# Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting

**held on the 11th June 2025 at 14:30hrs in the**

**Council Chamber, The Tholsel, Quay Street, New Ross.**

**Presiding:** Cllr Bridin Murphy – An Cathaoirleach

**Councillors:** Cllr John Dwyer – Leas Cathaoirleach

 Cllr Pat Barden

Cllr John Fleming

Cllr Marty Murphy

Cllr Michael Sheehan

**Officials:** Alan Fitzhenry – District Manager

Áine Waters – Staff Officer

Michelle Duffin – Assistant Staff Officer

David Murphy – Executive Engineer (Roads)

Abigail Nuzum – Planner

Darren Buchanan - Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer

**Remote:** Melissa Goff – Senior Staff Officer (Environment)

 Martina Donoghue – Administrative Officer (Housing)

Eoghan Nolan – Executive Planner

**Apologies:**  Eamonn Hore – District Director

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Bridin Murphy, confirmed that the requisite quorum was in place, welcomed all those in attendance, with a special welcome to Abigail Nuzum, replacing Eoghan as the area planner, and Darren Buchanan from Fire Services, and commenced the meeting.

1. **Confirmation of Minutes**
	1. ***Monthly Meeting***

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 7th May, 2025, were proposed by Cllr John Dwyer and seconded by Cllr Michael Sheehan.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

*Sympathies*

Cllr Marty Murphy offered condolences to the family of Walter Byrne, of Ballyhack, and the family of Mamie Murphy, of Kilbride, Duncannon.

Cllr Sheehan offered condolences to the families of Larry Cash and Martin Waters.

Cllr Pat Barden offered condolences to the family of John Furlong, of Adamstown.

*Congratulations*

Cllr Sheehan extended congratulations to all businesses who won awards at the County Wexford Business Awards, particularly Cumas who were joint winners in the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion category, and AnneMarie Kennedy of the Kennedy Trust who won the Employee of the year Award, and Integer who won in the Business of the Year (50+ Employees) category.

Cllr John Fleming congratulated the Gardaí on the recent Go Purple Day, the national domestic violence awareness day.

**2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

***2.1 District Managers Report***

The District Manager delivered his monthly report and highlighted the following information;

**Annual Meeting**

A reminder that the date for the NRMD Annual Meeting was agreed and set at the previous monthly meeting for Thursday 19th June at 2.30pm.

**EVENTS**

**Official Openings of The Shambles & Duncannon Fort Works**

I am delighted to confirm that these projects, funded by the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and WCC, will be officially opened on Friday 11th July, as confirmed by the Ministers office. We look forward to once more welcoming the Minister for Rural and Community Development & Social Protection Dara Calleary TD to the New Ross District on the day. Full details and times will be circulated to the Members once confirmed in the coming weeks.

**AIMS**

A quick note of sincere thanks and “well done” to all the team involved in the 40th AIMS Choral Festival which took place in New Ross in May. The festival is firmly established and attracts choirs, musical societies and soloists from all over Ireland. A great weekend was had, helped by the sunny weather, and it was fantastic to see the newly opened Brennan’s Lane being used for performances, showcasing its excellence as a public realm space in the town.

**Fleadh Fringe 2025**

As part of the build up to the Fleadh coming to Wexford Town again this coming August, Wexford County Council has once more supported a “Fleadh Fringe” events series in the Districts. The NRMD, working with St Michael’s Theatre and local Comhaltas groups, has organised “Fleadh Fest ’25”, a series of free performances every Saturday afternoon in June in Brennan’s Lane. The first performance was held last Saturday with the wonderful Danescastle entertaining the crowd. The final Saturday in June will see the biggest event with a full half day programme planned and all are welcome to attend.

Sat 7th June 2.30pm Danescastle Music Group

Sat 14th June 2.30pm The Mulligan's

Sat 21st June 2.30pm The Dying Kick!

Sat 28th Fleadh Fest lineup

1pm Calini Nua

2pm Magic Feet

2.30pm Nascnua

3.30pm PJ Sinnott

4pm Wexford Trad Hub

5pm Vinegar Hill - Trad Music

**Summer Sessions**

The New Ross Summer Sessions takes place again this year in the Library Park, with Saturday evening concerts during the months of July & August. Beginning on 5th July with household name Paddy Casey, all of the events will be free to attend, having been significantly funded and supported by the Elected Members & Wexford County Council. The concerts will feature a variety of artists with something for everyone and the full list of performers is below. All Members are invited to attend. Tomas Kavanagh and his Team at St Michaels Theatre wish to thank the Members for their continued support of this festival.

