

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 8th June 2022 in The Tholsel, Quay St., New Ross.**

Presiding: Councillor Bridin Murphy

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

Officials Present: Mick McCormack – District Manager
Eamonn Hore - District Director
Eilis Furlong – Executive Engineer - Teams
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing - Teams
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer
Sharon Ryan – Asst Staff Officer
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer – Teams
Brendan Cooney – Senior Executive Scientist – Teams
Sonia Hunt – Executive Planner
Eoghan Nolan – Assistant Planner

Others Present: David Looby – Press
Sharon Pettit–Parliamentary Asst Deputy Verona Murphy- Teams
John Kavanagh – Summer Student Planning Section

Apologies: None

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all attendees both in person and through Teams, to the meeting.

Sympathies

All Members sympathised with the Ryan family on the death of Billy Ryan, Campile. Cllr Connick also offered sympathies to the family of Esther Philpott and Myles Carroll.

Cllr Barden sympathised with the Stafford family on the death of Rory Michael Desmond Stafford, Ballyhurst, Taghmon.

Congratulations

All Members congratulated the nominees and winners of the County Wexford Chamber Business Awards, in particular Mann Engineering from Horeswood who won the overall Business of the Year award.

Cllr Whelan congratulated the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Murphy, on the birth of her baby, Ava Mai Mernagh.

Cllr Barden congratulated Adrian Morrissey, who was a member of the team who won the snooker 'Legends World Team Championships' which was held in the Crucible Club in Reading. He also congratulated Paddy Power on his performance in the Spanish Blind Golf Open and Linda Kelly who won a European gold medal in paracycling and Charlie Bradley for Cross Philip Engineering's win at the County Wexford Chamber Awards in the family business category.

Cllr Sheehan congratulated and wished the Barrow Princess every success following the recent official launch.

Cllr Connick wished success to all those starting their exams.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting –

The 11th May 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.

Town and Village Renewal 2022.

The District Manager advised that the 2022 scheme has just been announced and that it will place particular emphasis on projects bringing vacant and derelict buildings back into use as multipurpose community spaces.

He explained the measures of the scheme and assured the Members that New Ross Municipal District would again, as in other years, embrace the funding stream and hope to be as successful as in the past. Responding to a query in relation to a site for a prospective hotel, the Members were advised by the District Manager that 6 sites were under consideration.

All Ireland Pipe Band Championships 2022

The Members were advised that the All-Ireland pipe band championships will take place on the first weekend in July in Pearse Park. As main sponsoring body the Municipal District has the honour of selecting the Chieftain for the day which is an honorary position and who would take the salute from the bands as they march past and would also attend the official functions over the weekend as guest of honour. The District Manager recommended that the Cathaoirleach of the day be selected for this position, and all were in agreement. The organisers thanked the Elected Members for getting these Championships to New Ross.

St Stephens Cemetery Extension

The District Manager advised that Donnelly Civil Engineering are the contractors for the extension in the cemetery and that work is progressing well and that shortly they will be putting down the base for the columbarium wall & commencing work on the parking area and the programme is on schedule to be completed by Friday 29th July. In relation to a query on different levels in the extension, the Members were informed that this was to do with drainage.

Chamber of Commerce Business Awards

The District Manager congratulated the Wexford County Chamber of Commerce for organising the County Wexford Business Awards 2022 at which New Ross was represented by An Cathaoirleach Cllr Bridin Murphy and Cllr Whelan as Chair of the Economic SPC. New Ross did very well on the night winning many hotly contested categories which is testament to the strong entrepreneurial spirit that exists within the district.

Crinniu na nog New Ross 11th June

The School of Irish Archaeology big dig experience is coming to New Ross Library (in the Library Park Car Park), where participants learn how to excavate the remains of a Viking house and unearth Viking treasures and artefacts dating back 1,000 years. All places were booked out in the first morning it went on sale. Becky Whelan's '2 Many dance moves' will have a Pop up performance in the Library Park. Kilmokea House will be hosting a day of fun and creative activities. All events are free.

