

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 9th February 2022 in the Tholsel, New Ross**

Presiding: Councillor Bridin Murphy

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

Officials Present: Mick McCormack – District Manager
Eamonn Hore - District Manager
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer - Teams
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing - Teams
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer
Brendan Cooney – Senior Executive Scientist – Teams
Sharon Ryan – Assistant Staff Officer
David Wall – Assistant Planner – Teams
Anthony Bailey – AO Property
Oonagh Messette – Project Coordinator Celtic Routes
Fintan Ryan – Executive Engineer

Others Present: David Looby New Ross Standard
Wian Marais Consulting Engineer, OCSC - Teams
Patrick Raggett Consulting Engineer OCSC - Teams
Myra Foley – Guest - Teams

Apologies Eilis Furlong – Executive Engineer

Standing orders were suspended to allow a presentation by Oonagh Messette on the Celtic Routes Project and by Wian Marais and Patrick Raggett from OSCS on Pedestrianisation

This was proposed by Cllr Whelan and Seconded by Cllr Fleming

Presentation on Celtic Routes

A presentation was given by the Project Coordinator of Celtic Routes, Oonagh Messette who following the presentation, responded to questions from the Members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the presenter for her attendance and presentation.

Presentation on Pedestrianisation

A presentation was given by Wian Marais and Patrick Raggett on the potential routes and effects of pedestrianisation on traffic in New Ross. Following the presentation, the presenters responded to questions from the Members. The Members were advised that the next stage would be public consultation and engagement with the Chamber. Following that, it would be brought to the Members for their decision and then funding would have to be sought.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the presenters for their attendance and presentation.

Sympathies

Cllr Fleming offered sympathies to the family of Seamus Barron, Rathnure, to the Furlong Family Clonleigh on the death of Mary Furlong and the Furlong Family Raheenduff on the death of Kathleen Furlong.

The Cathaoirleach sympathised with Sheila Delaney, Brocurra on the death of her sisters.

Cllr Sheehan offered sympathised with the Bouchier family on the death of Sheila (Julia), the Berry family on the death of Kathleen, the Wallace family on the death of Ted, the Clarkin family on the death of Fergal, Cllr Joe Sullivan on the death of his Mother Margaret and Cllr Maura Bell on the death of her Mother Emma.

Congratulations

Cllr Fleming congratulated Charlie Tector who scored in the Under 20s Rugby win against France and informed the Members that Charlie Tectors Grand Uncle was renowned for having played Rugby for Ireland and played GAA for Cloughbawn the following day.

He also congratulated the Good Counsel College on reaching the Leinster PPS Senior Hurling Championship 'A' final at UPMC Nowlan Park.

Cllr Sheehan commended all involved in the creation of the Remembrance Garden and the official opening event. He also complimented the Board of Management of Educate Together and the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Bridin Murphy, on the ceremony to remember Aisling Murphy who had been killed two days previously.

Cllr Sheehan congratulated Rathgarogue and Newbawn National Schools who had received approval of funding for extensions to the schools.

The Cathaoirleach complimented the organisers and welcomed the return of the Point to Point in Ballinaboola.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting –

The January 2022 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Connick and seconded by Cllr Barden

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.

Civic Awards Night

The District Manager advised the Members of the details of the Civic Awards Night and asked that 2 nominations by each Cllrs be in with Ger Walsh by the 3rd March 2022.

He said that it is always a special evening for the recipients and their families and is fitting that their achievements should be honoured by New Ross Municipal District.

All Ireland Pipeband Championships

The District Manager was delighted to have secured the All Ireland Pipe band Championships for New Ross for the first weekend of July which will result in a major Economic boost to the area with over 50 bands and their families coming to New Ross, generating 2500-3500 bed nights.

He thanked Brian McMahon and the Irish Pipe Band Association for coming to New Ross and the Tourism and Community sections of Wexford County Council who have helped get the event to New Ross as well as Cllr Anthony Connick for his involvement.

UK/Ireland Crossbow Championships Woodville House 9th/10th July

The 2022 Uk/Ireland Crossbow Championship will take place on the 9th and 10th of July in Woodville House bringing 150 Archers from all parts of the UK and Ireland. The District Manager thanked the organisers and the local organiser Eddie Ryan and it is planned to have a Civic Welcome for the Governing body on their arrival into Town.

New Ross St Patricks Day Parade

The St Patricks day parade was welcomed back by the District Manager and he thanked the organisers of the parade for all their work and mentioned that it would be a welcome boost to the local and night Economy over the extended bank Holiday weekend. He also advised that the festival would be extended over the Bank Holiday weekend through funding from the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme Phase III. Cllr Connick asked for permission for the Mace to be used on the day of the parade. Cllr Sheehan proposed and Cllr Barden seconded and all were agreed. He also invited the Members to walk with the parade if they so wished.