July 5th – Paddy Casey 7-8pm

July 12th – Havana Club Trio 7-8pm

July 19th/20th – Summer Panto 3pm

July 26th – Oasis Tribute Band 7-8pm

Aug 2nd – The Nomads 7-8pm

Aug 9th – Celine Byrne Soprano 7-8pm

Aug 16th – Ciara Dignam 7-8pm

Aug 23rd – New Ross & District Pipe Band & Celtic Weave

**PROJECTS**

**CCTV**

Al Read Electrical contractors have now completed the civil and electrical works on the CCTV project. Educom began fitting the CCTV infrastructure on 19th May as planned and are currently on target to complete by the end of June.

**The Shambles**

Works continue at pace with the steel installed as scheduled in May. Roofing will complete this week, allowing paving works to begin. Completion is planned for end of June 2025 ahead of the official opening in July.

**Duncannon Fort Works**

Works are nearing completion at Duncannon Fort with painting and final fixing currently on site. Landscaping works have completed since our last meeting also. The bridge replacement and resurfacing of areas are planned to be completed by the end of June ahead of the official opening in July.

**Motorhome Park**

Following the Pre-planning meeting held in April, the Part 8 process for the Motorhome Park (LAC2502) has been advertised since 30th April, with the deadline for submissions set for today.

**Quay Street Regeneration**

The District team have now completed the assessment for the Design & Construction related Consultancy Services tender for Quay Street. Four companies quoted in the end and are being informed this week of the outcome. The plan is to have the winning consultant appointed this month to start the detailed design process. We will give full details at the next meeting, when out of the standstill period.

**Sports Capital Pearse Park**

The District Team continues to gather revised quotes and make preparations for these works, scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025.

**New Ross Skate Park**

This project is “shovel ready” and awaiting a funding opportunity from the Government.

**New Ross Courthouse Project**

I am delighted to say our Expression of Interest under the 2025 Town & Village Renewal Scheme, has been selected and short listed by WCC, for the renovation of the old Courthouse on the corner of Cross Street and Priory Street in New Ross. This building was acquired by WCC three years ago under the TVRS Building Acquisition Measure.

The proposed project involves the refurbishment of this historic building, currently unused since 2005, into a multifunctional community space and office hub. The plan involves renovating the building to include a versatile community hall for events, workshops, exhibitions, gatherings and civic receptions, complimented by some modern office units.

The project will boost community engagement, stimulate local economic activity, and preserve a key heritage asset. The District Team are working with Special Projects on the final application to be submitted to the Dept. in July.

**OTHER ITEMS**

**Hanging Baskets & Summer Planting**

The members will hopefully have noticed our colourful hanging baskets and planters have now been installed for the summer season. Our sincere thanks to Town Gardener Sean Whelan and all of the town crew who have produced such wonderful displays again this year. Bunting will also be hung this month on North & South Street to add further colour to our Destination Town during the summer and festival season.

**Age Friendly Car Parking**

New Ross Municipal District is delighted to announce we have secured funding for two Age-Friendly parking spaces in New Ross town. One on South Street and one on the Quay front. These dedicated parking spaces are designed to promote inclusivity and accessibility, ensuring that older residents can easily access the town’s amenities and services. The initiative reflects the town’s ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive community where everyone can participate fully in town life.

My thanks to the Elected Members, Niamh Bolger the Age Friendly Programme Manager with Wexford County Council, for her support on this project, and to the Area Engineer David Murphy, for overseeing the works. The spaces will be finished shortly, and a photocall of Councillors & press release is planned for next week to promote these new additions to the town.

**Special Meeting Monday 16th June at 3pm**

A reminder that the Cathaoirleach has accepted a request from Special Projects for a Special Meeting on Monday next at 3pm, to present and seek your approval for the plans/designs on the new Norman Visitor Centre to proceed to Planning.

**New Ross Family Fun Day, Pearse Park, New Ross Sunday the 22nd June**

**11:00 – 15:00**

The Sports Active Team of Wexford County Council, in partnership with Healthy Wexford, is delighted to announce the New Ross Family Fun Day will return this year. Come down to Pearse Park for a day full of fun for the whole family!

