# Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting

**held on the 9th July 2025 at 14:30hrs in the**

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

**Presiding:** Cllr John Dwyer – An Cathaoirleach

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

 Cllr Pat Barden

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)

Michael Drea – County Secretary

Adrienne Larkin – Senior Staff Officer (Franchise)

**Remote:** Cllr Bridin Murphy

Melissa Goff – Senior Staff Officer (Environment)

 Martina Donoghue – Administrative Officer (Housing)

 Abigail Nuzum – Executive Planner

**Apologies:**  n/a

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr John Dwyer, confirmed that the requisite quorum was in place, welcomed all those in attendance and commenced the meeting.

Due to the scheduled presentation on Draft Polling Scheme 2025, An Cathaoirleach recommended the suspension of Standing Orders.

Cllr Barden proposed the suspension of Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr Sheehan. Standing Orders were duly suspended.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Dwyer, requested the order of business to be reflected in the minutes.

**4.1 Draft Polling Scheme 2025 – For Noting**

County Secretary, Michael Drea, provided the Members with a summary of the Draft Polling Scheme 2025 and responded to queries raised by the Members.

Cllr Sheehan enquired if there were any changes to the New Ross Municipal District, if the scheme is future proofed in case the electorate boundaries change again in the future, if the upcoming presidential election comes under this scheme, and noted that some streets in town are divided into separate polling stations.

Mr Drea advised that there are no major changes to the New Ross District, noting the main changes are the split boundary with Wicklow and the addition of Kilmuckridge and Rosslare LEAs, and that if the boundaries were to change again in the future, a new scheme would need to be drafted to accommodate those changes. Mr Drea further advised that this scheme will be adopted prior to the presidential election later in the year.

Ms Larkin advised that some areas in town are divided into different polling stations but remain in the one LEA, and that this is purely administrative to accommodate the numbers of voters.

Mr Drea, through the chair, thanked Ms Larkin noting the level of work her team, working with the County Registrar, put into drafting this new scheme.

The Members thanked Mr Drea and Ms Larkin for the information.

Mr Drea and Ms Larkin departed the meeting.

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

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 11th June, 2025, were proposed by Cllr Michael Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Marty Murphy.

***1.2 Annual Meeting***

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 19th June, 2025, were proposed by Cllr Pat Barden and seconded by Cllr John Fleming.

***1.3 Matters Arising***

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

*Sympathies*

Cllr Fleming expressed sympathies with the families of Tom Dunne of Courtnacuddy, Martina Murphy of Clonleigh, Sandra Denton of Clonroche, Rosie Goggins of the Maudlins, and Michael Furlong of Adamstown.

Cllr Sheehan also expressed sympathies with the families of Rosie Goggins and Martin Waters of Grange Road.

Cllr B. Murphy wished to be associated with the condolences to the families of Tom Dunne and Sandra Denton.

Cllr Barden wished to be associated with the above sympathies, in particular the family of Michael Furlong.

*Congratulations*

Cllr Sheehan congratulated everyone involved in the Fringe Fleadh and Summer Sessions, and wished best of luck to the Guitar Festival, noting all of the upcoming events in the county.

Cllr Fleming congratulated everyone involved in the Summer Sessions, and wished Maggie Boland, of Ballywilliam, well on her recent 100th birthday.

Cllr Dwyer offered congratulations to Dean O’Riordan from Ballycullane, who won his sixth national title at the All-Ireland kickboxing championships at just 10 years old.

Cllr Fleming congratulated the Courtnacuddy Development Group on their successful application under the Adopt a Monument Scheme to adopt Butler’s Castle (The Tower House) in Ballyboro.

**2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

***2.1 District Managers Report***

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

**EVENTS**

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

Unfortunately, the Department had to postpone the official opening due to a change of plans for the Minister. We are fully engaged with the Ministers office regarding a new date for the official openings and will circulate it to the Elected members as soon as we have it.

