

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 11th May 2022 in St Michael's Theatre.**

Presiding: Councillor Anthony Connick – Leas Cathaoirleach

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

Officials Present: Mick McCormack – District Manager
Eamonn Hore - District Director
Eilis Furlong – Executive Engineer
Brian Galvin – Acting Director/Senior Engineer
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing
Ger Mackey – Acting SEO Community
Anita McLoughlin – AO
Joan O Connor – I.S. Analyst Developer
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer

Others Present: David Looby – Press
Mag Furness – Dreambig Project Southeast
Teresa Carr Buckley – Dreambig Project Southeast
Deputy Verona Murphy

Apologies: Brendan Cooney – Executive Scientist
An Cathaoirleach – Councillor Bridin Murphy
Cllr Michael Sheehan
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer

Presentation on the Members Portal

Prior to the main monthly meeting, Standing Orders were suspended on the proposal of Cllr Barden and seconded by Cllr Whelan to allow a presentation for Members only, by Anita McLoughlin AO and Joan O Connor IT on the improvements to the Members Portal. They outlined the changes and improvements and responded to questions from the Members. In relation to suggestions for further improvements or training, they advised that they were available to meet the individual Members if requested. The Leas Cathaoirleach thanked them for their presentation.

The main meeting then began and the Leas Cathaoirleach welcomed all to the meeting.

Standing orders were suspended on the proposal of Cllr Barden and seconded by Cllr Whelan, to allow a presentation by Mag Furness and Teresa Carr Buckley from the Dreambig Project Southeast.

Presentation on the Dreambig Project Southeast

The Presenters introduced themselves and gave their background and explained about the Dreambig Project plans, which included a restaurant, art gallery, bakery, pottery, a respite service and independent living accommodation as well as counselling. And that it was a wraparound programme from diagnosis to end of life. Cllr Barden, Chairperson of the Project, explained his own experience and the difficulties with accessing services and appealed to all agencies including Wexford County Council, New Ross Municipal District and the Oireachtas, to get involved. Ger Mackey Acting SEO, Community Section suggested that they consider doing a feasibility study with which Community may be able to assist with funding.

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

Sympathies

All Members offered sympathies to the family of Michael Sills, long time serving Member and President of the London Wexford Association, who gave such great service over many years.

Cllr Fleming and Cllr Barden sympathised on the death of Sean Whelan, Kellystown, Adamstown. Cllr Whelan sympathised with the family of Billy Hayes, Rathimney, Gusserane. The Leas Cathaoirleach offered sympathies to the family of Mark Flood, New Ross and all the Members wished to be associated with the sympathies.

Congratulations

Cllr Fleming congratulated New Ross Rugby Club on their recent hosting of the Leinster vs Munster Junior Inter Provisional match. He also congratulated Killowen Farm on their €4 million expansion and the creation of 25 new jobs. Darkness into Light New Ross' fundraiser for Pieta was also congratulated as well as the Special Olympics collection day fundraiser. Cllr Barden wished to be associated with the congratulations.

Cllr Connick congratulated all those involved in the All-Ireland Vintage and Classic Rally, organised and hosted by Tullogher Rosbercon Vintage Club, as well as the Darkness into Light Pieta fundraiser and the Civic Awards Recipients.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting –

The 13th April 2022 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Whelan and seconded by Cllr Barden.

Minutes of Twinning Committee Meeting – 21st April 2022 - proposals to write to twin towns or potential twin towns. This was proposed by Cllr Connick and agreed by all Members.

Minutes of St Stephens Cemetery Committee Meeting – 21st April 2022. This was proposed by Cllr Connick and agreed by all Members.

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.

AGM

A date for the New Ross Municipal District GM of Friday 24th June at 2.30pm was proposed by Cllr Fleming, seconded by Cllr Barden and agreed by all.

Pedestrianisation

The Members were advised that public consultation on the Pedestrianisation in New Ross Town closed on 10th May after a 4-week period with around 80 submissions and that the findings would now be collated and the Chambers input would be sought and that it will be brought to the Members for a decision in the next few months.

