

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on the 10th April 2024 at 14:30hrs in the
Council Chamber, The Tholsel, Quay Street, New Ross.**

- Presiding:** Cllr Anthony Connick– An Cathaoirleach
- Councillors:** Cllr Michael Whelan – Leas Cathaoirleach
Cllr Michael Sheehan
Cllr Patrick Barden
Cllr John Fleming - Cathaoirleach, Wexford County Council
- Officials:** Alan Fitzhenry – District Manager
Eamonn Hore – District Director
David Murphy – District Engineer (Roads)
Padraig Lyng – Senior Executive Engineer (Water)
Eimear Kennedy – Administrative Officer (Community)
Michelle Duffin – Assistant Staff Officer
Dean Waters – Staff Officer
- Remote:** Martina Donohue – Administrative Officer (Housing)
Niamh Lennon – Executive Planner
David Wall - Executive Planner
Melissa Goff – Senior Staff Officer (Environment)
Deputy Verona Murphy
- Apologies:** Cllr Bridin Murphy

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

Due to the attendance and presentation of *Eimear Kennedy, Community Section - Fleadh Cheoil 2024*, an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, recommended the suspension of standing orders to facilitate a change in the order of business. Cllr Michael Sheehan proposed the suspension of Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr John Fleming, and Standing Orders were duly suspended.

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

On behalf of the Councillors, an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, thanked Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner, for her contribution as District Planner and wished her well in her new role with the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA), whilst also welcoming her replacement.

Niamh Lennon thanked the Members for their kind words and departed from the meeting.

2.4 Planning Report

The Executive Planner introduced the previously circulated reports before responding to matters raised by the Members.

2.4.1 Planning Decisions – Grants

Noted.

2.4.2 Planning Decisions – Refusals

Noted.

Following comment from the Members regarding the possibility of a *Local Area Plan* for New Ross, the Executive Planner confirmed that there was one planned for New Ross, but no timeline was in place for its delivery.

4. Other Business

4.1 Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2024 Volunteer Opportunities - presentation by Eimear Kennedy

The Administrative Officer gave her presentation to the Members and highlighted the need for volunteers to assist with the delivery of a successful *Fleadh Cheoil*, before clarifying certain aspects of the planned event.

Prior to her departure from the meeting, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, thanked the Administrative Officer for the detailed information on the *Fleadh Cheoil 2024*.

The Administrative Officer then departed from the meeting.

Congratulations

Congratulations were afforded to Cllr Bridin Murphy, following the birth of her baby daughter, and also to actor Cillian Murphy on his recent Oscar success for the film *Oppenheimer*, proposing to send correspondence to him acknowledging the accolade. The Members unanimously agreed with this proposal and the District Manager undertook to complete the task.

Congratulations were also extended to Nicole Kinsella, a St Mary's student, for her recent successes at Irish Athletic Boxing Associations 2024 National U18 Championships.

Sympathies

The Members offered sympathies to the families and friends of the following;

- *Nora Breen – Rosbercon*
- *Johnny Mullett – Mount Carmel*

The Members also expressed sympathies to the families and friends of all those recently deceased.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of March 13th 2024, were proposed by Cllr John Fleming and seconded by Cllr Michael Whelan.

1.2 Matters Arising

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, requested that any matters arising should be dealt with under the corresponding agenda item.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

2.1 District Managers Report

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

Amenity & Arts Grant Scheme 2024 / Residents Association Grant Scheme 2024

Work continues on the 2024 Arts & Amenity and Residents Association Grants. The applications list will be sent to the Members by the end of this week. The subsequent report with the allocations for both grants will be brought to the May meeting, for approval by the Members.

Civic Awards Evening 2024

The Civic Awards Evening will take place next week on Thursday 18th April at the Brandon House Hotel. Thank you to the Members for their nominations who have all been informed. We look forward to recognising and honouring the outstanding achievement of individuals and groups within the New Ross District.

Brennan's Lane/Shambles

This project was advertised on e-Tenders with a deadline for receipt of tenders set for the end of March. Tender assessment took place this morning and a successful tender chosen. The tendering companies will now be written to and, following the standstill period and contract signing, the plan is to see a Contractor on site in May.

Duncannon Fort Works

The Project Team are due to meet next week to confirm the schedule of imminent works. The plan is for the works, as outlined in previous reports, to commence in early May and be completed by August this year. We will bring more detail to the next meeting.

Motorhome Park

Work continues at pace to prepare the approved Motorhome Park for Part VIII. A Flood Risk Assessment is required and is being done in-house, in order to speed up the application.

TFI Local Link New Service

TFI Local Link Wexford is launching a new bus service, which will improve connectivity between New Ross and Enniscorthy, from next Monday 15th of April 2024. Route 359 will operate five daily return services Monday to Saturday and three daily return services on Sunday and Public Holidays.

