

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 13th April 2022 in the Tholsel, New Ross and on Teams**

Presiding: Councillor Bridin Murphy

In Attendance: Councillor Anthony Connick
Councillor John Fleming
Councillor Michael Sheehan
Councillor Pat Barden
Councillor Michael Whelan

Officials Present: Mick McCormack – District Manager
Eamonn Hore - District Manager
Eilis Furlong – Executive Engineer - Teams
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing - Teams
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer
Eoin Furlong – Clerical Officer
Graeme Hunt – Executive Planner - Teams
Mick Mahon – Marine Officer
Capt Phil Murphy – Senior Marine Officer

Others Present: Brendan Keane – Press
South East Radio – Press - Teams
Deputy Verona Murphy – Teams

Apologies: Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer
Brian Galvin – Senior Engineer
Brendan Cooney – Executive Scientist

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all to the meeting.

Standing orders were suspended on the proposal of Cllr Connick and seconded by Cllr Fleming to allow a presentation by Mick Mahon and Capt Phil Murphy on New Ross Port

Prior to the start of the presentation, it was proposed by Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Whelan, that all parties who were attending the meeting through teams, turn on their cameras and if they refused that they should be asked to leave. There was a counter proposal by Cllr Barden that the cameras should be allowed stay off and this was seconded by Cllr Connick. It was put to a vote and by four votes to two it was agreed that those attending the meeting through teams should have their cameras on and subsequent to the vote, all complied.

Presentation on New Ross Port

A presentation was given by Mick Mahon, Marine Officer and Capt Phil Murphy, Senior Marine Officer, who following the presentation, responded to questions from the Members.

Responding to a query re the decrease in shipping numbers, the Members were informed that everything possible is being done to counteract the drop. The Director of Services advised the Members that a major drop in numbers happened about twenty years ago but that for the last ten years or so the numbers have stabilised at around 100 per year. They were advised that the Marina isn't full but is very busy and that the River Search and Rescue boat is accommodated on a complimentary basis and that the Marshmeadows Jetty is open for use to other operators.

The Senior Marine Officer and Marine Officer were advised that Port Officers from Savannah which is the 4th biggest seaport in the US, would be willing to assist with strategy and advice for New Ross Port.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked the presenters for their attendance and presentation.

Sympathies

Cllr Fleming offered sympathies to the families of Catherine Doyle, Ballagh, Raheen, Michael Roche, Tinecarraig, Newbawn, Kevin O Leary, Springmount, Rathnure and Emma Quigley, Rathduff Lane, Rathnure, Anne O Neill, Clonroche and Kitty Morrissey, Cassagh.

Cllr Connick sympathised with the family of Loretta Dooley, Rosbercon on her recent death in her 106th year.

Cllr Barden sympathised with the family of Michael Roche Tinecarrig and Kitty Morrissey, Cassagh.

Cllr Sheehan offered sympathies to the family of Michael Sills and the London Wexford Association.

A minute's silence was observed for Michael Kavanagh, Mountgarrett, New Ross, father of former New Ross Town Councillor Tomás Kavanagh.

Congratulations

Cllr Whelan, Cllr Barden and Cllr Sheehan congratulated all who were involved in Wexford's success at the LAMA awards and congratulated the Cathaoirleach Cllr Bridin Murphy who was instrumental in the success of the Summer Sessions in New

Ross. The Cathaoirleach remarked that New Ross was the only Municipal District which had been short listed and that all other's short listed were full Councils.

Cllr Fleming congratulated Wexford Camogie Team on their Division 2 success.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting –

The March 2022 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Connick and seconded by Cllr Fleming

Matters Arising

N/A

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 public consultation on the Pedestrianisation in New Ross Town would begin Wednesday 13th April and will be open for 4 weeks, after which the findings will be collated and brought to the Members, most likely in June or July. It will be advertised in the People Group Newspapers and on the Wexford County Council Website. The survey would be available on the Wexford County Council Portal and paper copies are available from New Ross Municipal District Office. It was requested that the Public Consultation documents and portal link be forwarded to the Members.

Civic Awards Night

The Members were informed that the Civic Awards night is on Thursday 21st April 2022 in the Brandon House Hotel New Ross at 7.30pm and that 12 very worthy nominated individuals and groups will all be bestowed with the highest Civic award that the Elected Members of NRMD can give.

LAMA Awards

New Ross Municipal District was delighted to receive the very prestigious bronze award in the Arts/Culture (include festival & Events) category at the National LAMA awards for the very successful Summer Sessions in the summer of 2021. The District Manager gave special thanks to St Michaels Theatre for running the events and looked forward to an equally successful Summer Sessions 2022.

He also congratulated Wexford Borough who won gold for Min Ryan Park in the best public park category and the Norman way project which made the finals in the Heritage project category.

Wexford/London Association Dinner Dance

The District Manager expressed his delight at being invited with the Leas Cathaoirleach to represent New Ross at the Wexford London Association Dinner dance in the Clayton Crown Hotel Cricklewood on Saturday 23rd April which would be a great opportunity to meet and show support to the Wexford diaspora. The Members all asked to be associated with sympathies on the death of Michael Sills who had made a great contribution to the work of the London Wexford Association over 50 years.

Guitar Festival (Official Opening)

The Members were informed that the Inaugural New Ross Guitar Festival would be launched at Hook Lighthouse on 29th April and would take place from the 11th to the 14th of August. The festival intends to bring to the New Ross District, and will feature top class Irish and International guitarists in different genres, with the world class classical guitarist David Creevy, Director of the Wexford School of Music, as Festival Director. The District Manager advised that the festival is being chaired by Cllr Bridin Murphy and he thanked her and her Committee for all their work in getting this off the ground and looked forward to the addition of another festival to the busy calendar of festivals for 2022 and to welcoming the many visitors expected to attend the festival.

