

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 14th June 2023 in the Tholsel, Quay St., New Ross**

Presiding: Councillor Michael Sheehan

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

Officials Present: Eamonn Hore - District Director
Padraig Lyng, Senior Executive Engineer
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing (Teams)
Sharon Ryan – Staff Officer
Michelle Duffin – Assistant Staff Officer
Melissa Goff – SSO Environment (Teams)
Niamh Lennon – Executive Planner (Teams)
Sean Meyler – Senior Executive Engineer

Others Present: David Looby New Ross Standard

Apologies: David Murphy, A/Executive Engineer
Alan Fitzhenry, District Manager

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all to the meeting.

Sympathies

Cllr Sheehan and Cllr. Barden offered sympathies to the family of Nikky Stafford, Newbawn.

Cllr. Barden offered sympathies to the family of Jimmy White, Tottenham Green.

Cllr Murphy sympathised with the family of Bridget Walsh, Mountross.

Congratulations

The Members congratulated the district engineer, David Murphy and his wife Emma on the birth of their baby boy.

The Members congratulated Cllr. Anthony Connick and Caroline on their recent wedding.

Cllr. Fleming congratulated Clonroche National School on their fund raising 5km walk. He also congratulated those involved in the recent 1798 commemorations around the district.

Cllr. Connick congratulated all involved in the recent Normandy Food Fair which was held in New Ross.

Special Projects Presentation

Standing orders were suspended to allow the Special Projects presentation by Sean Meyler, SEE.

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

The SEE delivered the presentation and responded to questions from the Members.

Dunbrody Visitor Centre

Following a tender competition, the contract for the interpretive fit out of the Dunbrody Visitor Centre Experience has been awarded to EPIC.

Southeast Greenway

It was clarified that a tender competition for work on the final sections of the greenway (Lot 4) will need to be carried out, as the budget allocated for works by the current contractor has been reached.

The official opening of the initial phase of the greenway will take place once the works have been completed, which expected to finish on 17th July.

Cllr. Murphy stated the importance of opening the greenway as soon as possible so that another tourism is not missed.

Following a query by Cllr. Barden, the SEE said that it was hoped that the full greenway would be opened in 2025.

Cllr. Sheehan advised the public against going into the site until work is completed, as it is still a construction site.

Hook Lighthouse

Following a query from Cllr. Whelan, the SEE informed the Members that a tender competition has been completed and a contractor will be appointed shortly.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting –

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

Matters Arising

N/A

2.0 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

2.1 District Managers Report

The District Manager's report was delivered report and queries from the Members were responded to.

Annual Meeting

The Members were reminded that the date for the NRMD Annual Meeting was agreed at the last meeting for Wednesday 28th June at 2.30pm.

Callan-Thomastown Joint Working Group

The first meeting of the Joint Working Group took place on Monday 15th May. It was agreed that meetings will take place twice yearly. Any Reps received for Callan-Thomastown in NRMD are now being recorded and sent forward for their attention.

Emigrant Park Minister Visit

Minister for Rural & Community Development Heather Humphreys TD will attend a sod turning/block laying event at the site of the new Emigrant Park on Tuesday 27th June.

Danville – Eugene O Neill

The Members approved delegation to the Eugene O'Neill Festival on 15-17 September, following an invitation from the President of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation to attend their festival. The District Manager stated that this is a great opportunity to again strengthen and develop cultural, tourism, historical and economic links between the two Towns and Countries.

The delegation will consist of the Chair and Vice Chair of New Ross Municipal District, accompanied by the District Manager and District Director, in keeping with the delegation of previous visits.

CCTV

The CCTV scheme pack has now been approved by the Garda Commissioners Office, following a meeting in May between the Gardai and Wexford County Council officials. The District Manager thanked all who worked on this lengthy process. The paperwork will continue for a further month or so and then the project will progress to tender preparation stage.

Brennan's Lane/Shambles

Avanti Architects, the Consultants on the Brennan's Lane/Shambles Project, gave a full presentation to the project team last week and have sent over drawings, design details and tender documents, in line with the Part VIII. These are currently being

reviewed by the project team in advance of Avanti finalising designs. Avanti plan on issuing the tender for works in early August.

Duncannon Fort Masterplan

Urban Scale Interventions (USI) have submitted Interim Reports covering each area of the multi-disciplinary team, based on the first phase of their work. The Project Team is currently reviewing these. The first phase of work for USI was research and information gathering. Stakeholder/Public consultation will now follow.

Duncannon Fort Works

The project team are 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

The Members extended an invitation to Liz Hore, Director of Services to attend the New Ross district meeting. The Director 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

The Screening Report for the development of a Motorhome Park at Marshmeadows, New Ross, has been received by Wexford County Council. Part VIII documents will now 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.