Creating a new connection from New Ross to Enniscorthy, the new route will provide a peak-time service for commuters to New Ross, an early morning service to Enniscorthy facilitating onward travel to Carlow and Dublin as well as improved connectivity to regional bus and rail services. The route will offer enhanced connectivity to villages and areas of New Ross, Rathgarogue, Ballywilliam, Rathnure, Killanne, Killealy, Ballindaggan and Enniscorthy.

EU MARGISTAR - Group Visit

As informed by the Town Regeneration Officer, Mick McCormack, we will be hosting an EU delegation of 50 from the MARGISTAR Cost Action Group on Thursday 18th April. The theme of the visit is Rural Regeneration and we have been selected as a Town Centre First Town. The delegation arrive in town at 2.30pm and will split into groups to tour the town centre and hear speakers in the Tholsel. A great opportunity to promote the town at EU level and highlight the important regeneration work done to date.

St Patrick's Day Parade 2024

Sincere thanks to all involved in our very well attended St Patricks Day Parades. A great show of colour and pride was on display and the weather stayed dry thankfully! Congratulations to all those who won awards for their efforts and to the organising committees.

Easter 1916 Commemoration Event

New Ross Municipal District would like to offer our sincere gratitude to the 10th inf. Batt. F.C.A Association for their annual ceremony to commemorate the 1916 Rising. A long-standing tradition in New Ross to honour and commemorate every Easter, which included a wreath laying ceremony and the playing of the Last Post & Reveille.

Deputy Verona Murphy joined the meeting remotely.

- a) Following comment from Cllr Michael Whelan regarding Duncannon Fort works and the impact they will have during the tourist season, the District Manager agreed to arrange a meeting with stakeholders to keep them informed of the proposed schedule for works.
- b) The District Manager gave an update on the former Garden Centre in terms of progress on the new tenancy.

2.1.1 Special Projects

The Members noted the content of the previously circulated report.

2.2 Roads Report

The District Engineer the delivered the previously circulated report before responding to the Members queries before clarifying the following matters:

- *Safe Route to Schools - Active Travel Programme*
- *Bridge Rehabilitation Works*

- *Road Safety Works*
- *Drainage Works*

2.3 Housing Report

The Members noted the content of the report.

2.3.1 New Ross MD Specific

The Administrative Officer presented the New Ross MD specific report to the Members before responding to their queries and clarifying the following matters:

Marshmeadows Site

Following comment from the Members the Administrative Officer clarified certain matters regarding the Marshmeadows Site and the Caravan Loan Scheme, whilst confirming that 12 bays were currently occupied.

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme

The Members requested details on the numbers currently availing of and participating in the programme. The Administrative Officer agreed to request this information.

2.3.2 Housing Capital Project Report

The Members noted the Housing Capital Project Report.

Housing Delivery and Supply

Following comment from the Members, the Administrative Officer agreed to refer anticipated delivery and supply request to Capital Development.

Lands at Haughton Place

The Administrative Officer confirmed that the condition in which the site had been left had been referred to Planning Enforcement.

Following observations from an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, regarding placing social housing units on the site, the Administrative Officer agreed to refer the matter to Capital Development.

On the proposal of Cllr Pat Barden, seconded by Cllr Anthony Connick, the Members requested that representatives from the Capital Development team attend the next meeting.

The Administrative Officer agreed to relay this request.

2.5 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

The content of the previously circulated report was noted.

2.6 Community Development Report

The content of the previously circulated report was noted.

2.7 Environment Report

The Senior Staff Officer introduced the previously circulated report and advised the meeting that she was available to assist with queries if required.

Following observations from the Members, regarding the slip road at Grange beach, the Senior Staff Officer agreed to refer the matter to George Colfer, Coastal Engineer.

Cllr John Fleming departed from the meeting.

2.8 Fire Services Report

Noted.

2.9 Members Portal

Noted.

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

N/A

5. Notice of Motion/s

None

6. Correspondence

6.1 ABP-315900-23 Fethard Harbour Beach Access and Slipway – Approval

The Members welcomed the decision.

6.2 ABP-316122-23 Widening and Rehabilitation of O’Hanrahan Bridge – Significant Further Information

The Members noted the correspondence from An Bord Pleanála.

7. AOB

None

4.2 New Ross District 2019 - 2024

The District Director gave a detailed presentation on the project delivery and investment which has been seen during the term of the present Council.

The Members thanked the District Director for showcasing all that is positive in New Ross and agreed that the *good news* message needed to be expressed, by them all, to the people of the District at every available opportunity.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed on the 8th May 2024

Cllr Anthony Connick
An Cathaoirleach
New Ross Municipal District