

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting  
held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 in the Tholsel, Quay St., New Ross**

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**Presiding:** Councillor Anthony Connick

**In Attendance:** Councillor John Fleming  
Councillor Michael Sheehan  
Councillor Michael Whelan  
Councillor Pat Barden (Teams)  
Cllr Bridin Murphy

**Officials Present:**

Alan Fitzhenry – District Manager  
Eamonn Hore - District Director  
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing  
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer  
Michelle Duffin – Asst Staff Officer  
Melissa Goff - Senior Staff Officer (Teams)  
Caroline Creane – Senior Staff Officer  
Ronan Griffin – Asst Staff Officer (Teams)  
Claude Clancy – Administration Officer (Teams)  
Padraig Lyng – Senior Executive Engineer

**Others Present:** David Looby New Ross Standard (Teams)  
Niall Conway - KPMG

**Apologies:** David Murphy - Acting Executive Engineer  
Niamh Lennon – Executive Planner

Cllr Connick welcomed all to his first meeting as Cathaoirleach of New Ross Municipal District.

On the proposal of Cllr Whelan and seconded by Cllr Murphy, standing orders were suspended to allow a presentation by Niall Conway from KPMG on Wexford LCEP Stage 3 Goals, Objectives and Actions and a presentation by Caroline Creane SSO WCC on Choice based lettings.

The LCEP presentation was given by Niall Conway and the Members gave their input and the Presenters answered queries from the Members.

The AO, Community, advised that the portal would be open for questions until Monday and thanked the Members for their engagement.

Caroline Creane SSO Housing WCC gave a presentation on Choice Based Lettings. She answered queries from the Members on the system and said that she would revert back to them on requests that photos and videos of the houses be made available. She advised that as many properties as possible would be on the system except specially adapted properties and traveller specific properties. The Members would be given usernames and passwords so that they would be able to see what is available. There would be an email address, [cbl@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:cbl@wexfordcoco.ie) for any queries. The SSO advised that information sessions would be held in the Tholsel on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July and that a tablet would be made available in reception for applicants to use if they were unable to access the system themselves. She also advised that library staff would be trained so that they could assist applicants if necessary.

## **Sympathies**

All Members sympathised with the family of Christina (Tilly) Dobbs, Mother of Billy Dobbs, Housing Section, Wexford County Council, and the family of Sarah Ann Dunne, Mother of Abraham Dunne, Roads Section, Wexford County Council, on their recent bereavements.

Cllr Sheehan sympathised with the family of Nellie Larkin, Priory St., New Ross, on their bereavement.

## **Congratulations**

Cllr Sheehan congratulated the organisers of the 1798 events in Lacken and Killanne. He also congratulated all the Wexford County Council staff involved in the approval of the €6.5 million funding for the acquisition of derelict properties and he wished best of luck to all applicants for Sports Capital funding.

Cllr Fleming congratulated the JFK Trust on the commemoration events for the JFK 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Cllr Murphy congratulated Adamstown Show and Rathnure Pantomine Society on their events.

Cllr Barden congratulated the Three Bullet, Killanne and Lacken on their 1798 events also congratulated Paddy Power who came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the British Blind Golf Open.

## **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **1.1 Monthly Meeting –**

The June 2023 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Murphy.

### **1.2 Annual Meeting -**

The Annual Meeting 2023 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Muirphy 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.

### **Emigrant Park Minister Visit**

The District Manager thanked everyone involved in making the Construction Launch of the Emigrant Park Project a success and looked forward to the park officially opening later this year.

### **South East Greenway (Phase 1)**

It was confirmed that the official opening of Phase 1 (New Ross to Glenmore) of the South East Greenway would take place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July. It would be opened by the Minister of State at the Department of Transport and at the Department of Environment, Climate & Communications, Jack Chambers TD.

## **PROJECTS**

### **CCTV**

The Members were informed that the CCTV scheme pack, while approved by the Garda Commissioners Office, is still with Garda HQ and when final confirmation of approval is received that the project can progress to preparing for the CCTV tender. The GP Section of the council will oversee the tender process and work has already begun on the requirements for civil and electrical elements.

### **Brennan's Lane/Shambles**

The District Manager advised that the project team had now reviewed all drawings and design details received from Avanti Architects, the Consultants on the Brennan's Lane/Shambles Project. And that Edits have been returned to Avanti, and a final review of all documents will take place, once received. Avanti plan on issuing the tender for works in August. Cllr Barden requested that a presentation be given, and the District Manager advised that final drawings were awaited before the presentation would be given. Cllr Murphy suggested that the Milk Market in Limerick would be worth looking at in relation to the development of the Shambles.

## **Duncannon Fort Masterplan**

Urban Scale Interventions (USI) and their multi-disciplinary team, continue their work on the masterplan. Stakeholder engagement meetings and public consultation have been set for early August. Public consultation will be held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August from 11am-1pm & 3pm-7pm and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August from 11am-1pm at Duncannon Community Centre.

## **Duncannon Fort Works**

The Members were informed that the project team continue to prepare tender documents for the works outlined in previous reports. The plan is to advertise towards the end of the third quarter of 2023.

## **Advance Factory**

Director Liz Hore has confirmed she will attend the September meeting to give a full update, as she is currently working through the EOI's received and time is needed to continue discussions with those who made a submission.

## **Motorhome Park**

Surveys and design are to begin shortly now that the Screening Report has been received. Part VIII documents will be prepared, with a plan to bring it before the Members within Q3 of 2023.