Wexford/London Association Dinner Dance

The District Manager, the Director of Services and the Leas Cathaoirleach were delighted to represent New Ross Municipal District at the Wexford London Association Dinner Dance in Cricklewood London on the 23rd April. It was an ideal opportunity to meet with the Wexford Diaspora and show support for the great work that this organisation does for the Wexford/Irish in London. They were very grateful for the support provided.

William Marshall Remembrance Festival

The organising committee of the inaugural William Marshall Remembrance Festival was congratulated on their upcoming event which would be a 2-day historical event celebrating the life of William Marshall on the 803rd Anniversary of his death, commencing at 10.45am on Sat 14th May and to be opened by the Cathaoirleach in St Marys Church. The District Manager acknowledged the role of Cllr Connick on the Committee. Cllr Barden expressed his opinion that the festival should be considered as a major festival in the annual calendar. Cllr Whelan stated that he agreed with the provision, provided it didn't take funding away from other festivals.

Guitar Festival 11th-14th August

The District Manager welcomed the Inaugural New Ross Guitar Festival which was launched on Friday 29th April in the Hook Lighthouse and he congratulated the Chairperson of the Committee Cllr Bridin Murphy and Festival Director David Creevy and all the members of the Committee. The festival intends to bring to the New Ross District, top class international guitarists in different genres of music.

RRDF Application- Quayfront Emigrant Park

Working with our Special Projects section an application has been made under RRDF for the redevelopment of the Old Oil Tank site on the Quay and for additional works to the Dunbrody Visitor experience.

LLPPS. Round 3

The Municipal District has been working with Tomas Kavanagh in St Michael's Theatre and with Event Lighting, to put the LLPPS programme together for Round 3. The theme of this round revolves around bringing the concerts to halls throughout the district with free concerts having taken place in Clonroche and Fethard and in the process of being organised in other venues.

Danville – Eugene O'Neill

The District Manager advised the Members that the Eugene O'Neill festivals will continue again this year on both sides of the Atlantic under the banner "One Festival two Countries". The New Ross Festival will run from the 13th to the 16th of October, with a good deal of local and American interest expected again this year and an invitation being sent to the Mayor of Danville, Newell Arnerich.

An official invitation was received from the President of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House, Danville to a reception in the Municipal Districts honour at Tao House on Saturday 17th September 2022. This is being held during their Eugene O'Neill festival and is a great opportunity to again strengthen and develop cultural, tourism, historical and economic links between the two Towns and Countries. With the Members approval, 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. The delegation was proposed by Cllr Barden and seconded by Cllr Whelan and agreed by all.

CCTV

The Data Impact Assessments and other requirements on the CCTV scheme are currently being worked on and on completion, the application 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 Street signage gone up in the last few weeks which has received great reviews and generated a lot of debate locally. Litter bin replacement is proceeding with a few being installed every week and the Norman statues will be soon placed in situ on Conduit Lane. The Council Chamber in the Tholsel and the exterior is also being painted in keeping with the improvements in Public Realm and Shopfronts around the Town. The District Manager thanked all the Businesses who have embraced the works and made improvements to their respective Shopfronts. Cllr Connick asked if the Shop Front Improvement Scheme would be in place this year and was advised that no funding is currently available but that it could be considered for funding at the start of next year and that in the meantime, national funding would be availed of if it became available.

Special Projects

The Acting Director gave the report and answered questions from the Members. Cllr Connick asked for an update on Brennan's Lane and the Shambles for the June meeting. The Members were advised that a report will be issued to them each month and every three months that a member of the Special Projects team will attend the meeting.

2.2. Roads Report

The Executive Engineer delivered her report and responded to queries from the Members. She advised that she would revert in relation to the half hundred lane and to fencing in Knockreagh.

2.3. Water Services Report

There were apologies from the SEE but he had made his report available to 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 revert to the Members in relation to the 2 houses in Adamstown.

2.5 Planning Report

The report was presented to the Members, however as no representative from planning was in attendance, the Members requested that a representative attend each monthly meeting.

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 gave apologies for the meeting.

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

4.0 Other Business

4.1 Dreambig Project Southeast Presentation – given earlier in the meeting

5.0 Notice of Motion/s –

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

7.0 AOB

In relation to a query on potential sites for hotels, the District Director and District Manager advised that they are currently looking at possibilities within the town.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____