

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting  
held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 in the Tholsel, New Ross**

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**Presiding:** Councillor Bridin Murphy (represented by Leas Cathaoirleach  
Councillor Anthony Connick earlier in the meeting)

**In Attendance:** Councillor John Fleming  
Councillor Michael Sheehan  
Councillor Pat Barden  
Councillor Michael Whelan

**Officials Present:** Mick McCormack – District Manager  
Eamonn Hore - District Manager  
Eilis Furlong – Executive Engineer  
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing - Teams  
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer  
Sharon Ryan – Asst Staff Officer – Teams  
Eoin Furlong – Clerical Officer  
Brendan Cooney – Senior Executive Scientist – Teams  
George Colfer – Executive Engineer Environment  
Tom Banville – SEO Planning - Teams

**Others Present:** Brendan Keane New Ross Standard  
Richard Finn – Helen Blake Project  
Lorcan Kinsella – County Wexford Chamber  
Emma Dunphy – County Wexford Chamber  
Mary Browne – County Wexford Chamber

**Apologies:** Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer

The Leas Cathaoirleach welcomed all to the meeting and the District Manager outlined the procedures for the meeting.

Standing orders were suspended on the proposal of Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Barden to allow a presentation by

- George Colfer on Fethard Harbour, New Slipway and Beach Access
- by Richard Finn on The Helen Blake Project
- by Lorcan Kinsella, Emma Dunphy & Mary Browne on County Wexford Chamber
- and the presentation of the derelict sites report by Tom Banville, SEO Planning

### **Presentation on Fethard Harbour, New Slipway and Beach Access**

A presentation was given by George Colfer, Executive Engineer, Environment who following the presentation, responded to questions from the Members.

He advised the Members that confirmation re approval is expected in April and then funding will have to be sought.

He agreed to look at the railings in Slade in relation to their repair.

The Leas Cathaoirleach and Members thanked the presenter for his attendance and presentation.

### **Presentation on the Helen Blake Project**

A presentation was given by Richard Finn who following the presentation, responded to questions from the Members.

He gave a history of the boat and the project and the benefits of it and asked for the continuing support of the Members & Council. He hoped that the application for the Slipway would be approved as it would be essential for the success of the Helen Blake Project.

The project team was congratulated on their success to date, particularly in raising such a large amount of local funding and the Members wished them every success and assured them of their support.

The Leas Cathaoirleach thanked the presenter for his attendance and presentation.

### **Presentation on County Wexford Chamber**

A presentation was given by Lorcan Kinsella, Emma Dunphy & Mary Browne who following the presentation, responded to questions from the Members.

They explained the structure of the Chamber and the success of the voucher scheme. They outlined events which were scheduled – the County Wexford Business Awards, County Wexford Jobs Fair and Monthly networking events. A copy of the Chamber's 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of the Inside Wexford Business was distributed to the Members.

They advised that they would continue to work side by side with the Municipal District on projects such as pedestrianisation.

It was agreed that meetings would take place quarterly between the Chamber and the Municipal District.

The Leas Cathaoirleach thanked the presenters for their attendance and presentation.

### **The Cathaoirleach then joined the meeting and took the Chair**

## **Derelict Sites**

Tom Banville, SEO Planning, presented the current list of Derelict sites and responded to questions from the Members.

He advised them on the process for the acquisition of properties and on the procedure relating to derelict sites and advised that if they had any queries to contact him.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the presenter for his attendance and presentation.

## **Sympathies**

Cllr Whelan and Cllr Barden extended sympathies to the family of Con Nunan, Fethard on Sea. Cllr Connick offered sympathies to David Looby on the death of his partner Emma Quigley and to the family of Seamus Walsh, Clonroche and Anne Joyce, Clonroche. Councillor Barden sympathised with the families of John Gill, Gusserane, Peg Banville, Foulksmills and Seamus Walsh, Clonroche.

## **Congratulations**

Cllr Sheehan and Cllr Connick congratulated all those who were successful in the Sports Capital grant applications and Cllr Barden congratulated Adamstown GAA club on their allocation.

Cllr Connick and the District Manager and District Director, all congratulated and thanked Henry Rochford on his retirement after 24 years working as Foreman in Wexford County Council and wished him best of luck in the future.

Cllr Barden wished Superintendent John McDonald luck on his retirement.

Cllr Connick and Cllr Sheehan congratulated the Municipal District Staff and all who were involved in the Tricolour and War of Independence Commemoration.

## **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **1.1 Monthly Meeting –**

The February 2022 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Barden

Cllr Whelan requested that WIT be asked to do a survey on New Ross Town, post by -pass.

## **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.

#### **2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme.**

The District Manager was pleased to announce that New Ross Municipal District did very well, receiving €600,000 of the allocation. This allocation for NRMD is broken into 2 Projects:

€500k for the Brennan's Lane/Shambles project which will be for the redevelopment of Brennan's lane into a Civic area and with an area created for outdoor Farmers/Artisan/ Christmas markets along with enhancing the connectivity between the heart of the Town and the Library Park, barrack lane and Shambles areas and the creation of a Civic Space. The Shambles part of the project will involve opening the Shambles as an outdoor dining and vibrant multi-functional space adding to New Ross's growing reputation as a Destination Town. In relation to the statue of Michael O Hanrahan for Brennans Lane, the Members were advised that the statue was planned to be be situated there but funding would have to be sought separately for it.

