

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Monday 13th July, 2026 in the Council Chamber at 2.00pm (with some remote attendance)

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr. Lisa McDonald, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors:

Barden	Pat	Forde	Tom	Owens	Jackser
Barron	Vicky (Online)	Kavanagh	Paddy	Shannon	Raymond
Boland	Nicky	Kehoe	Pat	Sheehan	Michael
Breen	Pip	Kenny	Donal	Staples	Frank
Browne	Aidan	Laffan	Garry (Online)	Staples	Robbie
Byrne	Patricia (Online)	McDonald	Darragh	Sullivan	Joe
Carthy	Ger	Murphy	Barbara-Anne	Walsh	Catherine
Donohoe	Anthony	Murphy	Bridín	Walsh	Oliver (Online)
Doyle	Craig	Murphy	Marty		
Dwyer	John	O'Brien	Aoife Rose (Online)		
Fleming	John	O'Rourke	John (Online)		

Officials:

Mr. Michael Drea, County Secretary

Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services

Ms. Liz Hore, Director of Services

Ms. Deirdre Kirwan, Senior Planner

Ms. Lynda Lacey, Director of Finance

Ms. Eileen Morrissey, A/Director of Services

Mr. Alan Quirke, Director of Services

Mr. Eddie Taaffe, Chief Executive

Apologies: Cllr.'s Jim Codd, Mary Farrell, Leonard Kelly, Ms. Carolyn Godkin, Director of Services

1. Presentation – Update on Local Link Progress and Expansion in County Wexford by Mary B. O’Leary, Former General Manager

Cathaoirleach Cllr. L. McDonald welcomed Ms. Mary B. O’Leary and outlined the service operated by Local Link. Ms. Mary B. O’Leary gave a presentation to the Council outlining:

- The charitable status and governance structure of Local Link.
- The tendering process every three to five years through the NTA.
- The turnover and passenger numbers over the period 2015 to 2025.
- The main types of services provided by TFI Local Link Wexford.
- New DRT routes 2026 taken over from Bus Eireann.
- The Regular Rural Services available and new services coming online.

Following the presentation Ms. Mary B. O’Leary responded to the following queries from the Elected Members:

- Can the frequency of the Rosslare route be increased over the summer months to every 30 minutes?
- Can a service be introduced to serve Duncannon, Carnivon, and Baginbun?
- Can the 369 route be extended to Carlow to serve SETU?
- Can a service be introduced to serve Adamstown?

Cllr.'s G. Carthy, J. Owens, D. Kenny, J. Fleming, B.A. Murphy, P. Barden, and L. McDonald thanked Ms. O’Leary for her service and wished her well for the future.

Mr. E. Taaffe thanked Ms. O’Leary for her service, and the service local link provides acknowledging it as having been crucial to the overall success of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in 2024 and 2025. Cathaoirleach Cllr. L. McDonald made a presentation to Ms. O’Leary to mark her retirement.

Votes of Sympathy:

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of James (Jim) Allen, Former Mayor of Wexford.
- The family of Catherine Crabbe, mother of Latido Crabbe, HR Section.
- The family of Anita O’ Hara (née McGrath), “Shalom”, Coolcotts, Wexford Town.
- The family of Philip Doyle, Tara Hill, Gorey, Co. Wexford.

Congratulations:

- Cllr. D. Kenny congratulated Wicklow on winning the Tailteann Cup.
- Cllr. G. Carthy congratulated the Bannow and Rathangan Show Committee on a very successful show and suggested that it might be appropriate for the Cathaoirleach to consider a civic reception to mark their 75th anniversary.
- Cllr. G. Carthy commended lifeguards Roisin Lawless and Fleur Lambert for their swift response, professionalism, and courage in dealing with an incident where a number of people got into trouble in the water in Rosslare. Cllr. Carthy also commended the lifeguard service operated by Wexford County Council.
- Cllr.'s J. Owens and C. Walsh congratulated the organising committee of the recent Relay for Life event and all those who participated.
- Cllr. P. Kehoe congratulated the Baile Dubh Tíre team and management who retained their LGFA Division 1 league title with a victory over Clonee.
- Cllr. B.A. Murphy congratulated Eamonn Hore, Director of Services on securing €13.4 million in funding for emergency road repairs following storm Chandra. Cllr. Murphy also commended Minister Darragh O'Brien for the funding allocation.
- Cllr. P. Barden congratulated the organising committees of the Adamstown and Bannow and Rathangan shows.
- Cllr.'s M. Sheehan congratulated the Economic team in Wexford County Council for their recent hosting of Governor Brian P. Kemp and First Lady Marty Kemp who are leading an international mission to foster economic relationships.
- Cllr. V. Barron congratulated Cllr. T. Forde and the organising committee of the Pecker Dunne festival on a great event.
- Cllr. T. Forde thanked that Wexford Borough Municipal District staff for their assistance with the Pecker Dunne festival.
- Cathaoirleach Cllr. L. McDonald extended congratulations to lifeguards Roisin Lawless and Fleur Lambert for their actions in Rosslare, the Roads Department on securing €13.4m in funding, and the Economic team for hosting Governor Brian Kemp and First Lady Marty Kemp.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 County Council Meeting 8th June, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the County Council Meeting on 8th June, 2026.

