Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer, Housing  
Ms. Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner, Planning  
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer  
Ms Mary Clince, A/Staff Officer

**Guest:** Verona Murphy, T.D.

**Votes of Sympathies**

The Members expressed their sincere sympathies to the following: -

- The Shield Family on the death of Helen (nee O'Toole), Pearse Road, Enniscorthy.
- The Moorehouse Family, on the death of Tony, bother of Joe and Paul, employees of Wexford County Council.
- The family of Ann Turner, St John's Villas, Enniscorthy.
- The Larrissey Family, Church Road, Bunclody on the death of Bridie.
- Bill Doyle, Milehouse Road on the death of his wife Elizabeth.
- The family of Maureen Behan, Bunclody.

## **Congratulations**

The Members congratulated the Rapparees Team on winning the Senior Hurling County Final, a win they felt showed huge commitment from the team. The Members asked if consideration could be given to the facilitation of a Civic Reception to acknowledge this achievement.

The Under 23 All-Ireland Pool Champions and the Junior Wexford Camogie Team were also congratulated on winning All-Ireland Finals. The Members stated that the Camogie Team were wonderful role models and an inspiration to young women. The Members highlighted their disappointment with the absence of purple and gold flags around the town in support of the team, however, it was noted that flags were placed on the bridge supporting all County teams who took part in All-Ireland Championships this year. The provision of a Civic Reception for the team was discussed.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that a meeting of the Municipal Honours Sub-Committee convene before the next monthly meeting.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Deputy Verona Murphy to the Meeting and informed attendees that the meeting would be limited to 1 hour and 55 minutes duration.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

#### **1.1 Minutes of the July Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor O'Rourke, the Minutes of the July Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

#### **1.2 Matters Arising**

Cllr. Owens asked what the next steps were in obtaining information on the commencement of the Enniscorthy Flood Relied Scheme. The Cathaoirleach stated that this matter would be dealt with at a later stage in this meeting.

### **2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:**

#### **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.

Cllr. Murphy raised the matter of derelict sites in the Enniscorthy District and asked for a report to be submitted to the Members for the next meeting. In reply to Cllr. Owens, Ms. Lennon stated that no current planning application had been made for a new Meanscoil Gharman in Enniscorthy. Cllr. Owens also asked for an update on the former Murphy Floods Hotel site.

## **2.2 Housing**

Ms. Redmond, Senior Staff Officer attended the meeting to update the Members on Housing. The main points of the Housing Report circulated prior to the meeting were highlighted following which a number of queries were raised by the Members: -

House at Ross Road – In reply to Cllr. Owens, Ms. Redmond stated that she had been informed by Shay Howell, Architect, that the scaffolding was being removed and works would be started on the interior of this house, with a new completion programme pending.

Affordable Housing – Ms. Redmond informed Members that from a survey taken to enable an assessment of the viability of the development of affordable housing, a total of 203 submissions were received, 56 from the Enniscorthy District.

Ms Redmond further advised of the family composition, current tenure and average household income of the applicants.

Wexford Council will carry out an update of its Social Housing Support listing, details of which will be advertised in the local press this week and on Facebook and Twitter.

Cllr. Codd-Nolan sought an update on 5 vacant houses in Carrig Bán and on the timescale for the Knotweed Plan at Newtown, Ferns.

Cllr. O'Rourke asked for an update on the house in Marconi Park. He stated that dumping in Marconi Park was a major problem, with a private company having to take away substantial amounts of rubbish every second or third day, which was a huge drain on resources.

Cllr. O'Rourke sought an audit on underoccupancy, which he said was an issue that needed to be addressed.

Cllr. Browne also raised the matter of dumping in Marconi Park. He noted that the number of applicants expressing an interest in affordable housing in Enniscorthy was the second highest in the county. He also raised the need for a scheme of bungalows to be constructed and asked if this could be examined, which was fully supported by Cllr. Byrne.

In relation to former St. Patrick's Special School on Convent Road, Cllr. O'Rourke asked if the Director of Services could engage with the HSE and the Board of Management of the School with a view to putting in shallets/housing for the elderly at

this location, similar to the housing provided in Loreto Village, Pearse Road. Ms. Godkin stated that she would investigate the possibility of repurposing this site.

