

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting  
held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in the Tholsel, Quay St., New Ross**

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**Presiding:** Councillor Michael Sheehan

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

**Officials Present:**

Alan Fitzhenry – District Manager  
Eamonn Hore - District  
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer  
David Murphy - Acting Executive Engineer  
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing  
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer  
Eoin Furlong – Clerical Officer  
Mick McCormack – Town Regeneration Officer  
Melissa Goff – SSO Environment  
Tom Banville – SEO Planning  
Brian Galvin – Senior Engineer Special Projects

**Others Present:** Deputy Verona Murphy (Teams)  
David Looby New Ross Standard  
Ann Lacey PPN (Teams)

**Apologies:** Niamh Lennon – Executive Planner

An in-committee meeting re URDF funding took place prior to the main meeting where Tom Banville, SSO Planning, gave a presentation on the scheme and answered questions from the Members.

Following that meeting, at the start of the monthly meeting, the Cathaoirleach welcomed all to the meeting.

Standing orders were suspended to allow a presentation by Gary Nolan and John Daly from Greenlink Interconnector.

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

The Presenters gave their presentation and responded to questions from the Members. They complimented the Residents of the area on their cooperation and the Members complimented Greenlink on their engagement with the Public. The presenters advised that they wouldn't be carrying out work on public roads in July or August or at weekends, in order to cause as little disruption as possible in the tourist season. They also advised that Community Benefit funding had been allocated to the scheme to the value of over €500,000 to date and that the overall cost of the project would be €500,000,000.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the presenters for their attendance and presentation.

## **Sympathies**

The Members extended sympathies to the families of Michael Hanrahan, Southknock, New Ross, Michael O' Neill, Tinneranny, New Ross – brother of Sean O Neill WCC, PJ Whitty, Carnagh, Ger Jones, Clonard, Wexford – cousin of Eamonn Hore WCC, Jimmy Roche, Adamstown, Johnny Kehoe, Ballygarvan, Johnny Cloney, Ballywilliam – retired WCC staff member, Larry Whelan, Saltmills, Bridget Higginbotham, Bosheen, New Ross and Rachel Morris, Templeudigan.

## **Congratulations**

The Cathaoirleach wished a happy International Women's Day to all. He also congratulated Pat (Diker) Purcell on his retirement after 45 years working for Wexford County Council. He thanked all the emergency services in relation to the fire at Wexford General Hospital and the accident at Ballinaboola.

## **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **1.1 Monthly Meeting –**

The February 2023 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Connick and seconded by Cllr Barden.

## **Matters Arising**

N/A

## **Special Projects**

Brian Galvin, Senior Engineer Special Projects, gave an update on the South East Greenway, the Emigrant Park – MJS are to start construction there shortly, John St Corn Stores, Hook Lighthouse, New Ross Tourism Project which is going out for tender for interpretive and architectural design services with consultants expected to

be appointed by July. He advised that design services for the skate park have been procured and that funding needed to be sourced. The District Manager advised that he was investigating potential funding sources for the skate park including Sports Capital and through Wexford County Council. It was agreed that the Motor Home Park Project would come under the District's remit.

## **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.

#### **Advance Factory**

The District Manager advised that the new call for Expressions of Interest for the Design and Construction of Commercial/Industrial Property Solutions on Council owned lands at Butlersland, New Ross, closed for submissions at 5pm on Thursday 2nd March 2023 and that 4 Expressions of Interest had been received in total and that the process of reviewing the EOI's and engagement with the interested parties would now begin with the Members being kept updated on progress.

#### **Arts & Amenities and Residents Association Grants 2023**

Approval of the Arts and Amenity Grants/Residents Association Grants 2023 was proposed by Cllr Fleming and seconded by Cllr Connick.

#### **Duncannon Fort Masterplan**

The Members were advised that the tender for the creation of a Masterplan for the entire Duncannon Fort site had been advertised with the closing date for submissions being 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 4pm and that it is planned to have the Masterplan complete in Quarter 3 of 2023 and to have the consultants come to the Council meeting.