Matters Arising:

Cllr. G. Carthy sought an update on the creation of a filter lane coming from the Whitford roundabout and exiting towards New Ross at the New Ross roundabout at the Newtown Park hotel.

Cllr. G. Carthy sought an update on the traffic management plan for Wexford.

Cllr. G. Carthy enquired if Wexford County Council has taken any action in relation to issues at Kerlogue House? Cllr. C. Walsh expressed concerns about anti-social behaviour at Kerlogue House and Cllr. T. Forde asked that the Homeless Unit engage with those sleeping rough at Kerlogue House.

Cllr. J. Fleming expressed concern at the situation in Integer with a proposed inventory review at the site necessitating the closure of the plant between July 27th and August 10th. Cllr. Fleming outlined his intention to seek an urgent meeting to clarify the situation.

Cllr. B.A. Murphy concurred with Cllr. Fleming stating that Integer's treatment of staff in this situation is terrible and asking that they reconsider their position.

Cllr. M. Sheehan echoed the call for a meeting with the management of Integer.

Whilst Cllr. J. Dwyer agreed with the sentiments re: Integer, he felt it would be more prudent not to comment on the situation given the companies importance to the local economy.

2.2 Annual Meeting Wexford County Council 26th June, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the Annual Meeting on 26th June, 2026.

Matters Arising:

In response to a general comment Cllr. T. Forde made at the Annual Meeting, Cllr. J. Owens put on record that he has never received a chair of a committee or district as part of any deal to support the Government parties.

3. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:

3.1 Intention of dispose of lands at Coolteen, Barntown, Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan the Council resolved to dispose of lands at Coolteen, Barntown, Wexford in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3.2 Intention to lease lands at Taghmon, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. F. Staples the Council resolved to lease lands at Taghmon, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

4. Part XI of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended)

4.1 LAC2606 - Kilpatrick Beach Coastal Works at Kilpatrick Beach, Castletown, Gorey, Co. Wexford.

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. D. Kenny, seconded by Cllr. J. Sullivan, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the Kilpatrick Beach Coastal Works at Kilpatrick Beach, Castletown, Gorey, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2606, as circulated.

4.2 LAC2607 - Gorey Inner Relief Road (Lands east of Ballytegan Avenue to the R772, Arklow Road) at St. Waleran's Demesne, Ballytegan, Gorey, Co. Wexford.

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the Gorey Inner Relief Road (Lands east of Ballytegan Avenue to the R772, Arklow Road) at St. Waleran's Demesne, Ballytegan, Gorey, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2607, as circulated.

Mr. E. Taaffe welcomed the granting of the Part 8 for the Gorey Inner Relief Road at St. Waleran's Demesne, Ballytegan, Gorey, Co. Wexford stating that it is a very significant day for the future of Gorey.