DJ’s John Reilly and Liam Sharkey will be on hand to supply the best tunes for the day. Make sure to keep an eye out on the grass dancefloor on the day, as you never know what famous cartoon characters might show up!

Throughout the day there will be free fun and games available all over the Park with representatives from New Ross Rugby Football Club, the Football Association of Ireland, Wexford Cricket, Wexford GAA, New Ross Sparks Basketball and much more! Don’t worry if sport isn’t your thing there will be arts and crafts, storytelling, and plenty of other activities to keep you busy.

The award winning Pearse Park is a fantastic amenity in New Ross Town. Thanks to the Councillors and team of New Ross Municipal District for their support of this event. We are thrilled to have such a location to host our Family Fun Day highlighting just how much fun can be had when you get out and active!

Don’t miss out on this wonderful opportunity to be a part of the high point of the summer in New Ross. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

The District Manager then took questions from the Members.

Cllr Sheehan raised the following matters:

* Concern regarding the anti-social behaviour on Brennan’s Lane and asked for the Council’s support in condemning same,
* The number of recent events in town whereby the Cathaoirleach was not invited, in contradiction of the protocol for welcoming dignitaries to the town.
* Concerns regarding Quay Street shops and plans for pedestrianisation.
* Congratulations to the town crew for their hard work and support on the recent Three Bullet Gate event.
* Disappointed that New Ross applications for Community Recognition Fund not successful.

Cllr Dwyer and An Cathaoirleach agreed with Cllr Sheehan’s remarks regarding the protocol for welcoming dignitaries to the area. A discussion between the Members ensued. Cllr Dwyer also mentioned the poor condition of the Augustinian steps.

Cllr Fleming requested an update on the garden centre and the taking in charge applications in Arthurstown, queried a museum space for the town due to its large history, and requested a Fleadh bus for the northern area of the District.

Cllr Barden requested more advertising for the Summer Sessions and noted that traders were unhappy with the removal of sandwich board advertising, and was supported by the Members in requesting clarification from the CE on what alternative options are available to traders.

The District Manager provided responses to the Members queries covering the following topics:

* Noted comments on anti-social behaviour on Brennan’s Lane adding that it takes a community to look after such spaces.
* Understanding that there was an informal visit by the Moroccan Ambassador, and that the District Team fully support An Cathaoirleach and always follow protocol for welcoming dignitaries to area.
* New Ross Skate Park eligible for CRF Funding, will contact Community Section.
* No updates on the old Sweeneys Garden Centre, property are discussing a possible lease.
* The new Norman Visitor Centre will have a space that can be used for exhibitions.
* Will contact Local Link regarding more fleadh buses and provide update.
* Clarified that District Manager spoke to business owners in person regarding removal of sandwich boards and offered alternative solutions.
* Efforts ongoing to get Augustinian steps cleaned up.
* Will arrange for more signage for Summer Sessions.

***2.1a Special Projects Report***

The District Manager reminded the Members of the upcoming Special meeting with Special Projects.

***2.2 Roads Report***

The Executive Engineer delivered his report before responding to queries from the members;

Cllr Sheehan requested an update on the taking in charge of the Parkfield estate.

Cllr Dwyer raised a concern regarding traffic management in the Irishtown, noting the number of schools and lack of pedestrian crossings.

Cllr Marty Murphy raised concerns about speeding in rural villages, namely Gusserane and Campile, requesting a comment from the Engineer.

Cllr Barden noted the poor condition of the Kellystown road in Adamstown, used as a diversion route during recent bridge works, and requested that this full road be resurfaced.

The Engineer advised he would request an update on the taking in charge applications and revert, and will review the traffic management in the Irishtown. The Engineer will also look at speed counters in the rural villages noted above, and confirmed that funding is in place for resurfacing of 1km of the Kellystown road and he will request further funding to resurface the full length of the road.

***2.3 Housing Report***

The Administrative Officer delivered her report before responding to queries from the members;

Cllr Dwyer noted the condition of the houses at McMurrough Court and requested they be power washed.

Cllr Barden requested an update on the HOP grant timelines and figures on the energy upgrade scheme in the District.

Cllr Sheehan echoed Cllr Dwyer’s comments regarding the condition of Council estates, and noted the new Affordable Housing schemes in other districts requesting that the Housing Section provide an information session in New Ross for all Housing clients.

Cllr Dwyer and Cllr Sheehan raised concerns regarding snagging of newly built properties, tenants not being advised on how to use new heat pump systems, and the installation of bin stores in newer estates.

