

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting  
held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 in the Tholsel, New Ross/MS Teams**

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**Presiding:** Councillor Michael Whelan

**In Attendance:** Councillor John Fleming (Via Teams)  
Councillor Anthony Connick (Via Teams)  
Councillor Michael Sheehan (Via Teams)  
Councillor Pat Barden (Via Teams)  
Councillor Bridin Murphy (Via Teams)

**Officials Present:** Mick McCormack – District Manager  
Eamonn Hore - District Director (Via Teams)  
David Murphy – A/Executive Engineer (Via Teams)  
Amanda Byrne – Director of Services (Via Teams)  
Anita McLoughlin - AO (Via Teams)  
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing (Via Teams)  
Liam Bowe – Executive Planner (Via Teams)  
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer  
David Lee – Clerical Officer  
Sharon Ryan – Asst Staff Officer (Via Teams)  
Brendan Cooney – Senior Executive Scientist (Via Teams)

**Others Present:** Deputy Verona Murphy  
David Looby New Ross Standard

**Apologies** Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer  
Carolyn Godkin – Director of Services  
Gerry Forde – Senior Engineer

Standing orders were suspended to allow a presentation by Amanda Byrne and Anita McLoughlin on Section 40 Representations

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

### **Section 40 Representations**

A presentation was given by Amanda Byrne DOS and Anita McLoughlin AO on the system for Section 40 Reps and they responded to questions from the Members. Responding to concerns from the Members about changes to the ways they can

make representations, they were informed that for GDPR reasons, a robust system had to be put in place to protect the Council, the Members and the Officials.

They were advised that a working group is in place in relation to the new system, which includes representatives from the districts, including Cllr Whelan, and it was agreed that Cllr Barden would also join the group.

In response to requests for training, the Members were advised that while some training could be given by Wexford County Council, that in the main, training should come from their own representative organisations.

The Chairman thanked the DOS and the AO for their presentation.

### **Sympathies**

Cllr Barden and Cllr Whelan sympathised with the family of Leona Reville from Ballymitty and Cllr Barden wished a speedy recover to the driver of the other car who was involved in the accident.

Cllr Whelan sympathised with the family of James Doran, Tintern and Cllr Connick offered sympathies to the families of Denis North and Martin O' Neill, New Ross.

Cllr Fleming sympathised with the family of Patsy Bennett, Knoxtown and the family of Helen McGreevy, Clonroche

### **Congratulations**

Cllr Whelan congratulated Rory O Mahony SEE and the Environment team on their success with securing funding of €192K for phase 2 of the Duncannon/Ballyhack trail. He also congratulated those involved in securing €120K for the linking of the quays in New Ross to Kelly's woods. Cllr Connick also congratulated those involved in the projects.

Cllr Whelan and Cllr Fleming congratulation Dr Brian Murphy, on the launch of his book *'From Whence I Came: The Kennedy Legacy, Ireland and America.'*

Cllr Connick congratulation the fire service on their intervention at a recent accident at Staffords in Rosbercon

Cllr Sheehan expressed gratitude to the staff of Gaeltec and in particular to Paul Cassin on the management of the roadworks on the ring road, in relation to health and safety issues regarding traffic cones being moved which could potentially cause accidents

## **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **1.1 Monthly Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

The February 2021 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Sheehan 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.

## **Arts & Amenity Grants and Residents Association Grants 2021**

The Members were informed that €11K was allocated to 20 estates under the Residents Association Grants Scheme and €36K was allocated to 75 groups under the Arts and Amenity Grants Scheme. The groups assisted include those representing Sport, Music, Youth, Older People, Parish groups, Environmental, Tidy towns and our Diaspora in London.

### **ORIS funding.**

Congratulations were extended to Rory O'Mahony and the Environment Section on securing Measure 2 funding of €195K for the Duncannon to Ballyhack trail-phase 2 and under the same round of funding, €120K for the Kellyswood link to New Ross quays trail. The announcement of 57% under the Measure 2 funding, means that the lions share of this very significant funding is coming to the NRMD area.

### **Virtual St Patrick's Day Parade**

The Visit New Ross team have been commissioned to produce a very impressive St Patricks day experience for everyone to enjoy online and which will be used as an opportunity to showcase beautiful New Ross again to a global audience.

