

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting  
held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 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  
Councillor Bridin Murphy

**Officials Present:** Alan Fitzhenry – District Manager  
Eamonn Hore - District Director  
Dan Cartan, Senior Executive Engineer  
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  
Claire Goodwin – Cycling and Walking Officer  
Vincent Gallagher – Senior Executive Technician  
Sean Meyler – Senior Executive Engineer (Teams)

**Others Present:** Deputy Verona Murphy (Teams)  
David Looby New Ross Standard  
Ann Lacey PPN (Teams)  
MaryB O’Leary, Local Link

**Apologies:** David Murphy, A/Executive Engineer

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all to the meeting.

Standing orders were suspended to allow a presentation on the ‘Active Travel Scheme (Section 38) Adamstown Safe Routes to School (Scoil Naomh Abbain), New Ross’ by Claire Goodwin and Vincent Gallagher and a presentation on the John Street Grain Store Regeneration by Sean Meyler.

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

**Active Travel Scheme – Adamstown Safe Routes to School**

The presentation was given and the queries from the Members were responded to.

The Members welcomed the scheme commenting that it will be of great benefit to the community.

Cllr. Barden expressed concern about the narrowing of the road leading to the junction, saying that this may be a problem as there are a lot of tractors in the area using this road. It was noted that this is in line with NTA guidelines.

Following a query from Cllr. Barden in relation to drop off and collection points outside Colaiste Abbain secondary school, it was clarified that the focus for this scheme is on the national school and not the secondary school. Active Travel will look into the issues with the secondary school.

Regarding the issues with the junction up to the church, it was noted that phase 2 will be applied for next year.

Cllr. Barden wished to thank everyone involved in the project, including the principal Claire Kickham.

Cllr. Murphy said that the school is delighted to see that this work is being done and that the secondary school are willing to donate part of their land for the wall to be pushed back. She proposed that the scheme be moved forward; this was seconded by Cllr. Barden and agreed by the Members.

The Members noted that surveys will be carried out by An Tasice in Ramsgrange NS this year and the findings will be developed into a proposal to go to Section 38 later this year.

Responding to a query regarding the active travel funding for New Ross town, the District Director said that funding will be given for a full study to bring the project up to Part 8 – i.e. complete design works from Oaklands to Kent's Cross roundabout.

### **John Street Grain Store Regeneration**

The presentation was given and the queries from the Members were responded to.

The Members complimented all the staff involved, calling the project exceptional. It was proposed by Cllr. Sheehan and seconded by Cllr. Connick.

Following a query regarding the timeline for the works, it was clarified that the project could go out for tender next summer subject to planning and funding being approved quickly. This would mean that contactors would be on site by the end of 2024.z

Following a query by Cllr. Fleming, it was clarified that the café and hots desks will be leased and the toilets will be made available for public use.

Following a query from Cllr. Murphy regarding the possibility of incorporating plans for other derelict properties in the area, the SEE responded that this project is solely focused on the grain store.

The District Director said that the top two floors will be semi private but the majority of the complex will be open to the public.

## **Sympathies**

Cllr Connick offered sympathies to the family of Noreen O'Leary, grandmother of Eoin and Tadhg Furlong and to the family of Chrissy Aspel, wife of Dermot Aspel.

Cllr Murphy sympathised with the family of Andy Knox.

## **Congratulations**

Cllr Fleming congratulated all those who were successful in the All Ireland Drama Awards and in the Motorbike Rally, Clonroche. He also congratulated all those involved in the launch of the Towns Centre's First Plan.

Cllr. Fleming and Cllr. Murphy congratulated all those involved in the 50 years in Europe Event, held in Rathgarogue.

Cllr. Murphy congratulated all involved in the All Ireland Drama Awards, especially Andy Doyle who won best actor.

Cllr. Connick congratulated Paul Walsh and Wexford Drama and Andy Doyle for their success in the All Ireland Drama Awards. He also congratulated the Apex Sport Health and Leisure on their success at the Wexford Chamber Awards.

Cllr. Sheehan congratulated all the businesses who were successful in the Wexford Chamber Awards.

The Members thanked senior executive engineer, Dan McCartan for his contribution, over the past 18 years, to the clean water supply of the New Ross district and to the heritage projects within the area and wished him well in his new role with Uisce Eireann.

They welcomed the new Water Services senior executive engineer, Pdraig Lyng.

The Members thanked Ray Colfer who has moved to a new role in Wexford town and welcomed the new Tenant Liaison Officer, Billy Dobbs.

The Members also welcomed the new Assistant Staff Officer, Michelle Duffin.

## **Presentation on TFI Local Link Wexford by MaryB O'Leary**

Standing orders were suspended to allow a presentation. This was proposed by Cllr. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Fleming.

The presentation was given and the queries from the Members were responded to.

Cllr. Sheehan complimented the Local Link team on the huge amount of new routes now in place. It was noted that buses will now get people into New Ross by 9 a.m.

Following a query from Cllr. Whelan regarding connectivity with the ferry, it was clarified that the service was high frequency on the Passage side also.

Cllr. Whelan raised the lack of taxis in New Ross asking if a Local Link service could fill the gap. Ms. O’Leary said that she would need evidence and numbers to prove the need for the service.

Cllr. Barden asked if a private group can use a Local Link service for a particular function and was told that Local Link could pass on details of bus service operators, but does not provide such a service.