The AO advised that the matters of painting and power washing of Council estates, snagging issues and bin stores will be referred to the Maintenance section, and the request for a housing information session will be passed along for consideration.

The AO advised she will request updates on the HOP grants and energy scheme.

***2.3a Housing Report – New Ross Only***

As above.

***2.3b Housing Capital***

As above.

An Cathaoirleach proposed a short break, seconded by Cllr Fleming, Standing Orders were duly suspended for a short break in proceedings.

 ***2.4 Planning Report***

The Executive Planner delivered his report before clarifying certain matters for the Members.

Cllr Murphy requested clarification on the policy for linear development in villages regarding Irish Water connections and single wastewater treatment systems.

Cllr Sheehan agreed with Cllr Murphy’s comments and requested the policy be circulated to the Members, Cllr Sheehan also requested the Town Core Strategy.

A discussion ensued amongst the Members regarding town centre living and incentives to attract people to live in the town.

The Planner advised he would circulate the details regarding linear/cluster development and the Town Core Strategy.

The District Manager thanked Eoghan for his time as the area planner and welcomed Abi as the new planner for New Ross District.

Eoghan and Abi departed the meeting.

***2.5 Planning Decisions – Grants***

As above.

***2.6 Planning Decisions – Refusals***

As above.

 ***2.7 Libraries Archives & Arts Report***

 Noted.

 Cllr Sheehan requested an update on the Library renovation works. The District

 Manager confirmed he would request an update and revert.

***2.8 Community Development Report***

Noted.

***2.9 Environment Report***

 The Senior Staff Officer delivered her report before responding to queries raised

by the Members.

Cllr Murphy requested clarification regarding the keys for the beach wheelchair.

The SSO will check for an update on the keys and revert to Cllr Murphy.

The SSO departed the meeting.

***2.10 Fire Services Report***

 The Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer delivered his report before responding to

queries raised by the Member.

Cllr Sheehan welcomed Darren to the chamber and thanked the Fire Crew for

their community service work.

Cllr Sheehan requested details about the current compliment of machines in the

station and if any of them require upgrading.

Cllr Dwyer requested details regarding apartment buildings in town and if Fire

Services are satisfied that they are compliant with fire regulations, and if Fire Certs are publicly available.

A discussion amongst the Members ensued regarding Fire Safety Certification

and developments within the town.

Cllr Barden requested details on the fire alarm installation scheme.

The Fire Officer confirmed current fire appliances are adequate, but funding is

sought for replacement in 2027.

The Fire Officer clarified the process of fire certification and advised that the Fire

Service do carry out spot checks.

The Fire Officer gave details on the fire alarm installation scheme and advised

that there is an online application form for same.

***2.11 Members Portal***

None.

**3. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the**

 **Municipal District Members**

***3.1 S.183- 23 North Street, New Ross***

***3.2 S.183- Old Rectory Lodge, Rosbercon***

***3.3 S.183- 22 High Hill Street, New Ross***

On the proposal of Cllr Dwyer, seconded by Cllr Fleming, all three Section 183

notices were endorsed, unanimously agreed, and allowed to proceed to the plenary session as presented.

**4. Other Business**

**4.1 Invitation to friendship city Danville, California to attend Eugene O'Neill Festival**

On the proposal of Cllr Fleming, seconded by Cllr Dwyer, it was agreed by the Members to send a 4 person delegation to attend on behalf of New Ross Municipal District.

**5. Notice of Motion/s**

None.

**6. Correspondence**

**6.1 Correspondence from Minister Calleary regarding recent visit to New Ross**

**6.2 Old Garda Station, Cross Street- Correspondence to OPW & OPW response**

**6.3 Correspondence to EIR HQ regarding building located at Barrack Lane, New Ross**

The District Manager also confirmed that letters have been issued to quay front properties requesting they clean/paint their properties.

Cllr Sheehan requested that we respond to the OPW requesting further details of the usage on the old Garda Station on Cross Street.

**7. AOB**

Cllr Fleming requested the support of the Members in attending the N25 public consultation in the Rhu Glen.

A discussion regarding same ensued.

Cllr Dwyer requested we write to the Minister of Social Protection requesting an immediate review the Community Welfare Officer and New Home Grant scheme.

**THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

Signed on the 9th July, 2025.

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**Cllr John Dwyer**

**An Cathaoirleach**

**New Ross Municipal District**