

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 12th January 2022 in St Michael's Theatre, New Ross**

Presiding: Councillor Bridin Murphy

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

Officials Present: Mick McCormack – District Manager
Eamonn Hore - District Director
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer
Eilis Furlong – Executive Engineer
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer
Carolyne Godkin – Director of Services
Brian Galvin – Senior Engineer Special Projects

Others Present: Deputy Verona Murphy
David Looby New Ross Standard

Apologies David Wall Assistant Planner

Standing orders were suspended to allow a presentation by Brian Galvin from Special Projects.

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

Presentation on Special Projects

A presentation was given by Brian Galvin on Special Projects in New Ross District and he responded to questions from the Members.

In response to a query as to whether the Greenway would be open in parts or only when it was completed in its entirety, the Members were advised that it was planned to open sections of the greenway where these sections were not required to facilitate the construction of adjoining sections and where it would be possible to provide a viable trail for use by the public with access / parking facilities at the terminal points. For example, the New Ross loop once completed would offer this option.

Regarding a query on the John St building, the Senior Engineer advised that the current funding was to bring it to 'Shovel ready' stage and that further funding would be required to develop it after that. The members were advised that the CPO Notice to Treat would be served in February allowing for the preliminary design to be completed and the planning documents to be prepared.

The Chairman thanked the Senior Engineer for his presentation.

Sympathies

Cllr Whelan expressed sympathies to the family of Michael Byrne, New Ross and Mary Byrne, Fethard on Sea

Cllr Murphy and Cllr Fleming gave their condolences to the family of Bridget Mahon, Clonroche.

Sympathies were expressed by Cllr Sheehan to the family of Glenis Coleman, New Ross

Congratulations

Cllr Fleming congratulated Bobby St Ledger on winning the world Natural Strong Man title and Aidan Kennedy who won the over 40s masters event and PJ Kennedy who took silver in the same event at the WHEA World Strongman World Championships in Finland.

Cllr Sheehan congratulated Cllr Bridin Murphy on her election as Cathaoirleach of New Ross Municipal District.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting –

The 8th December 2021 Minutes were proposed as presented by Cllr Barden and seconded by Cllr Connick

The 31st December 2021 Special Meeting Minutes were proposed as presented by Cllr Connick and seconded by Cllr Fleming

Matters Arising

N/A

2.0 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

2.1 District Managers Report

2.1a Special Projects Report – Presented earlier in the meeting

The District Manager delivered his report and responded to queries raised by the Members. He congratulated Kilkenny County Council on the major clean up at the Pink Rock which was done recently. He also advised that work is continuing on dealing with the old CBS building and it is expected to soon be brought to the Members for de listing.

Following the request by the Members to have a Civic Awards night, they were informed that it was planned once restrictions would allow.

Proposed Festival Budget 2022

The Members were presented with the proposed Festival 2022 programme which has a €100k allocation through the GMA and which is a significant investment by the Members in local Festivals in the Community and which, as outlined by the Director, promotes New Ross on the National and International stage and presents excellent value for the investment. The Festivals 2022 programme was proposed as presented by Cllr Whelan and seconded by Cllr Connick.

Arts & Amenities and Residents Association Grants 2022

The Members were advised that the 2022 Arts and Amenity grants and Residents Association grants will be advertised in the newspapers and on Wexford County Council's website on 18th January and that applications will be open from then. Each Elected Member would have €6000 to distribute as they see fit for the Arts and Amenity grants and the Residents Association funding is €11,000 in total. The report with the allocations for both grants would be brought to the earliest possible meeting after the allocations process, for approval by the Members.

Ceremony to Open Garden of Remembrance and Reflection in Pearse Park

The Members were advised that An Cathaoirleach Cllr Bridin Murphy would be opening the Garden of Remembrance and Reflection in Pearse Park on Friday the 28th January at 4pm. This was partially funded through the Decades of Centenaries fund and is in keeping with the National Garden of Remembrance theme nationwide, which all have 3 common elements

- A replica of the 1916 proclamation
- A flagpole for the tricolour
- Seven trees which represent the seven signatories of the proclamation

Thanks were extended to the Town Gardener Sean Whelan along with Pat Laffan, Derek Furness and Ger Walsh for creating this civic area which is another great addition to the Award winning Town park.

Following the proposal by Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Whelan and agreed by all, it was decided that the Garden would be dedicated to all the Members of Cumann na mBan in the area.