**New Ross Family Fun Day**

A quick note of sincere thanks and “well done” to all the Sports Active Team of Wexford County Council, in partnership with Healthy Wexford, on a very successful and well attended New Ross Family Fun Day at Pearse Park. Our thanks also to our own Gardener and outdoor team for having the park in such great shape for all to enjoy on the day and indeed every day.

**Fleadh Fringe 2025**

As part of the build up to the Fleadh coming to Wexford Town again next month, Wexford County Council once more supported a “Fleadh Fringe” events series in the Districts. The NRMD, working with St Michael’s Theatre and local Comhaltas groups, organised “Fleadh Fest ’25”, a series of free performances every Saturday afternoon in June in Brennan’s Lane. A great month of events was had, helped by the mostly 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. Our thanks to all the acts who performed for us and to the team at St Michael’s Theatre for their work each Saturday.

**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 with a bang last Saturday with almost 600 in attendance to see Paddy Casey, all of the events are free to attend, having been significantly funded and supported by the Elected Members & Wexford County Council. The remaining concerts feature a variety of artists with something for everyone and the full list of performers is below.

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

**New Ross Guitar Festival**

The New Ross Guitar Festival takes place over the weekend of the 17th-20th July. Supported by the Elected Members and Wexford County Council, the Guitar Festival brings Irish and International guitarists of the highest calibre to New Ross. The Festival will include live performances, workshops and community events. The Cathaoirleach will open the Festival on Thursday 17th ahead of the opening performance by world renowned blues guitarist Eric Bibb and full details of performers and events can be found at newrossguitarfestival.ie.

**Tri the Hook**

The annual Tri the Hook Sprint Triathlon takes place on Saturday 16th August, starting with a 750m swim in Baginbun Bay. This is followed by a 20km cycle and a 5km run along the Baginbun Road to St Mogues GAA in Fethard on Sea. It’s the 14th year of this major event on the Hook peninsula, with up to 400 entrants expected and a large number of spectators. Supported by the New Ross District and Wexford County Council, we wish the organisers and participants the very best of luck on the day.

**Kennedy Summer School**

The annual Festival of Irish & American History, Culture and Politics will take place from 28th to 30th August. The programme was launched last week, helped by the Cathaoirleach, and the organisers are promising another fantastic line up of speakers this year. Supported by the Members and WCC, all details are at kennedysummerschool.ie. We wish them every success with this important international event.

**PROJECTS**

**CCTV**

Educom are at 50% completion on fitting the new CCTV infrastructure in New Ross and are expected to complete by the end of July. An official launch is planned with the Elected Members to promote the new CCTV system when ready and details will follow.

**The Shambles**

Final works and cleaning are taking place this week following snagging. The project is at completion stage and ready for handover by the contractor.

**Duncannon Fort Works**

Final works and cleaning are taking place this week following snagging. The project is at substantial completion stage. The Project Team will be continuing to work with the Wexford County Archive and the Defence Forces over the coming weeks, to progress the two display rooms and fill them with historical artefacts and images.

**Motorhome Park**

The Motorhome Park (LAC2502) is with Planning awaiting a decision.

**Quay Street Regeneration**

Waterford based Malone O’Regan Consulting Engineers have successfully tendered for the Design & Construction related Consultancy Services for the Pedestrianisation of Quay Street. The paperwork is being finalised on their appointment and a Project Team meeting is being arranged to start the detailed design process. We are delighted to see this important stage reached in the project and look forward to working with Malone O’Regan Consulting Engineers.

Funded under the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund Fifth Call, €865,000 has been secured with additional funding of €216,000 to be provided by WCC. This project will transform the strategically located and historic Quay Street into a vibrant pedestrianised centre connecting the urban quarter to the South East Greenway.

**Sports Capital Pearse Park**

The District Team continues to prepare for these works, which include the resurfacing & refurbishing of the Multi Use Games Area, additional public lighting and the development of a teen friendly space at the park.

**New Ross Skate Park**

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

**New Ross Courthouse Project**

The District Team are working with Special Projects on an application to be submitted later this month under the 2025 Town & Village Renewal Scheme, for the renovation of the old Courthouse building in New Ross. This building was acquired by WCC three years ago under the TVRS Building Acquisition Measure. A strong application will be submitted, and we hope it will be successful in securing the necessary funding.