Opening of Goat Hill, Thurs 10th Feb at 4.30pm

He advised that Goat hill would be reopening on 10th February at a ceremony and that this is yet another significant investment in New Ross' growing Tourism product and a significant investment in our Norman Heritage.

Arts and Amenity Grants/Residents Association Grants 2022

The District Manager advised that the 2022 Arts and Amenity grants and Residents Association grants were advertised in the newspapers and on Wexford County Council's website on 18th January and that applications can still be taken.

Handing over of first Tri Colour raised in New Ross in February 1922

The members were advised that plans are progressing on the event for Sunday 27th February at 12pm and he thanked the Sutton and Ryan families and all of those involved in the organisation of this event which would also be our main celebratory event of the War of Independence.

European Strongman/Strongwoman Competition

In July the WHEA European Strongman and strongwoman competition will take place in New Ross. Which will be a 2 day event held on the 30th 31st July at a New Ross venue with over 100 competitors competing in this event, 75 at least of which will be from outside the Country. The District Manager thanked the organisers of this event and especially local man and organiser Bobby St Ledger as well as Cllr Sheehan for his work on it.

Town Centre First

The Members were advised that the Town Centre Policy document has just been launched by the Department. It is a substantial document outlining the Town Centre First vision which is being led by the Planning section within Wexford County Council and the District Manager was very happy that New Ross Town is in at the start of what looks to be a very promising Policy document and process.

CCTV

Data Impact Assessments and requirements on the CCTV scheme are currently being worked on which will then be forwarded to the Garda Commissioner for sanction.

Destination Towns

Works are continuing on the Destination Towns Project including the finalising the procurement on the Tourism Information kiosk, the location of the Norman Knight photo op Statues and the wayfinding signage.

The District Manager thanked Anthony Bailey from the property section for the work on the CPO for Brennan's Lane and he advised the Members that he is hoping to get Town and Village funding for Brennan's Lane and the Shambles.

The Director informed the Members that an RTE Director visited New Ross recently and he called in to say how impressed he was with the recent work on the town. Images from the town were used for a Failte Ireland National presentation.

The District Manager advised the Members, in response to a question, that the connection with Savannah would be addressed at the full Council meeting and that New Ross was working on the Danville link.

It was requested that it be minuted that 30th January marked the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

Special Projects

Fintan Ryan, Executive Engineer, updated the Members on the status of the Projects in the New Ross District.

The Members expressed their disappointment on the proposed closing of North St for a period of 6 weeks, which had since been greatly reduced, and they asked for better communication between Special Projects and the Members in future. In relation to a query on an update on the Hook Heritage/Failte Ireland project, the Executive Engineer agreed to revert on it.

The Cathaoirleach requested that the results of the public consultation on the former Oil Tanks site, be brought to the next meeting.

2.2. Roads Report

The Roads Engineer was unavailable for the meeting but made her report available to the Members.

The Members were delighted to see the temporary bridge being installed at Chapel as well as work done at Little Cullenstown

They requested priority be given to the provision of lighting and repairs to footpaths on the ring road in New Ross and that someone would speak to the ESB about the lighting in Ballywilliam, Ballinaboola and Campile. The Members were advised that the design for the ring road was currently being worked on and that funding would have to be sought subsequently.

It was requested that the bridge in Raheen be done before Chapel Bridge would be closed for permanent repairs. The Director advised that the timeframes were out of the Local Authorities control but that he would follow up on it.

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. She agreed to revert to the Members on a date for the demolition of the house in Adamstown.

2.5 Planning Report

The Executive Planner delivered his report and answered questions from the Members.

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. The Senior Executive Scientist agreed to come back to the Members in relation to an upgrade on the Pier in Duncannon and he gave them a timeline for the repair of Grange Road in Fethard.

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 "Special Speed Limit Review – Pre Draft Consultation - for information

The Members were informed that David Codd would attend the March meeting in relation to the above.

4.0 Other Business

4.1 Presentation on Pedestrianisation by Wian Marais OCSC Consulting Engineers (Presented earlier in the meeting)

4.2 Celtic Routes Presentation by Oonagh Messitt, Celtic Routes Project Officer, Community Development

On the proposal of Cllr Whelan and seconded by Cllr Connick it was agreed to suspended standing orders and the the Meeting then went into Committee in relation to Land at Butlersland,

*It was proposed by Cllr Whelan and agreed by all that the land is to be taken off the market to allow time for a feasibility study to be completed by Ross Celtic
On the proposal of Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Connick, it was agreed to come out of Committee,*

On the proposal of Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Connick it was agreed to suspend Standing orders to continue the meeting

5.0 Notice of Motion/s –

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

N/A

7.0 AOB

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____