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

The District Manager informed the Members that a handover by Mr Jim Sutton, of the first official tricolour raised in New Ross Town on the occasion of the handover of the Town by the RIC in February 1922, for display in the Tholsel, is being planned for Sunday 27th February at 12 pm whereby the Cathaoirleach Cllr Bridin Murphy will receive the flag on behalf of the Council.

Following the event the flag will be framed and remain in the Tholsel Chamber on display.

Town Centre First Plans

The Members were advised that €100k was received under the new Town Centre First initiative funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. This was applied for by the Enterprise section and will be led by the Planning/Enterprise sections with assistance from NRMD. The full detail on the allocation has still not arrived but it is another significant investment in the future of New Ross Town.

The main focus would be on tackling dereliction, vacant properties and on making Town centres more attractive places to live, work, socialise and run a business.

CCTV

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

Destination Towns

Works are continuing on the Destination Towns Project the Members were informed, with lots of procurement design and Tender assessment work being carried out on the Information Kiosk and wayfinding signage along with submission of claims to Failte Ireland. The Norman photo statues were received before Christmas and mock ups were being done to decide the best locations around the Town. Preferred locations for new Street signs around the Town were selected and the relevant property owners were written to and by and large, favourable responses are being received.

Pedestrianisation

The Manager advised that the Initial feasibility study was complete, and the raw data had been received from the Consultants on traffic and pedestrian counts and counts of traffic movement at junctions, with the final report expected within the next few weeks, followed by public consultation and engagement with the Chamber of Commerce and then bringing a final report back to the Members for consideration.

Playground Pearse Park

An Cathaoirleach Cllr Pat Barden officially opened Pearse park Playground prior to Christmas, which has been a major success with huge usage and very positive feedback throughout the Christmas period. Due to the heavy rain, heavy usage and time of year the grassy areas had to be cordoned off to allow the grass to take root and matting to bed in. The Norman ship, castle, sand pit, sensory area, 5 way swing, climbing frame, zip wire and other attractions on the site remained open.

Arrow Ceremony at the Hook New Year's Day

An Cathaoirleach Cllr Bridin Murphy along with fellow Councillors and representatives from the Dunbrody Archers cast an arrow into the Waterford estuary off the Hook on New Year's Day at the annual ceremony. There was great Local and National coverage of the event which again highlighted the Hook Lighthouse as one of the major Tourism draws to the region.

2.2. Roads Report

The Roads Engineer delivered her report and responded to queries from the Members. The Members were shown photographs and film footage of the Christmas Day floods and were advised that funding is being applied for in order to have the repairs done as soon as possible. They were also advised that currently, about 80% of the work of the road crews is linked to the floods. All the Members commended the Officials and Road Crews who they said 'went over and above' on Christmas Day to deal with the flooding and safety and it was a tribute to them that no one was injured.

Consideration of a temporary structure at Chapel Bridge, was welcomed by the Members, as were the lights on Cherry's Road.

Line markings on Sugarhouselane and in Killane were requested.

The Director recognised the work of the Road crews and road Staff and advised that he had been given assurances that the flood repairs would be funded. He advised the Members, in relation to a query on gritting, that when the appropriate temperature is expected, an alarm monitoring system issues an alert.

2.3. Water Services Report

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

The SEE and the Members complimented the Water Crew and the contractors for their work over Christmas and New Years, due to the flooding.

The SEE was thanked for works which were carried out at Fairfields, Adamstown and in Whitechurch

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 houses in Pondfields would be available from March and that she would revert with dates in relation to the building of the houses in Rosbercon.

2.5 Planning Report

The Assistant Planner was unable to attend the meeting but made his report available to 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.

2.11 Fire Services Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members and the Fire Service Crew were congratulated on bringing Santa to the Estates before Christmas.

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 Housing For All - Briefing Presentation by Director of Service Carolyne Godkin

A presentation was given by the Director of Services on 'Housing for All' and the Members queries were answered. The announcement of a Vacant Homes Officer was welcomed.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Director for her presentation.

5.0 Notice of Motion/s –

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 Request from Irish Kidney Association re Light up in Green for Organ Donation 2022

The request was acceded to by the Members

7.0 AOB

7.1 Nominations for Disability Participation & Awareness Project 2021/2022

The Members were advised of the request for Nominations from groups re the Disability Participation & Awareness Project 2021/2022

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____