### **Town and Village Renewal**

The District Manager advised that the deadline for receipt of applications under the 'Preliminary Call for Expressions of Interest' has been extended until 5pm on Friday 26th March. He encouraged all community groups within the District to engage in this process at the earliest opportunity to ensure that New Ross will have strong applications for 2021.

### **Festivals 2021.**

Following ongoing contact with the Festival committees which we normally support, the District Manager is hopeful that all the committees, with the exception of the St Patrick's Day committee, will be in a position to host their respective festivals in 2021, He advised that he would bring a proposal to the April meeting for the allocation of this €100,000 fund for Members approval.

### **Playground at Pearse Park**

The Members were advised that the Tender process is still live for Pearse park playground and there have been 20 expressions of interest so far and the closing date for receipt of Tenders is the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021 with the project completion date expected to be Qtr 3 2021.

### **Destination Towns**

Following advising the members that work is continuing on the Destination Towns project, an update was requested by the Members on the project and the District Manager advised that he would bring a presentation to the next meeting.

### **Special Projects Report**

The Members were updated by the District Manager on the South East Greenway, New Ross Fire Station, the High Hill project, the removal of the Bulk Storage tanks on the quay in New Ross, the John St Building Regeneration Project, the new Visitor centre at the Hook Lighthouse and the Norman centre in New Ross and on the request of the Members, he agreed to invite a representative from Special Projects to the April meeting.

At the request of the Members, the District Manager agreed to review the situation regarding public toilet facilities in New Ross town.

He was also requested to invite the Business Development Officer, when he or she is appointed, to attend a meeting of New Ross MD.

The District Manager agreed to speak to the property section in relation to the CPO of the John St building.

He also agreed to investigate the possibility of a 'no dog' zone in the town.

Responding to a question from the Members, the District Director advised that funding has been secured under Active Travel for lighting from Kents Cross roundabout to Oaklands roundabout and also for widening of the footpaths and the provision of cycle tracks.

In relation to Destination Towns funding, he advised that New Ross was the single recipient of the funding in the county and that the works were prescribed and agreed by Failte Ireland.

## 2.2. Roads Report

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

In response to queries from the Members, he advised that road marking is under way, that in relation to LIS, funding has not yet been confirmed and that extra funding has been approved for strengthening and resurfacing.

Responding to concerns from the Members in relation to the condition of some of the roads, the District Director advised that funding is allocated based on the length of the road network in the county rather than the condition of the roads.

## 2.3. Water Services Report

The Senior Executive Engineer sent his apologies as he was called away due to an emergency but his report was available for the Members.

## 2.4. Housing Report.

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

She advised that she would invite the Senior Executive Architect to the next meeting in relation to queries on Rosbercon plans and other issues

## 2.5 Planning Report

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

In relation to a query on Carnagh Cemetery, the Members were advised that funding is not available at present

## 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.

## 2.7a Derelict Sites New Ross

## 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 – Not available

2.12 Members Query System – NRMD - Not available this month due to migration to new system

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

### 3.1 Re Section 183 Notice re Disposal of Property at Marshmeadows, New Ross

Recommendation per the letter, was proposed by Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Connick and all were in agreement

## **4.0 Other Business**

4.1 Presentation by Amanda Byrne DOS and Anita McLoughlin AO on Section 40 Representations (Presented earlier in the meeting)

4.2 In relation to increased Port charges, the District Manager advised that Carolyn Godkin, DOS and Gerry Ford SE would attend the April meeting

## **5.0 Notice of Motion/s –**

Cllr Sheehan's proposal 'that this Council, as a statement of intent and in principle, supports the development of an Urban Sports and Skate Park for the District's young people in the area' was amended to 'that this Council, as a statement of intent and in principle and where funding is available, supports the development of an Urban

Sports, Skate Park and other infrastructure, for the young people of the District, in a location within the District'. This was proposed by Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Whelan.

## **6.0 Correspondence**

6.1 HSE Response re Vaccination Centre letter

6.2 National Smoky Coal ban letter

Correspondence was noted by the Members

## **7.0 AOB**

Dog Bins

The provision of new dog bins on Cherries Road was noted by the Members

Allotments

Responding to a query relating to a letter to an allotment holder, it was agreed that a meeting would be arranged in the Allotments to discuss the issue.

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

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_