

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting  
held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 in the Tholsel, New Ross/MS Teams**

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**Presiding:** Councillor Michael Whelan

**In Attendance:** Councillor John Fleming (Via Teams)  
Councillor Anthony Connick (Via Teams)  
Councillor Michael Sheehan (Via Teams)  
Councillor Pat Barden (Via Teams)

**Officials Present:** Mick McCormack – District Manager  
Eamonn Hore - District Director (Via Teams)  
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer (Via Teams)  
Carolyn Godkin – Director of Services (Via Teams)  
Gerry Forde – Senior Engineer(Via Teams)  
Brian Galvin – Senior Engineer(Via Teams)  
David Murphy – A/Executive Engineer (Via Teams)  
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing (Via Teams)  
Liam Bowe – Executive Planner (Via Teams)  
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer  
David Lee – Clerical Officer  
Brendan Cooney – Senior Executive Scientist (Via Teams)  
Shay Howell – Senior Executive Architect (Via Teams)  
Capt Phil Murphy – Senior Marine Officer(Via Teams)  
Capt Mick Mahon – Marine Officer(Via Teams)

**Others Present:** Deputy Verona Murphy (Via Teams)  
David Looby New Ross Standard  
Frank Corcoran Slaney News (Via Teams)  
Joanne Kolbeins CE Scheme Asst Supervisor(Via Teams)

**Apologies** Councillor Bridin Murphy

Standing orders were suspended to allow a presentation on New Ross Port and on Special Projects

This was proposed by Cllr Fleming and Seconded by Cllr Barden.

## **New Ross Port**

A presentation was given by Carolyn Godkin DOS, Gerry Forde Senior Engineer, Capt Phil Murphy Snr Marine Officer and Capt Mick Mahon, Marine Officer and they responded to questions from the Members. Responding to concerns from the Members about funding, in particular to cover legacy issues, they were informed that a Department grant had been secured already to deal with specific issues and it was proposed by Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Connick, to write to the relevant Minister to ask for further funding.

The Members requested information on the amount of land/property held and the amount of income generated as well as a figure on the amount the charges had increased by and they were informed that the information would be sent out to them and also that they would receive a copy of the presentation.

The Chairman thanked the presenters for their attendance and presentation.

## **Special Projects**

A presentation was given by Brian Galvin Senior Engineer on the Special Projects and he responded to questions from the Members. Responding to concerns from the Members about making provision for new greenway and tourism visitors using motor homes, he advised that Special Projects would consult with the New Ross District Manager and that the proposed greenway car site park site at Rosbercon may have potential. He also advised that the Greenway Business Development Officer was imminent.

The Chair thanked the SE for his presentation

## **Sympathies**

Sympathies were extended to the Nolan family by Cllr Sheehan, on the death of Maeve Nolan and to the Comiskey family by Cllr Fleming on the death of Vincent Comiskey.

Cllr Barden extended sympathies to the family of Mary Furlong Tomgarrow, Mother of Eilis Furlong, Executive Engineer NRMD. He also extended sympathies to the family of Edmond Sweetman, Ballymackessy, Clonroche and the family of Noel Whitty, Clonroche.

Sympathies were extended by Cllr Connick to the families of Ned Cash Jnr, Hospital Rd, New Ross, Gerry Rogers, Hewittsland, New Ross, Jim Brindley, formerly of Rosbercon and Catherine Carroll, formerly of Rosbercon.

## **Congratulations**

Cllr Barden extended congratulations to Tom O'Brien and Sean O'Keefe on their success at Aintree.

Cllr Connick wished Michael Drea SEO, best wishes on his new role in the Housing Section

Cllr Fleming extended congratulations to Sean Flanagan and Rachel Blackmore on their recent successes at Cheltenham and Aintree

## **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **1.1 Monthly Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

The March 2021 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Connick and seconded by Cllr Sheehan

## **Matters Arising**

In relation to queries re bye laws for 'pop up' businesses, the District Manager advised the Members that he is working with the other District Managers on the issue and that the appointment of the Business Development Officer, was imminent. He also advised that a number of the businesses had been reported to the planning enforcement section for investigation.

## **2.0 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.**

### **2.1 District Managers Report**

The District Manager delivered his report and responded to queries raised by the Members.

## **Pedestrianisation**

The District Manager advised that there will be traffic management studies and extensive consultation with the traders through Wexford County Chamber of Commerce to gauge public opinion on the permanent pedestrianisation of a street in New Ross, as well as visits to some Towns and Cities that have pedestrianised areas to learn from their experiences and research in detail the merits, challenges and opportunities that Pedestrianisation would provide to New Ross. He advised that he will update Councillors on a Monthly basis on progress with a final proposal to Members in late Summer or early Autumn (Covid permitting).