National Play Day Plan for New Ross

The Members were informed that New Ross has been selected as the District to host Wexford National play day this year and has received a €3,000 allocation under the scheme and are currently looking to procure organisers for the day.

Annual Meeting

The District Manager reminded the Members that the Annual Meeting is set for Friday 24th June at 2.30pm in the Tholsel.

Pedestrianisation

The Members were advised that a report for the Members consideration on Pedestrianisation and the results of the Survey would be brought to the July meeting.

LLPPS Rd 3

The final concerts in the Spring Cabarets series take place in June in Camross with Green Road and guests and in St. Michael's Theatre with Irish and Ukrainian performances with tickets currently being distributed locally and free of charge by the committees and through St Michael's Theatre.

New Ross Summer Sessions takes place this year again in the Library Park with 6 Saturday concerts and a number of midweek events, all of which will be free to attend. The organisers thanked the Members for their continued support of this festival

Community Room in Pearse Park

The Members were advised that renovations were carried out to the Community meeting room in the pavilion in the Town Park which can be used by organisations or groups within the Town or District who are looking for a venue for meetings.

CCTV

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

Destination Towns

The Members were informed that works are continuing on the Destination Towns Project with the Norman statues and new hanging basket poles and bollards now installed and the contacts for the Interactive Tourism Kiosk being compiled and the Wayfinding and 1798 signage also being worked on.

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

The District Manager was delighted that the championships are being held in New Ross and a Civic welcome is planned for this Committee on their arrival to New Ross over the weekend of the 9th and 10th July

Special Projects

The Special Projects report was presented to the Members.

Cllr Whelan requested a tour of the new Fire Station for the Members.

Cllr Connick requested an update on the Shambles and Brennans Lane projects and on the Motorpark. In relation to a query on knotweed on the Greenway, the Director advised that he would investigate it.

2.2. Roads Report

The Executive Engineer delivered her report and responded to queries from the Members and was complimented on the works on the car park at Baginbun. It was requested that the disabled space at Clonroche be painted blue and that the ditches at Great Island be cut and that the Irishtown and Lr Hospital Road be prioritised for repairs.

It was proposed by Cllr Fleming and seconded by Cllr Sheehan that this year's secondary list for the LIS be made the priority for the next year.

2.3. Water Services Report

The SEE presented his report and answers questions from the Members. He advised that works from Balliniry Cross to the Cross of Curraghmore would begin in September approx. He also advised that he had previously discussed applications for connections with the residents of Mountelliot and Knockavilla but that he would investigate it again. The SEE agreed to email the rates for connections to the Members.

2.4. Housing Report.

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

It was requested by the Members that a breakdown of house types at Rosbercon be brought to the next meeting and that the Senior Architect attend to address queries on Rosbercon and the Bullawn.

In relation to the demolition of the house in Adamstown, the Members were advised that an external Engineer was in the process of being appointed.

In relation to a query re 48 houses in Hewitsland, the AO advised that these would not go on the housing report until funding had been approved.

The Members were advised that 17 properties in New Ross were approved for retrofit funding, which represents 21% of the total properties.

2.5 Planning Report

The report was presented to the Members and they requested that a Planner be assigned to New Ross Municipal District and attend the 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 presented his report and responded to queries from the Members. He advised that he would revert to them on a query re works at Fethard on Sea.

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. Cllr Barden asked that a request for further training on the system be followed up.

3.0 Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members

4.0 Other Business

5.0 Notice of Motion/s –

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

7.0 AOB

Cllr Whelan expressed concern in relation to the vacant Sweeney’s Garden Centre and the District Manager advised that he would speak to the Property Section in relation to it.

The District Manager agreed to write on behalf of the Members, to Tony McEntee, CEO of McCauleys Pharmacy in relation to their withdrawal from the weekend scheme and invite him to a meeting with the Members to express their concern on the situation.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____