Ms. Redmond informed Members that the house in Marconi Park which was fire damaged had proceeded to tender and these tenders were currently being evaluated. She undertook to liaise with the Environment Section in relation to the dumping taking place at this location.

In relation to the provision of affordable housing, direction from the Department was awaited. Ms. Godkin referred to the affordable housing fund, the local authority building programme, the cost rental scheme and the first home scheme, which were all subject to terms and conditions. She assured Members that sites were actively being pursued and undertook to update Members further.

Cllr. Owens asked that vacant houses be allocated in a shorter timeframe.

Cllr. Murphy asked if Disability Persons Grants were being held up following Covid. Cllr. Byrne also referred to people awaiting work on applications for adaptation grants, referring to the extra cost of disposing of asbestos not being covered.

The matter of Section 40 referrals was raised and Ms. Godkin stated that she had spoken to the Housing staff and assured Members that in situations where representations were raised without a Section 40, the customer would be contacted directly by the housing staff and through working with the Housing Officer on a weekly basis and she is happy to follow up on specific incidents.

Ms. Redmond undertook to get an update on the vacant units at Crefogue and Borrmount.

Ms. Redmond advised that approval had been given to upgrade 54 units under the Energy Retrofitting Programme 2021 which is currently at e-tender stage.

Building outside of the town was dependent on land being available.

Grant applications continue to be dealt with, with 568 approved since March 2020 and payments of approximately €2 million have been made to applicants despite covid restrictions.

The Officials responded to all other queries raised.

## **Community, Environment, Libraries and Fire Service**

### **Community**

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

## **Environment**

The following issues were raised –

- Cllr. Codd Nolan - Septic Tank inspections, small number completed recently.
- Implementation of the Smokey coal ban.
- Cllr Murphy - fly pipping issues in Bunclody.
- Extend survey to check how households were disposing of their refuse.
- Plans should be in place before Halloween to try to avoid anti-social behaviour.

Cllr. Browne congratulated Wexford County Council on the provision of the mattress and sofa amnesty and asked if one could be held for paint and paint cans. He also asked if the clothes bank at Ross Road could be emptied more regularly.

Cllr. Owens stated that only one side gate of the Graveyard in Bunclody was accessible and asked if this could be investigated. He also asked for a report on the provision of a public toilet in Enniscorthy.

Cllr. Byrne thanked officials for the works carried out in Carrig Bán.

Ms. Godkin undertook to follow up on all issues raised.

## **Libraries & Fire Service**

The Libraries and Fire Service Reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted and the return of the Library Service was welcomed.

### **2.3 Enterprise**

The Economic Development Report submitted to the Members prior to the meeting was noted. Ms. Martina Furlong informed the Members that the Economic Department had administered €128,000 grant aid to businesses in the Enniscorthy Municipal District under the Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC) funding for business.

Under the Town & Village Streetscape Enhancement Measures, 2021, Ms. Furlong stated that a total of 161 applications had been received, 39 from the Enniscorthy District. These applications will be assessed at district level and recommendations made. The maximum grant per building is €8,000.

### **2.4 Municipal District Report**

Ms. Quigley outlined the following items for discussion; -

- **Enniscorthy Technology Park**
- **Sports Hub**
- **Enniscorthy Trails Feedback**
- **Outdoor Summer Assistance**
- **Live Performance Scheme 2021**

- **Historic Towns Initiative**
- **Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy**
- **Town and Villages Streetscape Enhancement Scheme, 2021**
- **Working Group for the Urban Regeneration Plan for Enniscorthy Town Centre**

Members welcomed the application under ORIS Measure 2 to resurface the entire riverside trail by the Slaney, 3km and resurface a track around the Urrin River up to St. John's Bridge, 600 loop which will allow wheelchairs and disabled users access around the Urrin Footbridge.

Mr. Neil Dempsey informed Members of an Active Travel Scheme for the Old Dublin Road and the Roads Department were working with Special Projects on applying for funding for the section of roadway out to the Primary Health Centre with a new bus stop, footpath and cycling lane.

Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora updated Members on the Historic Towns Initiative stating that 18 of the 21 premises had signed up for the scheme and the windows and doors and painting contractors would be on site within 2 weeks.