1798 Commemorations – 225th

The county-wide commemorative programme to mark the 225th anniversary of the 1798 Rebellion in Co. Wexford has been running over the past number of weeks. In NRMD, the Three Bullet Gate Association held an event on Sunday 11th and the Killanne Development Group will hold their event on Sunday 25th June. Congratulations & best wishes to both communities, who will receive funding support from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, facilitated by Wexford County Council.

Lacken Hill Trails are also holding a commemorative ceremony on Lacken Hill on 18th June at 2pm.

Summer Sessions

New Ross Summer Sessions takes place this year again in the Library Park, with 7 Saturday evening concerts. Beginning on Saturday 15th July and running until 26th August, all of the events will be free to attend. The concerts will feature a variety of artists with something for everyone and the full list of performers has been circulated to the Members. The organisers wish to thank the Members for their continued support of this festival.

Normandy Food Tour Destination Towns Launch

The Normandy Food Tour took place in New Ross on Bank Holiday Monday last. Situated in the Quayside carpark beside the Dunbrody Visitor Centre, the free event was a showcase of the food, drink & music from the region. Visitor numbers were high, and the feedback has been excellent. The District Manager thanked everyone involved and hopes to welcome them back next year.

Destination Towns Launch

The District Manager thanked all the team involved in the Destination Towns Launch held on Thursday 25th May last. The Chief Executive of Failte Ireland, Cathaoirleach Cllr Michael Sheehan, Chief Executive Tom Enright and Eamon Hore, Director of Services officially launched the New Ross Destination Towns Project.

Guitar Festival

The Members noted that the Guitar Festival will take place, for the 2nd year, in St. Michael's Theatre on 10th August.

Queries were then taken from the Members.

Cllr. Sheehan congratulated the team involved in the launch of the Destination Towns project; and in particular thanked Ger Walsh, Staff Officer for making the launch such a success.

The Members commended Tomas Kavanagh, St. Michael's Theatre for bringing such a strong programme of events for the Summer Sessions.

Cllr. Murphy queried the level of public engagement that the Town Centre's First plan has had. It was clarified that a questionnaire for stakeholders has been completed and the TCF team will engage with New Ross residents in novel ways and is being done in association with the consultants, Playful City.

Following a query from Cllr. Whelan, it was confirmed that public consultation and stakeholder consultation will take place shortly on the Duncannon Fort Masterplan.

Standing orders were suspended to allow a report on the purchase of hotel site in New Ross by the Director of Services, Eamonn Hore.

This was proposed by Cllr. Fleming and seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Presentation on Purchase of Hotel Site

The Director gave the presentation and responded to questions from the Members.

Six potential sites were reviewed; with site 2 being the preferred site. This site is the former garage site on the quay, opposite the new Emigrant Park.

Following detailed discussions, approval to purchase the site to begin the process of developing it for a town centre hotel was put to a vote. Approval was given by the Members, who voted four to two in favour of the site, with Cllr Connick and Cllr Barden voting against.

2.1a Special Projects Report

The Special projects report was presented earlier in the meeting.

2.2. Roads Report

The Roads Report was made available to the Members. As the Roads Engineer was not in attendance, the Members were asked to email any queries they may have.

2.3. Water Services Report

The Water Services Engineer presented the report to the Meeting, who responded to queries from the Members.

Following a query from Cllr. Sheehan regarding the low water pressure in Irishtown, the SEE clarified that this relates to the power outage in May and said that investigations are ongoing.

The SEE confirmed that a date has not been scheduled for the works in Walsh's Cross. Cllr. Whelan requested that, as it is a busy time in that area, work should not be carried out here for the next couple of months.

2.4. Housing Report.

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

The AO clarified that negotiations are taking place regarding the vacancies in the three units in Adamstown.

2.5 Planning Report

The Planning report was delivered by the Executive Planner who responded to queries from the Members.

Following a query, the Executive Planner clarified that there is currently no date for the Local Area Plan in New Ross.

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 Environment report was delivered by the SSO who responded to queries from the Members.

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 Section 183 re land at Ballyboro, Clonroche

4.0 Other Business

N/A

5.0 Notice of Motion/s –

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

N/A

7.0 AOB

The Members agreed to a presentation on Choice Based Lettings by the SEO, Housing at the July meeting.

The Director of Services announced that the Old Garage Building is being renovated as part of the Emigrant Park work. He thanks all those who were involved in giving permission to do so.

Cllr. Connick thanked the 28 volunteers involved in New Ross Tidy Towns, many of whom are from the Ukrainian community.

Cllr. Sheehan thanked everyone for all of their courtesy, support and hard work during his time as Chair.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____