5. Proposed Variation No. 1 to Wexford County Development Plan 2022 - 2028

a) Consideration of Chief Executive's Report on Proposed Material Alterations

Ms. Deirdre Kirwan, Senior Planner gave a presentation to the Council on the Chief Executive's report on submissions received on proposed material alterations to proposed variation no. 1 of the County Development Plan. Ms. Kirwan outlined:

- The proposed variation No. 1 of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 and what the proposed variation comprises.
- The purpose of the meeting, which is to consider the proposed material alterations (PMA's), the Chief Executive's report on submissions, all associated environmental assessments, and decide whether to make proposed variation no. 1 of the CDP.
- The statutory process to date with an initial public consultation from the 11th February – 12th March. 64 no. submissions were received, and the Chief Executive issued his report to the members on 2nd of April. 39 no. PMAs were identified but at a Special Council Meeting on 20th April, 6 additional PMA's were added (45 no. total).
- That the 45 no. PMAs went on public display from 29th April – 28th May and 14 no. submissions were received. The CE Report was prepared with minor amendments to 5 no. PMA's.
- That the final CE Report was brought to the members on 17th June with a briefing of members on 23rd June.
- That the purpose of the meeting was to consider the Chief Executive's report, the environmental assessments and all submissions and observations received during

the statutory consultation process and the members were required, in accordance with S. 58(17) of the Planning and Development Act 2024 to resolve to:

- 1) Make the Variation as originally proposed.
 - 2) Make the Variation with the material alterations that were subject to public notice (or with minor modifications as permitted in the Act) or;
 - 3) Refuse to make the Variation.
- The recommendation of the Chief Executive is to make the variation with 44 of the 45 PMAs. PMA no. 43 which relates to zoning at lands at Clonhaston was not recommended to be made.

Cllr. J. Fleming recorded a conflict of interest in relation to PMA no. 5 relating to General Industry lands in Enniscorthy and recused himself from the meeting whilst this PMA was being discussed and decided upon.

Following the presentation Ms. Deirdre Kirwan responded to the following queries from the Elected Members:

- Cllr. A. Browne enquired what a detailed masterplan and infrastructure assessment for general industry lands in Enniscorthy for PMA no. 5 mean?
- Cllr. B.A. Murphy enquired if the Council would be able to proceed quickly in relation to PMA no. 5?
- Cllr P. Kehoe proposed PMA no. 43 zoning in Clonhaston to be suitable for delivery of housing in the future and proposed the PMA to be adopted notwithstanding the recommendation of the CE. This was supported by Cllr. B.A. Murphy.
- Cllr. G. Carthy expressed concern that Rosslare will lose out on residential zoning to other districts if it is left until last.
- Cllr. A. Donohoe expressed concern in relation to the amount of commercial zoning in Gorey.
- Cllr. M. Sheehan enquired if a proposal could be brought forward to grant New Ross key town designation as it is currently missing out by a narrow margin.
- Cllr. J. Owens welcomed the proposal and Cllr. B.A. Murphy thanked Deirdre and her staff for all their hard work.

b) Resolution on Proposed Variation

Cathaoirleach Cllr. L. McDonald proposed the following motion to make the proposed Variation No. 1 with all 45 of the PMA's:

Having considered the:

- Proposed Variation No.1 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028;

- Proposed Material Alterations which were placed on public display and subsequent minor modifications agreed on this day;
- Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on the proposed material alterations which was circulated to the Members on the 17th of June 2026;
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report for the Proposed Variation;
- Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report for the Proposed Variation;
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Proposed Variation;
- SEA Screening Report for the Proposed Material Alterations;
- Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the Proposed Material Alterations;
- Final Natura Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Determination;
- Updated SFRA for the Proposed Material Alterations;
- Written submissions relating to SEA, AA and SFRA made during the process, and ongoing advice on SEA, AA and SFRA from the Council's agents, and having regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the County, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 58(17) of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended), the Members resolve to make the Proposed Variation Number 1 to the County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy and having been put to the meeting was agreed unanimously, and the Proposed Variation including all 45 proposed material alterations shall be made.

Accordingly, Variation No. 1 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 was made in accordance with Section 58 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 and came into effect on the date of resolution.

Mr. E. Taaffe thanked the members for their time and consideration of the proposed variation, and their subsequent adoption of the variation

6. ABP-319864-24 – Proposed development of an offshore wind farm, located off the coast of Co. Wicklow and Co. Wexford, on the east coast of Ireland (comments on further information received)

Ms. L. Hore informed the Council that in accordance with Section 291(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (amended) we have been notified that further information has been submitted regarding the above development, which has been deemed to be significant. Therefore, further submissions have been invited up to 29th July, 2026.

Ms. Hore advised that the Council can approve the circulated report or resolve to add recommendations which will be attached to the report which is being sent to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny, the Council resolved to approve the circulated report which is to be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

7. Invitation for delegation to travel to the re-opening of the Rossini Theatre in Lugo, Italy 19th October 2026 to 21st October 2026 inclusive

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy, the Council resolved to accept the invitation to send a delegation to the re-opening of the Rossini Theatre in Lugo, Italy from 19th October 2026 to 21st October 2026 inclusive.

