

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on the 6th March 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 Bridin Murphy
Cllr Patrick Barden
Cllr John Fleming - Cathaoirleach, Wexford County Council
- Officials:** Alan Fitzhenry – District Manager
Eamonn Hore – District Director
Padraig Lyng – Senior Executive Engineer (Water)
Sean Myler – Senior Engineer (Special Projects)
Lorcan O’Brien – Executive Technician (Special Projects)
Deirdre Mullally - Wexford Coordinator (HAFH)
Michelle Duffin – Assistant Staff Officer
Dean Waters – Staff Officer
- Remote:** Martina Donohue – Administrative Officer (Housing)
Niamh Lennon – Executive Planner
Melissa Goff – Senior Staff Officer (Environment)
Tara Farrell – Staff Officer (Community)
Ronan Griffin – Assistant Staff Officer (Community)
- Apologies:** David Murphy – District Engineer (Roads)

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 presentations of *Special Projects* and also the *Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinator* an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, recommended the suspension of standing orders to facilitate a change in the order of business. Following this recommendations proposal by Cllr Michael Sheehan, seconded by Cllr Anthony Connick, standing orders were duly suspended.

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

Sympathies

The Members noted the death of the mother of NRMD employee Derek Furness before offering sympathies to the families and friends of the following;

- *Catherine (Kathleen) Furness – Charleton Hill*

- *Philip (Philo) O'Connor - Parkfield*
- *Annmai Merrigan - Parkfield*
- *Kathleen Kerrigan - Adamstown*

The Members also expressed sympathies to the family and friends of Dan Nolan, former Deputy Fire Chief in Hartford, Connecticut, and all those recently deceased.

Congratulations

Congratulations were afforded to Rosbercon man, Cllr Joe Malone, following his election to the office of Kilkenny City Mayor for a second time.

Best wishes were also extended to all those involved with the development of the Community Hospital Extension.

4. Other Business

4.1 Special Projects – New Ross Skate Plaza Proposal

Sean Meyler, Senior Engineer, Special Projects presented the Members with the concept and design of the proposed Skate Park, before responding to the queries and questions arising.

The Senior Engineer confirmed that the Part XI application would be submitted at the end of March, with an opportunity to avail of 2025 Sports Capital Funding to follow this process.

A discussion followed.

The concept and design were fully endorsed by the Members following the proposal of Cllr Michael Sheehan, and second by Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick.

Sean Meyler and Lorcan O'Brien departed from the meeting.

4.2 Healthy Age Friendly Homes (HAFH) Programme - Presentation by Local Coordinator, Deirdre Mullally

The Wexford Coordinator for HAFH gave her presentation to the Members before clarifying certain aspects of the programme.

Prior to her departure from the meeting, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, thanked the local coordinator for the detailed presentation and information on the service.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of February 14th 2024, were proposed by Cllr Michael Sheehan and seconded by Cllr John Fleming.

1.2 Matters Arising

Staffing Matters - Correspondence to the Chief Executive

Following comment from Cllr Michael Whelan, the District Manager confirmed that correspondence was held with the outgoing Chief Executive as requested at the previous meeting.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

2.1 District Managers Report

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

LAMA Awards.

We are delighted to say two New Ross District projects, the High Hill Norman Gardens and the Emigrant Park, won awards recently at the All-Ireland Community & Council Awards on behalf of LAMA.

The 2024 awards, presented by Marty Whelan, saw a record number of 273 nominations across the 31 councils which was whittled down to 133 shortlisted projects in 26 categories. Of the 26 awards, Wexford County Council won 2 of them!

On behalf of the District, I would like to publicly thank everyone who worked on these award-winning projects, including the Special Projects Team, MJS Construction, the various sub-contractors and consultants, Jim Thorpe and Eamonn Hore. A special note of thanks to Ger Walsh for her work on the applications. Thank you also to the Councillors of NRMD for supporting these projects.

It's fantastic to see the years of hard work, regenerating these sites in New Ross, being rightly rewarded and acknowledged.

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

The District Manager confirmed that following the two-week extension, the deadline had now passed on the 2024 Arts & Amenity and Residents Association Grants.

With the Members cooperation the allocations for both grants will be brought to the earliest possible meeting for final approval.

St Patrick's Day Parade 2024

A great event is planned for this year's New Ross Town St Patrick's Day parade. We would like to sincerely thank the committee for their efforts to date and to complement them on the bunting and colour around the town.

The parade will start at 2pm in the Irishtown and take its traditional route through the Town before ending beyond the viewing platform on the Quay.

The theme of this year's parade is "Community Togetherness" which emphasises the importance of coming together as a community and supporting each other. Local businesses are also being encouraged to take part in the Shop Window Competition.