**OTHER ITEMS**

**Make Way Day 2025**

Make Way Day is an annual campaign focused on promoting accessibility by ensuring footpaths remain free of obstacles, such as parked cars, bins, or signage, to support safe and inclusive movement for individuals with disabilities. Following Gorey’s participation in 2024, New Ross has been chosen as the focus town for 2025, with plans still being developed and expected to be shared soon. We will be highlighting the work we’ve already carried out in enhancing our public spaces to improve accessibility, such as the newly redeveloped Brennan’s Lane, the Greenway which provides a seamless route for walking and cycling, and the Sensory Garden which offers an inclusive space for all residents and visitors.

The District Manager then took questions from the Members.

Cllr Sheehan requested a definitive answer on the future of Sweeneys garden centre, requested that the Council write to the owner of the Docks Hotel site querying their future plans with a view that the Council look at CPO if no engagement from the owner, and asked that the District Manager write to the Director of Economic Development regarding the need for a business park in Butlersland. Cllr Sheehan also complimented everyone involved in preparing the cemetery for the patron and thanked the District Manager and team for handling a sensitive issue that arose there. Cllr Sheehan also requested that the Council look at updating the Cemetery Bye Laws in light of recent issues.

Cllr M. Murphy congratulated the District Manager and team for their work at Duncannon Fort, and raised concerns regarding the old Templetown cemetery which was closed without consultation with the community.

Cllr Barden noted all of the positive events and festivals, noting that they could do with more advertising, in particular the Kennedy Summer School.

Cllr B. Murphy noted the success of the events and festivals and that the visitor numbers these events attract should be considered when reviewing the festival budget.

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

* The timeframe for Quay Street works, advising that the design contract has been awarded with a view to appoint the construction contractor by the end of the year and works beginning in the new year.
* The Sweeney garden centre is in the remit of the Property Section but will follow up for an update.
* Will write to the owner of the Docks Hotel site regarding plans for the site and the Director of Economic Development regarding the need for a business park.
* The District Team fully support the need for updated Cemetery Bye Laws.
* The graveyard at Templetown had to be closed for public safety reasons and apologies for any grievances or inconvenience caused. The District Engineer also noted that the Heritage Officer is applying for funding for essential repairs.
* The Kennedy Summer School gets national and international media coverage promoting New Ross on a wider scale.
* Note the importance of the theatre to the night-time economy in the town.

***2.1a Special Projects Report***

None.

***2.2 Roads Report***

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

Cllr Fleming raised a concern regarding the junction at Ballyanne pub and requested if some measures could be taken to slow traffic at the bend such as rumble strips.

Cllr Sheehan welcomed the pedestrian crossing at the Maudlins, requested an update on the Taking in Charge of Parkfield, and raised concerns about the condition of town roads and estates in charge in need of works.

Cllr Murphy raised an issue with the Baginbun road which hasn’t been resurfaced following the Green Link works, again raised concern regarding the road surface on the bend near Crosbie Trans, and asked for an update on the Taking in Charge of Somers Way, noting it is affecting a resident’s mortgage application.

Cllr Barden raised concerns regarding the junction at the Old Mill, Foulksmills, regarding line marking and stop sign, and requested line marking of the Adamstown to Misterin road, and resurfacing of the Adamstown road.

Cllr B. Murphy raised concerns about the Brocurrow road surface, noting it needs resurfacing rather than patching, and enquired if the broken white line in Clonroche village could be changed to a continuous white line.

The District Engineer responded to the Members covering the following topics:

* Will look at the junction at Ballyanne pub and the bend near Crosbie Trans to see what measures can be taken.
* Type B pedestrian junction installed at Maudlins.
* Noted the lack of sufficient funding for road resurfacing, advising that 2km of Baginbun road is due be done in September with the full road being done over the next 3 years.
* Somers Way is on list to be taken in charge but works still to be done before finalised.
* Will look at junction in Foulksmills and the Misterin road, and advised section of the Adamstown road is due to be resurfaced in September.
* Will look for funding for Brocurrow road and refer the line marking request to the roads section.