The meeting adjourned for a comfort break at this point.

Cllr. C. Doyle left the meeting at this point.

8. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive and members of the Management Team responded to a wide range of queries from the Elected Members regarding the following:

- Request that greater detail in relation to Council company reports be provided going forward such as financials etc.
- Query if there is any flexibility in relation to planning retention levies as three times the normal rate is very significant.
- The scenario was raised whereby someone who has been operating an Air B&B legitimately for a number of years may be required to apply for planning retention if new legislation is introduced. It was argued that charging these people the retention fees (triple the rate) would be very unfair as it was outside their control and may put them out of business.
- It was noted that a delegation from New Ross wish to meet Kilkenny County Council to discuss the road diversions which have been put in place as a result of the Ferrymountgarrett bridge being closed.
- Is a right turn being considered at Ballymackessy Cross as a safety measure?
- Update sought on Clohamon junction works.
- District engineers were thanked for the hedge cutting which has taken place.
- Request that pedestrianised streets be sign posted to make people aware that you cannot cycle or use a scooter on these streets.
- Is there a plan to spend the emergency funding received for roads following storm Chandra?
- Update sought on bus stops for Bunclody.
- Update sought on active travel plans for N25 in New Ross.
- Emergency funding allocation for roads damaged by storm Chandra was welcomed.
- Query if the free parking period can be extended from 15 minutes to one hour in public car parks.

- Update sought on the outcome of the procurement process for Trinity Wharf investors.
- Is Trinity Wharf going to a design and build scheme?
- View expressed that if Trinity Wharf isn't viable, a decision needs to be taken to move on from the project.
- What options are available to Wexford County Council if An Coimisiún Pleanála overturns a decision of the Council?
- Can a business park be developed on the proposed site for the advance factory in New Ross?
- View expressed that a wet hostel needs to be considered given the number of people currently barred from homeless services.
- Do TLO's inspect properties before they are vacated?
- The case of a multi-occupancy apartment complex in New Ross was raised where all the tenants have been served with notices to quit. It was requested that the Director of Services contact the Department of Housing to see what options are available.
- A request for assistance for a family of seven living in a social house with a septic tank that isn't working.
- The case of a social housing tenant who has suffered a severe brain injury and is looking to relocate to an area with social supports was raised and a request that the case be reviewed.
- How long are same sex children expected to share a room in a social house?
- The increase in the fine for illegal dumping from €150 to €250 was described as derisory with the view expressed that the fine should be at least €1,000.
- How many people are on the social housing list?
- Request that the domestic violence transfer protocol be circulated to all councillors.
- Request that the policies being discussed at the Housing SPC be circulated to the members of the SPC for consideration.

Cllr. J. Owens left the meeting at this point.

- The Franchise, Environment, and Library departments were commended for their engagement with the public at the Bannow and Rathangan Show and the Fire Service was commended for their engagement with the public at the Clohamon show.

9. Minutes of CPG Meeting 6th July, 2026

9.1 Minutes of CPG Meeting 6th July, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy, the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the CPG Meeting on 6th July, 2026.

10. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting)

10.1 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 19th May, 2026

- 10.2 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 13th May, 2026
- 10.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 18th May, 2026
- 10.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 19th May, 2026
- 10.5 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 20th May, 2026
- 10.6 Housing SPC - 1st April, 2026
- 10.7 Community & Rural Affairs SPC - 9th April, 2026
- 10.8 Climate Change, Biodiversity & Environment SPC – 2nd April, 2026
- 10.9 Roads & Transportation SPC – 30th March, 2026
- 10.10 Planning & Building Control SPC – 20th April, 2026

The Members noted the minutes, as circulated.

11. Correspondence and Communications

- 11.1 Letter from Limerick City and County Council re: motion dated 3rd June, 2026
- 11.2 Email from Office of Minister for Finance re: motion dated 16th June, 2026
- 11.3 Letter from Senator Cathal Byrne re: motion dated 16th June, 2026
- 11.4 Letter from General Manager, HSE re: motion dated 23rd June, 2026
- 11.5 Email from Eir re: motion dated 24th June, 2026
- 11.6 Email from Minister for Transport re: motion dated 7th July, 2026

The Members noted the correspondence, as circulated.