Cllr. Murphy welcomed the masterplan for works in the Old Dublin Road Business Park, Enniscorthy, with over 2,000 people employed there.

Cllr. Byrne thanked the A/District Manager for her report and expressed disappointment at the recent vandalism in the Orchard Peace Park and asked if the damage could be rectified. He also asked if the outdoor trails walkway by the River Slaney could be continued out to Borodale to complete the walkway.

Cllr. Byrne welcomed the work being undertaken by all Members as part of the working group in the preparation of a significant and comprehensive plan for the Urban Regeneration of Enniscorthy Town Centre.

In relation to the Outdoor Trading Licence Scheme, A/ District Manager, Ms. Quigley stated that having reviewed the applications, it was now being recommended that the scheme be paused until Spring, 2022. Cllr. Owens supported this recommendation, and it was agreed that the scheme be paused until 2022. Cllr. Murphy asked if the Outdoor Trading Scheme was being postponed would the same applicants be asked to re-apply when it was readvertised next year. Ms. Quigley confirmed that this would be the case and that all applicants will be held on file until next year.

Ms. Godkin undertook to revert to the Members next year when there would be a better sense of where the need is for this scheme. She also informed Members that a member of the Special Project Team would attend the October Meeting.

### 3. **Roads**

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

- Restoration Improvement Schemes – Macmine, Marshalstown and Tombrack still to complete.
- Community Involvement Scheme 2020 & 2021- L2019-1 Cullentragh to be completed.
- Outdoor Infrastructure 2021 – Tree survey received for Mall in Bunclody, with 1 tree to be removed and some to be replaced.
- Local Improvement Scheme – works on 5 lanes currently underway, with date for completion in October 2021.

Members raised the following items: -

- Footpaths at Dunbars Corner in Ferns, Killagoley and Ballyhogue.
- Trees at Springvalley grown over the public lights.
- Pedestrian Crossing lights not working at Mace, Bellefield Road.
- Pathway at Milehouse Road – 15 metres no path.
- Paths at Red Pats Cross to Tomduff.
- Problem at St. Aidan's Villas and Fr. Cullen Terrace with school traffic and parking.
- Speed limit too high on Convent Road, adjacent to St. Aidan's Parish School.
- Pedestrian Crossing at Bohreen Hill – beacons missing/paint needs upgrading.
- Extra monies under the Local Improvement Scheme very welcome.
- Cutting back of hedgerows.
- Can Pedestrian lighting at Parnell Road, near the 1798 Centre, be replaced.
- One way system in Rafter Street – lorries, including refuse lorry reversing down Rafter Street, can this be examined.
- Tinnakilla Lane – road given way and impassable.
- Roadway at Abbeydown/Clonegal out to Carnew in need of repair.
- Potholes on roadway at The Paddock, Milehouse Road.

Mr. Dempsey replied to items raised and stated that trees around streetlights would be attended to in the coming weeks. In relation to the pedestrian lighting in Bellefield, this was out of order due to a button being broken, which has become a reoccurring issue.

It was noted that a number of options were being examined and costed for works at Red Pats Cross.

Mr. Dempsey referred to the Safe Route to School Scheme, which encouraged both parents and children to walk or cycle to school. Extra bus bays were being planned for the Fr. Cullen Terrace area.

Mr. Dempsey acknowledged that the cutting of hedgerows and ditches was a continual problem.

Mr. Dempsey undertook to speak to the A/District Manager in relation to management of bollards on Rafter Street and will investigate all other matters raised, taking into consideration available funding.

**4. Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update.**

Mr. Larry McHale circulated the Members with the Flood Defence Scheme Report prior to the meeting. He informed Members that legal agreements had been completed with Irish Water and were nearing completion with other agencies. Mr. McHale looked forward to the approval to the Scheme in the near future.

**5. Water Services Report.**

Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer, attended the meeting and updated the Members on the main points of his report, circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr. Murphy enquired how many times water outages had occurred since the July Meeting. Mr. O' Corcora replied that there had been 10 outages in that time, partly due to very high usage.

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

None.

**7. Correspondence.**

None.

**8. Any Other Business.**

Cllr. Owens asked if a park bench could be provided in memory of former Councillor Tom Moorehouse outside his home in Moran Park.

**This concluded the business of the Meeting.**

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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**DATE**