€100k to the South West Wexford Family Resource Centre, Ramsgrange. This is for repurposing of an unused, derelict space within the former convent at Ramsgrange centre through the development of a rural working hub with high-speed broadband. The District Manager looked forward to working closely with them to move this project forward and congratulated them on receiving this significant project funding.

#### **Duncannon Funding**

€50,000 funding was received for Duncannon Fort under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021 in the Project Development measure category.

The project aims to assemble a multidisciplinary team to develop a masterplan that will consider the use of immersive technologies to develop the tourism product of the fort's potential.

The Members welcomed the Town and Village funding.

#### **Pedestrianisation**

Following a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce on Pedestrianisation, it is intended to go out for public consultation in the next few weeks and a goal of end of 2022 was set for the final decision.

## **Civic Awards Night**

The Civic Awards night is on Thursday 21st April 2022 in the Brandon House Hotel and a full list of the nominees will be sent out to all Members once the nominations have been received.

## **LLPPS. Rd 3.**

With a €25,000 allocation, the District Manager announced that this time, the Concerts are going to a number of Community centres around the District and will take place before the end of June. There will also be a concert after the St Patricks day parade with Green Road.

## **Barrow Princess Tours on the River Barrow**

The District Manager advised the Members that Three Sisters Cruise Company Limited will commence a daily river cruise service between New Ross and Waterford onboard the Barrow Princess on March 18th, 2022, which will be a great addition to Tourism in New Ross. The Members and Executive wished every success to the Company.

## **New Ross St Patricks Day Parade**

The Members were informed that the parade will start in the Irishtown at 2pm and take its traditional route through the Town before ending after passing the platform and the Councillors are invited to attend at the platform. Cllr Connick and the St Patricks Day Committee were congratulated on their work on the parade and also for providing a 'Quiet zone' from the Youth Centre to the JKL. Cllr Connick advised that 18 groups and 16 floats would be taking part in the parade and hoped that everyone would comply with the Stewards and Gardai. He thanked Cllr Barden for his involvement in the Quiet zone initiative.

## **Arts and Amenity Grants/Residents Association Grants 2022**

The Arts and Amenity Grants/Residents Association Grants 2022 had been allocated by the Members and would be for final ratification later in the meeting. This represented a €36,000 investment by the Members of NRMD in Community and Sporting groups within the District and a €15,000 investment in the upkeep of private Housing estates.

## **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**

The Members were advised that works are continuing on the Destination Towns Project with the finalising of the procurement on the Tourism Information kiosk and the location of the Norman Knight photo op Statues and work on wayfinding signage.

The Cathaoirleach remarked that this was her third Managers Report since taking the Chair and she welcomed the huge positivity of all the reports.

## **Special Projects**

In response to queries from the Members for updates on Special Projects, the Members requested that a representative from Special Projects attend the monthly meetings.

Cllr Whelan requested an update on Hook Heritage.

On the proposal of Cllr Connick and seconded by Cllr Whelan standing orders were suspended to all the meeting to continue.

## **2.2. Roads Report**

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

She advised that the majority of the Christmas Day flooding issues were resolved.

The Executive Engineer responded to queries from the Members in relation to the Roads Programme and advised that the LIS hasn't yet opened for this year.

## **2.3. Water Services Report**

The Water Services report was not available but the Director agreed to revert to the Members on queries re Beachview, Duncannon..

## **2.4. Housing Report.**

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

In relation to a query regarding income thresholds for Social Housing Supports, the Members were advised that these are set out in the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011, as amended, and Wexford County Council has no discretion in relation to same.

It was then proposed by Cllr Sheehan, and seconded by Cllr Connick, that a motion be brought to the April meeting of WCC to write to the Minister for Housing,

requesting an urgent review and increase in income thresholds for Social Housing Supports.

In relation to a sewage issue in Fatima Place, the AO advised that she would refer the matter to Maintenance for attention & would revert.

She advised that there was, as yet, no date for the demolition of the derelict house at Adamstown house and that the houses in the Bullawn were expected to be built mid to late 2023,

In relation to a query regarding the replacement of a bath with a shower in a Local Authority house, the AO advised that she would talk to the relevant Councillor on the case.

## **2.5 Planning Report**

As no Planner had attended the last two meetings, the Members requested that a Planner attend every meeting in the future and that they would be provided with contact details of a Planner.

## **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 delivered his report and responded to queries from the Members. He advised that he would ask that equipment for the Spring Clean be delivered to the Districts for collection by volunteers. In relation to the Blue Flag in Duncannon, he advised that he expected that the wastewater treatment plant would bring it up to the correct standard. Responding to a query on coastal erosion, the Executive Scientist advised that a Coastal zone map is being prepared and that he will revert to the Members on it.

## **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**

- LAC 2111 was proposed by Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Connick to bring it to the full Council

Standing orders were then suspended on the proposal of Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Barden to allow the meeting continue

## **4.0 Other Business (took place earlier in the meeting)**

- Fethard Harbour – New Slipway and Beach Access - George Colfer (took place earlier in the meeting)
- The Helen Blake Project - Tommy Kelly (took place earlier in the meeting)
- Derelict Sites - Tom Banville (took place earlier in the meeting)
- Lorcan Kinsella Presentation (took place earlier in the meeting)
- The Art and Amenity grants were proposed by Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Connick
- The Residents Association grants were proposed by Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Barden

## **5.0 Notice of Motion/s –**

N/A

## **6.0 Correspondence**

A St Patrick's Day Message from Newell Arnerich, Danville Mayor was welcomed by the Members



**7.0 AOB**

**THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathairleach**

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