12. Councillor's Conferences and Training

12.1 Training

Online Training:

30th June LGIU – Chairing Skills for Councillors – Online Training.

LGIU Member - £120/ Non Member - £160

Training:

30th Sept to 1st Oct AILG Autumn Training Seminar – Clanree Hotel, Derry Road,

Bunnagee, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Fee €190

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Kehoe, seconded by Cllr. P. Barden, the Council resolved to approve attendance at the above listed training.

12.2 Delegation Report

KIMO - May 2026

The Members noted the delegation report, as circulated.

13. Notices of Motion

13.1 Motion proposed by Cllr. Raymond Shannon and passed at the Wexford Borough District Meeting and requested to be forwarded to the full Council.

"That Wexford County Council call upon the Minister for Health & Minister for Mental Health that they include outsourcing assessment for CAHMS and after-care services be covered under a Patient Purchase Scheme after a three-month waiting period."

On the proposal of Cllr. R. Shannon, seconded by Cllr. C. Walsh, and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

13.2 Motion passed at Rosslare Municipal District Meeting and requested to be forwarded to the full Council.

"The members of the Rosslare Municipal District ask that IPB funding which is matched by WCC be allocated to 100 €1000 grants. To be allocated equally across the five districts. We so propose. Cllr Carthy, Cllr Codd, Cllr Staples, Cllr McDonald and Cllr O' Brien."

This motion was withdrawn as the members were in agreement with the Director of Finance's proposal that the grant be distributed equally between each of the districts and the members of each district allocating it accordingly.

13.3 Cllr. T. Forde & Cllr. A.R. O'Brien

"We ask that Wexford County Council write to the Minister for Health and all Irish MEPs to seek a pause on, and actively oppose, the proposed EU harmonisation of Maximum Permitted Levels for vitamin and mineral food supplements. We further request that the Minister ensures that any future regulations take account of differing geographical needs (such as widespread Vitamin D deficiency in Ireland), protect consumer choice, and safeguard the viability of local health food businesses."

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. P. Kavanagh, and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

13.4 Cllrs. B.A. Murphy, P. Breen, D. Kenny

"That this Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to ensure that local authorities remain in a position to prioritise those housing applicants on their own housing lists and who reside in their county of application, over those who live in other counties when allocating social housing, (excluding those suffering from domestic violence). This is sought in order to prevent a national based type of choice based letting where length of time on the list may favour applicants from other counties over those living within their county of application."

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny, and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

13.5 Cllr. M. Sheehan

"Recognising that workers are disadvantaged under the current Scheme of Letting Priorities and National Income Guidelines, this Council resolves to call on the Minister for Local Government, Environment and Heritage to scrap the income guidelines and replace them with the same bands as Council Mortgages (€80k and €85k) to allow workers a better chance of entering the social housing support process."

This motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan and seconded by Cllr. R. Shannon.

Cllr. J. Fleming proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy:

"Recognising that workers are disadvantaged under the current Scheme of Letting Priorities and National Income Guidelines, this Council resolves to call on the Minister for Local Government, Environment and Heritage to increase the existing income thresholds under the National Income Guidelines by 20%, thereby improving access for workers and allowing them a better chance of entering the social housing support process."

The amended motion was carried on a show of hands.

13.6 Cllr. T. Forde

"That Wexford County Council recognizes the historical significance of the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939) and the profound impact it had on communities across Ireland.

This Council notes that approximately one dozen men from County Wexford travelled abroad to take part in this conflict, including notable figures such as Commander Peter Daly who made the ultimate sacrifice at the Battle of Belchite.

Acknowledging our shared duty to historical accuracy and local heritage, this Council agrees to coordinate a commemorative, community-led reflection event—leveraging funds such as the Wexford County Council Commemoration Scheme."

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan, and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

14. A.O.B.

Cllr. B.A. Murphy requested that a Protocol Meeting be held prior to the September Plenary meeting.

Cllr. J. Fleming sought clarity on when the Wexford Town Plan will be available.

Cllr. M. Sheehan queried if the SPC can reject or approve motions which are forwarded to it for consideration.

Cllr. P. Kehoe queried when the report on graveyard costs will be available.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an

lá de Meán Fómhair, 2026.

Cllr. Lisa McDonald

Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,

County Secretary