## **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **1.1 Monthly Meeting –**

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

## **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.

## **Annual Meeting**

The Members agreed that the Annual Meeting would take place on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

## **Duncannon Fort Masterplan**

The Members were informed that a project launch meeting took place in April, followed by a site visit on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. The multi-disciplinary team from USI toured the entire site with district team members and the Heritage Officer. The first phase of work for USI is research and information gathering, with stakeholder consultation to follow.

## **Duncannon Fort Works**

The project team are currently preparing a schedule of works for Duncannon Fort, which will include replacing the current bridge deck, fixing the electrical wiring issues, upgrading the toilet facilities and painting/general works on 3 building to bring them back into use. Funding has been secured under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme with match funding from Wexford County Council. Works are scheduled to be completed by August 2024.

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

The District Manager informed the Members that Avanti Architects, the Consultants on the Brennan’s Lane/Shambles Project, continue to work on drawings and design details. A more detailed update is expected at the next meeting.

## **Callan-Thomastown Joint Working Group**

The first meeting of the Joint Working Group has been scheduled for May. Members will be updated on any discussions/outcomes at the next meeting.

## **CCTV**

The CCTV scheme pack has been forwarded internally by the Gardai to the Commissioners Office for sanction. A meeting has been set at the end of May between the Gardai and Wexford County Council officials as part of this process.

## **London Wexford Association Dinner Dance**

The District Manager reported on the recent London Wexford Association Dinner Dance in Cricklewood, London. The London Wexford Association are very grateful for the continued support.

## **William Marshall Weekend Festival**

The Members were advised that the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual William Marshal weekend will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> may. This event celebrates the life of William Marshal on the 804<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death and covers walks, talks, music and viewings in New Ross and around the district.

## **1798 Commemorations**

A number of projects are currently being planning to commemorate the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of events surrounding the 1798 Rebellion in Co. Wexford. The funding, received from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and administered through the Decade of Centenaries Historical Strand will support the projects related to the commemoration, such as public talks, demonstrations and a 1798 summer conference in Enniscorthy as well as events from the other 4 districts. NRMD has received two proposals for commemorative events in New Ross and Killanne, which have been put forward for approval.

## **Normandy Food Tour**

The Normandy Food Tour will visit New Ross on Bank Holiday Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> June. Situated in the Quayside carpark beside the Dunbrody Visitor Centre, the event will be a showcase of the food and drink from the region.

## **Destination Towns Launch**

The Chief Executive of Failte Ireland will be in New Ross on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> May, who, along with the current Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michael Sheehan, will officially launch the New Ross Destination Towns Project.

The District Manager then responded to questions from the Members.

Cllr. Connick sought an update on the advance factory and requested that it would be a recurring item on the agenda. The District Manager said that a meeting had

been held with a company interested in building the factory but there was no further update. However, it would be kept on the agenda.

### **2.1a Special Projects Report**

The Special projects report was made available to the Members.

### **2.2. Roads Report**

The Roads Report was made available to the Members.

Cllr. Sheehan proposed that the District Manager write to the Minister regarding the funding of €1.1 million for the flash floods in New Ross last year as it has not yet been paid. The Members unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Connick raised ongoing issues with Greenlink in the Ramsgrange area; he has received four complaints this week regarding difficulties that farmers are having with access to fields, etc. The District Director said that he will raise the issue with Greenlink.

### **2.3. Water Services Report**

There was no Water Services Report available this month due to a change in staff.

### **2.4. Housing Report.**

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

Cllr. Sheehan requested the figures of those presenting as homeless as a result of the lifting of eviction ban. The AO said that she will try to get the figures for the New Ross district.

He also queried the allocation of the houses in Ard na Villa; some of these have been refused, one has been allocated and they are all in the process of being allocated.

Cllr Connick request an update on the halting site for the next meeting.

### **2.5 Planning Report**

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

Cllr. Connick raised the issue of a backlog of preplanning applications. The Executive Planning responded that there is currently a 2 month waiting list and they are being worked through at the moment.

Standing orders were extended to allow the meeting to continue. This was proposed by Cllr. Whelan and seconded by Cllr. Fleming.

## **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.

Cllr. Murphy thanked the team involved in the clean up from Clonroche to Palace.

Cllr. Sheehan raised the bottle bank issue in Fethard; the SSO responded that an alternative site is currently being sought.

## **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 Active Travel Scheme (Section 38) Adamstown Safe Routes to School (Scoil Naomh Abbain), New Ross.

This was presented earlier in the meeting.

3.2 Schedule of Municipal District Works

On the proposal of Cllr. Fleming seconded by Cllr. Murphy the Schedule of Municipal District Works was agreed.

3.3 Section 183 Notice regarding the proposed disposal of the Old Fire Station, New Ross.

On the proposal of Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Connick, the Section 183 transfer was agreed.

#### **4.0 Other Business**

4.1 Presentation by MaryB O'Leary on TFI Local Link Wexford

This was presented earlier in the meeting.

#### **5.0 Notice of Motion/s –**

N/A

#### **6.0 Correspondence**

N/A

#### **7.0 AOB**

Cllr. Murphy raised the issue of Co. Wexford politicians posting photographs of themselves with pupils, having received a complaint from a parent on the matter. She said that this is a child protection issue and a data breach. She asked all councillors and politicians not to take photographs of children at public events without parental consent.

Cllr. Sheehan proposed that a representative from the HSE would be invited to give a briefing on the new Primary Health Centre at the next meeting. This was agreed by the Members.

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach**

Date \_\_\_\_\_