We would ask all participants and members of the public to follow guidance and instruction from stewards and An Garda Síochána on the day.

Parades are also planned for Fethard & Clonroche that day and we wish them well with their events.

NRMD Civic Awards 2024

The date of Thursday 18th April is now confirmed for the Civic Awards Evening, where we recognise the outstanding achievement of individuals and groups within the District. It promises to be a special evening for the recipients and their families and is fitting that their achievements should be honoured by the New Ross Municipal District.

We are requesting three nominations per Councillor, of an individual or group of individuals. An individual will be seated at a table of 8 while a group can be accommodated with 2 tables of 8.

Reminder that all nominations by Councillors are to be in by this Friday 8th March 2024.

Town Regeneration Roadshow

To enhance awareness and support for owners of vacant/derelict properties and sites, the Regeneration Unit is planning a series of Roadshows scheduled for April 2024. These informative events will span the 5 Districts, aiming to enlighten the public about various grants and programmes tailored to address vacant and derelict properties.

As part of this comprehensive outreach initiative, the Regeneration Unit are collaborating with the Planning Department to craft a detailed brochure encompassing all essential information. This brochure will be distributed during the Roadshow events and will also be made available at District offices & online.

The Roadshows will consist of a drop in event from 2pm to 6pm in each of the Districts, with the New Ross Roadshow scheduled for Monday 8th April in the Tholsel.

Duncannon Fort Works

Engagement with the Planning Section has progressed significantly. Works as outlined in previous reports are planned to be completed by August. The appointed Archaeologist Colm Morris has submitted his report to the National Monuments Service following trial pit inspections.

Motorhome Park

Work continues at pace to prepare the approved Motorhome Park for Part VIII. The plan is to lodge the application within the next month.

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- a) The Members voiced their concerns over the timing, weekday, and venue, of the forthcoming Regeneration Roadshow, stating that the event should be targeted, over a longer period of time, and that an alternative venue should be considered.

The District Manager advised that the Roadshow was probably only a part of the strategy in operation, whilst agreeing to relay their comments to the Town Regeneration Officer for consideration and comment.

- b) The District Manager also agreed to investigate the possibility of removing the hanging plastic at the former Garden Centre.

2.1.1 Special Projects

The Members noted the content of the previously circulated report. Following comment from the Members, the District Manager agreed to request updates from Special Projects on the following items;

- *New Ross Courthouse (TVR)*
- *Ballyhack / Arthurstown Walkway*
- *Duncannon to Ballyhack Trail – Phase 2 (ORIS)*
- *Kellys Wood Link - Walking Trail (ORIS)*

2.2 Roads Report

In the absence of the District Engineer the Members noted his apologies and the previously circulated report. The District Manager advised the Members that issues could be e-mailed directly to the District Engineer for his consideration.

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.

Marshmeadows Site

The Administrative Officer gave an update on the Marshmeadows Site and applications for the Caravan Loan Scheme.

2.3.2 Housing Capital Project Report

The Members noted the Housing Capital Project Report.

Hewittsland - 48 Units

The Administrative Officer confirmed that the AHB (Cluid) development in Hewittsland was proceeding as planned with delivery expected in Q3 2025.

Lands at Haughton Place

On the proposal from Cllr Michael Sheehan, seconded by Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, the Members recommended that Housing Construction acquire this site, with a view to providing social housing for the elderly on it, similar to McMurrough Court.

The Administrative Officer undertook to refer the condition in which the site had been left to Planning Enforcement.

Healysland – Ard-na-Bhaile

The Members expressed concern about the concentration of social housing in this area & requested that affordable or private housing be considered instead.

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.

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.

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

3.1 Consideration of Section 183

(a) 4 Hillview Close, Irishtown, New Ross

On the proposal of Cllr Michael Sheehan, seconded by Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, it was agreed that the Section 183 notice proceed to the plenary session as presented.

3.2 LECP and County Development Plan

The correspondence from the Senior Planner to Carolyn Godkin, Director of Services, was introduced by Cllr Michael Whelan.

On the proposal of Cllr Michael Whelan, seconded by Cllr John Flemming, the recommended amendments were endorsed and approved as presented.

5. Notice of Motion/s

None

6. Correspondence

6.1 Correspondence re 1916 Rising Ceremony 31st March 2024

The invitation was noted and welcomed by the Members.

7. AOB

Post Office Building, Charles Street

Following comment and discussion by the Members it was proposed by Cllr Michael Whelan that should the District Manager receive correspondence from An Post in relation to the usage of the building, the position of New Ross Municipal District would be to support the continuation of its use as a Post Office. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Michael Sheehan.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed on the 10th April 2024

Cllr Anthony Connick
An Cathaoirleach
New Ross Municipal District