Outdoor Dining Areas

The District Manager looked forward to the return of the successful outdoor dining in the Summer of 2022 bringing the Tourists and visitors to New Ross this Summer season.

Brennan's Lane/Shambles

The District Manager informed the Members that he is awaiting the Contract and conditions of grant from the Department and hoped to receive them soon and to then make a start on the Project over the coming Months.

St Stephens Cemetery

The Members were informed that it is hoped to have a Contractor appointed in the coming week for the St Stephens Cemetery Extension and works are expected to be complete by the end of July 2022.

LLPPS. Rd 3.

Following the allocation of €25,000 for LLPSS Round 3, the District is working with St Michael's Theatre and Event Lighting Management to bring concerts to a number of Community centres around the District in Clonroche, Campile, Fethard, Ballycullane and Adamstown with the line-ups to be announced later.

All Ireland Vintage Rally (Tullagher Rosbercon Vintage Club)

On Saturday 23rd April Tullagher Rosbercon Vintage club will bring the All-Ireland Vintage rally to New Ross and participants and clubs from throughout Ireland are expected to attend which will lead to significant footfall and spend in the area over the weekend.

Oaklands Lake – Dunbrody Festival/South East Classic

The Municipal District was delighted to support the staff and Committee of Oaklands lake with 2 competitions this year, the Dunbrody festival which attracts 58 anglers from all over Ireland and the UK for a 2 day event, and a new 3 day event this year called the South East Classic will have Oaklands as its hub. The organisers estimated that both events will create between 150-200 bed nights and further enhance Oaklands reputation as a Coarse Angling destination.

The District Manager acknowledged the role of Cllr Connick in relation to the All-Ireland Vintage Rally and the Oaklands Lake competitions.

Wexford Sports and Classic Club Spring Challenge 16th/17th April

The District Manager thanked Wexford Sports & Classic Car Club for bringing a static display to the quay of New Ross on Saturday April 16th which would involve a group of motor enthusiasts bringing along up to 200 cars for display, and on Sunday then there would be a Charity Car Run

St Patricks Day Parades

The organisers of the St Patricks Day parades in Clonroche, Fethard and New Ross were thanked by the District Manager for the huge voluntary effort that goes into organising these parades with very big numbers coming out this year to celebrate.

CCTV

The Members were advised that staff are currently working through the Data Impact Assessments and requirements on the CCTV scheme which will then be forwarded to the Garda Commissioner for sanction.

Destination Towns

Works are continuing on the Destination Towns Project. The Town centre litter bins are being replaced this week and procurement on the Tourism Information kiosk and also the location of the Norman Knight photo op Statues and work on the wayfinding signage is progressing. The District Manager was asked if any of the old bins could be given to schools or estates and he advised that they could but that there would be no service for emptying the bins available.

The Members thanked the District Manager for his report and thanked local Community groups for their assistance with Ukrainian displaced persons. The District Manager was asked to investigate whether Oris funding could be applied for in relation to the statue of Michael O Hanrahan for Brennan's Lane. He advised the Members that while there were no final plans yet for Brennans Lane, that he would forward the Town and Village funding application to them for information.

The District Manager was asked about works at Terrerath Castle and consideration of taking the Castle and St Brigids well into account in relation to a tourist trail. He advised that the programme of works was on the agenda and was being led by the planning section.

In relation to a query on the use of the former fire station or former ambulance station by Blood Bikes, the members were informed that the HSE is in negotiations on the issue.

Special Projects

Apologies were given by Brian Galvin, Senior Engineer who had provided a report to the Members.

The Cathaoirleach asked for an update on the road closures to facilitate the works on the High Hill.

It was suggested that White Mountain be linked in to the Greenway trail and St Mullins and Mount Elliot and the District Director advised that there was already a link from Mount Elliot to St Mullins but that it was ultimately in the Dublin direction.

2.2. Roads Report

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

She advised that stabilising works were currently taking place at Gurraun Bridge and that all bridges are checked following flooding as a matter of course. The Members were also advised in relation to queries on road repairs, that an audit is carried out and the roads are indexed in order to decide on priority for works.

The Executive Engineer advised that she would replace the 'yield' sign at the John St/High Hill junction.

2.3. Water Services Report

The Executive Engineer had been called away on an urgent call but provided his report to Members.

A query was made with regard to ongoing issues with water pressure at Sids Diner, Marshmeadows

2.4. Housing Report.

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

In relation to a query on vacancies, she advised that she would send out a list of all vacancies in the district, including the length of time the houses had been vacant. She also advised that the programme for replacement of windows and doors had been superseded by the Energy Upgrade Scheme. The Members were advised that the sewage issue at Fatima Place is being addressed by Water Services.

The AO advised that she would get an update on the houses at Rosbercon for the next meeting or, alternatively, ask the Senior Executive Architect to attend.

2.5 Planning Report

The Executive Planner responded to queries from the Members. They requested that the same Planner attend each meeting and requested information on the waiting time for pre planning meetings

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 Executive Scientist was gave apologies for the meeting.

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

3.1 The Schedule of Municipal District Works was adopted on the proposal of Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Connick

4.0 Other Business

N/A

5.0 Notice of Motion/s –

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 The invitation to attend the Easter Sunday Parade and Ceremony was acknowledged by the Members

6.2 An invitation to the Wexford War of Independence and Civil War Digitisation Day run by Wexford Library Service, was acknowledged by the Members.

7.0 AOB

7.1 It was suggested by the Members that the 75th Anniversary of the FCA Pipe Band, be marked by a celebration later in the year.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____