

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting  
held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 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)  
Councillor Bridin Murphy (Via Teams)

**Officials Present:** Mick McCormack – District Manager  
Eamonn Hore - District Director (Via Teams)  
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer (Via Teams)  
David Murphy – A/Executive Engineer (Via Teams)  
Niall McCabe- A/SEO Housing (Via Teams)  
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing (Via Teams)  
Liam Bowe – Executive Planner (Via Teams)  
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer  
David Lee – Clerical Officer  
Sharon Ryan – Asst Staff Officer (Via Teams)  
Brendan Cooney – Senior Executive Scientist (Via Teams)  
Paul L'Estrange – A/SEO Community (Via Teams)

**Others Present:** Deputy Verona Murphy (Via Teams)  
David Looby New Ross Standard  
Brian Kehoe CEO WLD  
Claire Ryan Programme Manager WLD

Standing orders were suspended to allow a presentation by Brian Kehoe and Claire Ryan from WLD as well as an introduction by A/SEO Housing to the Caretaker of the Halting Site. This was proposed by Cllr Fleming and Seconded by Cllr Barden.

## **WLD**

A presentation was given by Brian Kehoe and Claire Ryan from WLD, who went through the various programmes and supports which they offer. In response to questions from the Members, they were informed that the probable date for the new Leader programme would be January 2023. The members were also advised that they are looking at the widening of the eligibility criteria for scheme participants and also for a self-referral scheme. The Chairman and Members acknowledged the work of WLD and thanked them for attending the meeting.

## **Housing**

The Acting SEO Housing informed the Members that ACS is the new company who will be providing a caretaker for the Halting site. This is to improve the general standard on site and to reduce major clean-up costs. The A/SEO responded to questions from the Members and advised that he would revert to them in relation to a question on the number of dogs allowed per tenant. The Chairman thanked him for his attendance.

## **Sympathies**

Sympathies were extended by Cllr Whelan and Cllr Barden to the family of Michael Culleton, Ballycullane and William Culleton, Burkestown. By Cllr Barden and Cllr Connick to the Dunphy family on the death of John Dunphy, the Sutton family on the death of Sean Sutton, the Kehoe family on the death of Pat Kehoe and to the family of Margaret Dooley on her death. By Cllr Murphy to the family of Pat Kehoe and to the Byrne family on the death of Martin Byrne. Cllr Fleming also extended sympathies to the family of Pat Kehoe.

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations were extended by Cllr Whelan and Cllr Barden to James Kehoe from the Boley Tug of War Club on being voted 1<sup>st</sup> runner up in the World Games, Greatest Athlete of all time awards. Cllr Fleming, as a proud past pupil of the school, congratulated the Good Counsel College on being voted the No 1 Irish Sporting School in a recent poll. Cllr Connick congratulated all those involved in the JFK Trust on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of the Dunbrody Famine Ship.

## **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **1.1 Monthly Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

The January 2021 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Fleming and seconded by Cllr Connick.

## **Matters Arising**

N/A

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

### **2.1. District Manager's Report**

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

He advised that the Playground at Pearse Park had gone to tender and that there were 20 expressions of interest to date and that the closing date for receipt of tenders is the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The project is due for completion by Qtr 3 2021.

The Members were informed that Wexford County Council Community section is seeking ideas in respect of projects in anticipation of the launch of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021. The District Manager encouraged all Community groups in the District to engage with the Community section and staff in NRMD as soon as they can to ensure a good volume and standard of application comes from the District for this year's Town and Village Renewal funding.

The District Manager advised that while the tradition St Patricks day festivities cannot take place this March 17<sup>th</sup> a live broadcast by the "Visit New Ross" team has been commissioned which will reimagine and bring to life the heart and soul of our festival. The St Patricks day broadcast will go out across all social media platforms and will be located on [www.visitnewross.ie](http://www.visitnewross.ie) accessible globally on the 17<sup>th</sup> March.

He also advised that work is continuing on the Destination Towns project with a number of improvements in and around our Town centre being implemented and planned over the coming weeks and Months. The Destination Towns Project is a €725K project with €500k being provided by Failte Ireland and will have a transformative impact on New Ross Town. Once complete it will enhance the visitor experience quality, legibility, connectivity and sense of place through improved wayfinding, maps and trails in the Town following a common trail theme (Norman way trail). Improved works on the laneways in particular will be noticeable in the coming weeks.

The Members were informed that Arts and Amenity grants and Residents Association Grants Applications opened on 19<sup>th</sup> January and will close at 5pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

They were also advised that Allotments contracts would be going out in the next two weeks to those who had paid for their allotment last year. There are a small number of vacant allotments but it is expected that they will be in demand as during lockdown, the allotments are still open for tending and are a great outlet for those who might otherwise be housebound. Each year, the Community Employment Scheme grows and supplies plants for New Ross town as well as Tidy Town groups throughout the district and will supply as much as possible to the groups again in 2021.