Cllr Dwyer thanked the District Engineer for the installation of the pedestrian crossing at Morriseysland.

Director Eamonn Hore provided an update on the Taken in Charge of Parkfield estate advising that a PEP has been signed for the works needed.

***2.3 Housing Report***

The Administrative Officer delivered her report before responding to queries raised by the Members:

* Cllr Sheehan requested an update on a report on snagging of newly developed estates noting the number of issues reported in turnkey properties the Council has taken on.
* Cllr Dwyer also raised an issue with new estates, in particular with bin stores noting that there is a H&S concern there as kids are playing on top of them, also that the lack of play areas in new estates, and requested an apartment which has been vacated and boarded up be reallocated to a new tenant.
* Cllr Barden enquired about the cause of the delay in delivering HOP grants, and enquired about the delivery of 3 social housing units in Adamstown.
* Cllr Sheehan requested an update on the request for a Housing Information evening in New Ross.

The Administrative Officer responded to the Members queries covering the following topics:

* All new estates are snagged but teething issues are expected, asking that any unresolved issued be reported through the Maintenance unit.
* Will refer bin stores to Maintenance for review regarding H&S.
* Lack of play area is a planning issue but can link in with Community to see if assistance is available from them.
* The delay in HOP grants is due to prioritising medical need grants, and low staff numbers administering the grants.
* Will follow up with construction team regarding the 3 social housing units in Adamstown.
* Will follow up with the Director for a date for the Housing Information evening.

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

Noted.

***2.3b Housing Capital***

Noted.

 ***2.4 Planning Report***

The Executive Planner delivered her report before clarifying certain matters for the Members:

* Cllr Dwyer enquired about an update on an issue he raised with the previous planner regarding the planning compliance of new properties in Hewitsland overlooking existing households.
* Cllr Sheehan enquired if there are plans to provide the Members with a briefing on the new planning guidelines announced, and further enquired how many current planning applications have approval but haven’t commenced works and therefore can apply these new regulations to those developments.

***2.5 Planning Decisions – Grants***

Noted.

***2.6 Planning Decisions – Refusals***

Noted.

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

Noted.

Cllr Sheehan requested an update on the plans for the Library, the District Manager advised that an update is imminent, that the Library Section is awaiting on correspondence from the design team before providing an update.

***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 Fleming enquired if there is an explosive zone designated at ports, considering the draft Explosive Bye Laws.
* Cllr Dwyer enquired about Defence Forces plans to import ammunition and the requirements for same.
* Cllr M. Murphy enquired if landowners are permitted to cut their hedges if deemed to be a road safety issue.

The Senior Staff Officer advised the following:

* The Explosive Bye Laws are up for public consultation as of today’s date, but would need to check with Harbour Master regarding designated explosive zones.
* The Department of Defence has expressed interest in utilising New Ross port to import munitions, and the implementation of these bye laws allows for the Council to handle this business.
* It is the landowners responsibility to ensure that the hedges are cut so as not to cause a road safety issue.

***2.10 Fire Services Report***

Noted.

***2.11 Members Portal***

Noted.

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

 **Municipal District Members**

***3.1 S.183- Lands at Butlersland, New Ross***

***3.2 S.183- 16 Chapel Lane, New Ross***

On the proposal of Cllr Sheehan, seconded by Cllr Fleming, both Section 183 notices were endorsed, unanimously agreed by the members, and allowed to proceed to the plenary session as presented.

**4. Other Business**

**4.1 Draft Polling Scheme 2025 – For Noting**

**5. Notice of Motion/s**

**6. Correspondence**

**6.1 Acknowledgement Letter from Minister Calleary regarding Community Welfare Officers correspondence**

**7. AOB**

Cllr Sheehan again noted that a dignitary has visited the district without an invitation being extended to the Cathaoirleach.

A discussion among the members ensued.

**THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

Signed on the 10th September, 2025

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**Cllr John Dwyer**

**An Cathaoirleach**

**New Ross Municipal District**