## **Pedestrianisation**

The process of developing a Town Centre First Plan is currently underway, led by consultants CSR under the direction of the Town Regeneration Officer. The planned pedestrianisation of Quay Street and how best to develop this, will be informed by the TCF plan which is due for completion by August/September 2023. Cllr Whelan remarked that the wording 'stay street' is used in Holland rather than pedestrianisation.

## **EVENTS**

### **1798 Commemorations – 225<sup>TH</sup>**

The District Manager congratulated all those involved in the county-wide commemorative programme to mark the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1798 Rebellion in Co. Wexford, in particular the New Ross Municipal District Groups- the Three Bullet Gate Association, the Killanne Development Group and the Lacken Hill Trails Group.

### **Summer Sessions**

The Members were advised that the New Ross Summer Sessions would take place again this year in the Library Park, with 7 Saturday evening concerts. All would be free to attend, having been significantly funded and supported by the elected Members & Wexford County Council. The District Manager thanked Tomas Kavanagh and his Team at St Michaels Theatre.

## **New Ross Guitar Festival**

The District Manager advised that the New Ross Guitar Festival would take place over the weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> August, supported by the elected Members and Wexford County Council. The festival would include live performance, workshops and the commencement of the New Ross Guitar Orchestra which is open to all ages, styles and levels of ability, as well as some Pop-Up Guitar Performances in local Café's on the Saturday afternoon.

Cllr Murphy thanked the Members for their support for the Guitar Festival and for the Summer Sessions.

## **Tri the Hook**

The District Manager advised that the annual Tri the Hook Sprint Triathlon would take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August, starting with a 750m swim in Baginbun Bay, followed by a 20km cycle and a 5km run along the Baginbun Road to St Mogues GAA in Fethard on Sea. He wished the organisers and the 400 expected participants the very best of luck on the day.

## **Kennedy Summer School**

The Members were informed that the Kennedy Summer School annual Festival of Irish & American History, Culture and Politics would take place from 31<sup>st</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September. With the organisers currently working on the programme of events. Supported by the Members and WCC, he wished them every success with this important international event.

Cllr Fleming requested an update on Sweeney's Garden centre and the District Manager agreed to revert to him on it.

Cllr Sheehan asked if the District Manager can find out if there is a limit on Charity Shops in the town centre and the District Manager agreed to come back to him on it. Cllr Sheehan also asked in relation to the plans for the Courthouse and the Bumble Bee and the Senior Executive Engineer informed him that they were currently tendering for demolition works.

## **Special Projects**

The Special projects report was made available to the Members.

In relation to the Greenway pilot creative public art project, the Cllrs requested that they have an input into it and the District Manager agreed to revert to them on it.

Cllr Fleming asked whether the procuring of replacement technical advisors would delay the project further, but the Director advised that the fact that two separate people would be appointed, would actually speed up the project.

## **2.2. Roads Report**

The Roads Engineer responded to queries from the Members and asked that they would contact him the following week with any queries.

## **2.3. Water Services Report**

The Senior Executive Engineer gave his report to the Members and answered queries. He advised that the derelict property at 4 John St was being retendered for stabilisation and hoarding. Responding to a request from the Cathaoirleach he agreed to write to the owners of the old garage in Charles St in relation to the hoarding there.

## **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 issuing of letters for the SSHA (Summary of Social Housing Assessments) was being deferred for a few weeks, to allow for the bedding in of Choice Based Lettings.

Cllr Sheehan expressed concern about the robustness of Garda Vetting and Cllr Whelan suggested writing to the JPC in relation to it. The AO advised that it was Garda Clearance rather than Garda Vetting which is carried out.

Cllr Whelan requested a breakdown of the €90k payment in relation to the Marshmeadows Site. He also enquired as to whether those wishing to transfer would have access to Choice Based Letting. He was informed that if a tenant had an approved housing need, e.g. severe overcrowding, under occupancy or exceptional medical need, they would have access.

The Cathaoirleach requested that extra staff be allocated to the Energy retro fitting scheme as he felt the numbers were disappointing.

The AO advised that the 'Caravan Loan Scheme' had been extended, which would allow tenants on the Marshmeadows site to replace mobile homes and that she would bring the details to the September meeting.

## **2.5 Planning Report**

The Executive Planner sent her apologies and made her 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. The SSO agreed to revert to Cllr Whelan in relation to a query on the new slipway in Fethard on Sea. The Members were advised that there would be a paint amnesty at the end of August/beginning of September and a mattress amnesty in September. Dates to be confirmed.

## **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** LECP presentation by KPMG – given earlier in the meeting

**4.2** Choice Based Letting – given earlier in the meeting

## **5.0 Notice of Motion/s –**

N/A

## **6.0 Correspondence**

N/A

### **7.0 AOB**

Cllr Sheehan proposed that there be a sub committee of New Ross Municipal District set up for the Night time economy, with the Cathaoirleach of the day as Chair. It was proposed by Cllr Connick and seconded by Cllr Sheehan that it would be an agenda item on the next meeting with the Chamber.

It was proposed by Cllr Sheehan that there would be a night for acknowledgment of winners of sports achievement in the district this year. It was agreed by all other Members that they would stay with the current arrangement of having a Civic Awards night every two years.

Cllr Whelan requested that the protocol committee meet.

Cllr Fleming informed the Members that the Blackstairs walking trails invited the Members to come for a walk on the trail. He also invited them to the Clonroche Vintage Rally on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

The District Manager informed the Members that Wexford Co Co Sports Active would be running two 'Fun in the Sun' days in Pearse Park and Duncannon on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> August.

### **THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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

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