## **Outdoor Dining Enhancement scheme.**

The District Manager announced that Fáilte Ireland have announced a new funding scheme called the “Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme”.

He detailed the two schemes to the members Part 1 of which is called the “Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business” Scheme and will be administered by Local Authorities.

Part two of the Scheme is called “Weatherproofing & outdoor Dining Infrastructure” which is a grant available to Local Authorities for weatherproofing and providing outside infrastructure for permanently pedestrianised areas. Each county will receive a max of €200k under this scheme with a max of 2 applications per County.

Cllr Sheehan suggested that the footpaths be looked at to see how the tables and chairs could fit. He also suggested writing to the Chief Executive to request funding for the urban animation for New Ross

## **Virtual St Patrick’s Day Parade**

The Members were advised that there was a great reaction to the virtual St Patricks day parade with over 18,500 views to date. The District Manager thanked all the participants and Visit New Ross who were engaged to do the works and Creative Ireland for funding and looked forward to the real parades in 2022.

## **Playground at Pearse Park**

The District Manager advised the members that the deadline for submission of Tenders for Pearse park playground has now passed and that 6 submissions were received and that the Tender Evaluation should be complete by early May and a preferred Contractor selected and appointed in June 2021.

## **Destination Towns**

The Members were advised that work is continuing on the Destination Towns project and that the District Manager would provide a presentation to the Members on this project at next Months meeting.

Responding to a query from the Members in relation to the Shop Front Scheme, the District Manager advised that he would continue to apply for any applicable funding and that he would like to open up the scheme for the whole District. It was suggested that he write to Tony Larkin DOS to request funding for the scheme.

In relation to the provision of public toilets in the town centre the District Manager advised that the cost of installing public toilets was prohibitive but that with the hope that the businesses who provide public access to their toilets would soon be open, that issue should be addressed and that the public toilet in Pearse Park is currently available.

**It was proposed at that point in the meeting by Cllr Connick and seconded by Cllr Fleming, to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue until 17.00 hours**

## **2.2. Roads Report**

The Roads Engineer delivered his report and responded to queries from the Members.

The Members congratulated the Roads Engineer and the Director of Services on their Active Travel Funding success.

It was requested that the Roads Engineer look at the issue of providing a bus shelter at the Good Counsel College and Our Lady of Lourdes School

## **2.3. Water Services Report**

The Senior Executive Engineer delivered his report and responded to queries from the Members.

## **2.4. Housing Report.**

The Housing report was delivered by the Administrative Officer, Housing who responded to queries from the Members.

A report on the Housing Supply Programme for New Ross up to 2024 was requested.

Shay Howell, Senior Executive Architect, clarified a number of issues and answered questions in relation to the proposed housing development at Rosbercon.

**It was proposed at that point in the meeting by Cllr Connick and seconded by Cllr Fleming, to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue until 17.30 hours**

## **2.5 Planning Report**

The Executive Planner delivered his report and answered questions from the Members. In relation to a query regarding protected structures, the Members were advised that if there was an issue in relation to any particular structure, that he would work with them on it.

## **2.6 Planning Grants**

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

## **2.7 Planning Refusals**

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

## **2.8 Libraries Archives & Arts Report**

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

## **2.9 Community Development Report**

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

## **2.10 Environment Report**

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

## **2.11 Fire Services Report**

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

## **2.12 Members Query System**

The content of the report was noted by the Members

## **3.0 Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members**

N/A

## **4.0 Other Business**

4.1 Presentation by Carolyn Godkin and Gerry Forde SE on New Ross Port  
(Presented earlier in the meeting)

4.2 Presentation by Brian Galvin SE on Special Projects (Presented earlier in the meeting)

4.4 Litter Waste Action Committee Nomination

Cllr Connick proposed and Cllr Sheehan seconded the nomination of Cllr Fleming. The SES advised that he would investigate whether a second nomination could come from the New Ross Municipal District and would revert to the members on it.

4.5 Festivals Allocation

The allocation was proposed by Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Connick

### **5.0 Notice of Motion/s –**

N/A

### **6.0 Correspondence**

6.1 Reply re Special Needs Children Vaccination

Correspondence was noted by the Members. Cllr Barden registered his disappointment with the response.

### **7.0 AOB**

N/A

**THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

Date \_\_\_\_\_