#### **Brennan's Lane/Shambles Town and Village**

The District Manager advised the Members that an initial project launch meeting had taken place between the Project Team and Avanti Architects, the consultants on the Brennan's Lane/Shambles Project and that the Members would be updated as it went along. In addition, a brief on the statue of Michael O'Hanrahan proposed for the site had been prepared and sent to the Arts Office.

#### **New Ross Skate Park**

The Members were informed that the Council is to have a consultant prepare revised plans & reports for a new skate park within Pearse Park and that once complete, these plans would be presented to the Municipal District for approval and a Part 8

planning process advanced. Funding will then need to be sought to realise the project. Cllr Connick queried if private funding could be accepted for the project and the District Manager advised that he would investigate. Cllr Murphy queried the location of the skate park within Pearse Park and was advised that while a number of locations were being considered, that the Members would be consulted in relation to it.

### **Town Centre First Team / Digital Citizen Survey**

The Members were advised that the New Ross Town Centre First Team had been convened and two meetings had been held to date, under the direction of the Town Regeneration Officer Mick McCormack and chaired by current Cathaoirleach Cllr Michael Sheehan. In relation to a Digital Citizen Survey for New Ross the Members were asked to circulate the survey to anyone who might take part.

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

The New Ross Town St Patrick's Day parade committee were thanked for all their work on the upcoming parade and details of the parade were given to the Members. Cllr Fleming advised that Clonroche would also host a St Patrick's Day parade.

### **Flowers for the Magdalenes**

The District Manager advised that the annual Flowers for the Magdalene's ceremony would take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 12pm at the Magdalene grave site in St Stephens Cemetery and that all Members were invited to attend and that NRMD is proud to support this remembrance commemoration, that will see The Magdalene Laundry Flag raised on the day.

### **Update on "Small Things Like These" Film**

The Members were given an update on the 'Small things like these' film, planning for which was being finalised for the scheduled start of filming during the week of 20<sup>th</sup> March. It was estimated that a cast & crew of 80 people would be in New Ross for 5-6 weeks, bringing a most welcome economic lift.

A letter from the producer of the film, thanking the Members and the people of the District for their support, was read out to the Members.

### **Wexford Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2029**

The District Manager advised that Wexford County Council is preparing a new Local Economic & Community Plan for the period 2023-2029 and that public consultation events for the Plan (LECP) would take place throughout March 2023. All submissions/observations lodged within the above consultation period would be taken into consideration during the preparation of the plan.

## **2.2. Roads Report**

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

Cllr Fleming requested that there would be a 'tidy up' at Corcoran's Cross and the Engineer agreed to follow up on it. In relation to a query from the Cathaoirleach on streets in New Ross town, he advised that work was being carried out on Rosbercon and Irishtown but that he was seeking additional funding to carry out further works.

## **2.3. Water Services Report**

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

## **2.4. Housing Report.**

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

An update was requested on the Respond apartments in the Irishtown. In relation to the house in Adamstown the AO advised that a topographical survey was taking place and in relation to the houses at the Bullawn, that a contractor had been appointment and that demolition was to start shortly.

## **2.5 Planning Report**

The Executive Planner gave apologies but 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 and they noted the importance of reporting any illegal dumping in order to stop it, through the imposition of fines. Cllr Barden requested that a report on coastal erosion be emailed to him.

## **2.11 Fire Services Report**

The content of the report was noted by the Members and Cllr Whelan suggested that the Fire Service advertise details of chimney sweeping services in order to cut down on chimney fires.

## **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 Presentation on the Greenlink Interconnector  
(Presented earlier in the meeting)

## **5.0 Notice of Motion/s –**

N/A

## **6.0 Correspondence**

6.1 A thank you letter for 'Check it fits' child car seats was received from the RSA.

6.2 An Easter Sunday Commemoration Invitation to all the Members was received.

## **7.0 AOB**

Cllr Whelan requested that the Regional Assembly be invited to the March meeting to discuss funding opportunities.

Cllr Connick requested that as is usual for Daffodil Day, that daffodils from Pearse Park would be donated, and it was agreed by all.

The District Manager complimented the Roads Engineer and his team on their response to the recent fatal accident at Ballinaboola.

Following a run down by the District Director on the large number of projects currently underway in New Ross District, it was proposed by Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Connick, to ask for extra staff to facilitate the projects.

**THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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

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