In relation to Special Projects the District Manager advised that tenders for the first Greenway Contract have been assessed and the Contract is due to be awarded shortly. They should be on site by mid-March. This runs from the Boatyard to the red Bridge. The Tenders for the second Contract have been received and are being assessed and will be awarded in the very near future. This runs from the boatyard to Glenmore. The High Hill contract went to Tender last Wednesday and is open until the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and the works on the Oil Tanks on the Quay are ready to start once restrictions are lifted.

In response to queries from the Members, the District Manager advised that the post of Business Development Officer, who would work with Special Projects on businesses along the Greenway and on other projects, had been advertised. He also advised that he was consulting with the other District Managers in relation to county wide casual trading byelaws. He informed the Members that in relation to the question of external meeting attendants and their obligations in relation to communication during the meeting, that this would be going to the Protocol Committee.

He also agreed to look at signage in relation to Social Distancing in Pearse Park.

Reacting to the funding of the Ros Tapestry of €5000, while it was appreciated, it was felt by the members that the project merited more support from the Community Section and it was suggested that some Destination Towns or Festival funding, be allocated to it. The District Manager advised that Destination Towns funding was ring fenced for very specific projects, but he would be bringing the Festivals allocation to the March Municipal District meeting where the allocation could be discussed then.

On the proposal of Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Connick it was agreed by all that the District Manager would write to the HSE to propose that a vaccination centre be located in the New Ross area.

Paul L'Estrange A/SEO Community advised the members that the Town and Village Scheme hasn't yet launched but that the Community Section would be available to help the Members and groups when the scheme opened and that there would be workshops which would probably have to take place remotely this year.

## 2.2. Roads Report

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

He was complimented by the Members on his efficient responses and on works which had been carried out.

Responding to queries from the Members, he advised that work on 19 Disabled Parking Bays would start the following week. That he will upgrade the LIS as soon as possible and bring it to the next meeting. That he would look at issues brought up in relation to street lighting, anti skid surfaces, road repairs and markings as well as signage.

The District Manager advised that an application was going in for Sports Capital funding for Pearse Park

### 2.3. Water Services Report

The Senior Executive Engineer delivered his report and responded to queries from the Members. In relation to a query on updates on Water outages, the Members were advised that Irish Water was the appropriate contact.

### 2.4. Housing Report.

The Housing report was delivered by the Administrative Officer, Housing who responded to queries from the Members. She advised that the allocation of keys for allocated houses would take place as soon as possible once restrictions could be complied with. A list of voids was requested by the Members.

In relation to queries on turnkey properties, the AO, Niall McCabe advised that expressions of interest are open four times a year. He also advised that he hoped to bring plans for housing units in Rosbercon, to the March meeting.

### 2.5 Planning Report

The Executive Planner delivered his report and answered questions from the Members including on the Built Heritage grants, In relation to a question in relation to Carnagh cemetery, he advised that he would revert to the Members 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. Clarification was requested by the Members as to the areas covered by the brigades and were advised by Paul L'Estrange that it was down to 'pre-determined attendance' where each county would undertake to agree areas of attendance. Cllr Sheehan thanked the Fire Service who attended the fire at the weekend in Wexford town.

Members Query System - NRMD

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 Re Section 183 Notice re Disposal of Property at Portersgate, Fethard on Sea

Recommendation per the letter, was proposed by Cllr Whelan and seconded by Cllr Connick and all were in agreement

### **4.0 Other Business**

4.1 Presentation by Brian Kehoe CEO WLD and Claire Ryan Programmes Manager WLD (Presented earlier in the meeting)

4.2 Introduction to Halting Site Caretaker by Niall McCabe AO Housing (Introduction took place earlier in the meeting)

### **5.0 Notice of Motion/s –**

It was proposed by Cllr Whelan, seconded by Cllr Connick and agreed by all that a letter be sent to the Minister stating that -This council calls on the Minister to implement the national smoky coal ban or at least reduce the town population sizes to include towns the size of New Ross.

Cllr Sheehan suggested that the district be included to avoid people in the town buying from outside the town and also that the fuel allowance be increased.

### **6.0 Correspondence**

### **7.0 AOB**

Cllr Sheehan commended Senator Malcolm Byrne on his work on illegal dumping.

It was requested that the .District Manager contact Gas Networks for a update.

Following questions from the Members the District Manager advised that the District was working with the Property Section in relation to potentially going to CPO on Brennan's Lane and that the budget had been secured for the site purchase.

On the proposal of Cllr Barden and seconded by Cllr Whelan, it was agreed by all that the District Manager would write to the HSE to propose that children with special needs, their families and their Carers would be prioritised for vaccination at the earliest possible date.

**THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_