

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 10th November 2021 in the St Michael's Theatre, New Ross**

Presiding: Councillor Pat Barden

In Attendance: Councillor John Fleming
Councillor Anthony Connick
Councillor Michael Sheehan
Councillor Michael Whelan

Officials Present: Mick McCormack – District Manager
Eamonn Hore - District Director
Annette O Neill – Head of Finance
Tony Larkin – Director of Services
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer
Eilis Furlong – Executive Engineer
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing
Liam Bowe – Executive Planner
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer

Others Present: Deputy Verona Murphy
David Looby New Ross Standard

Apologies Cllr Bridin Murphy

On the proposal of Cllr Connick and seconded by Cllr Sheehan, Standing orders were suspended to allow discussions and presentations in relation to Development Land Banks in New Ross, The former fuel tank site on the Quay and the Draft Budgetary Plan.

On the proposal of Cllr Connick and seconded by Cllr Barden, it was agreed to go into Committee to discuss the Development Land Banks.

Development Land Banks

Following the presentation by Tony Larkin, Director of Services, of a map showing the available Development Land Banks and following discussions with the Members, the Director agreed to explore the issues further and revert to the Municipal District Meeting in January.

Development on the former fuel tank site on the Quay

A presentation was given by Eamonn Hore, Director of Services, on the proposed development on the former fuel tank site on the Quay and on the proposal of Cllr Connick and seconded by Cllr Barden, the proposed development was agreed to by the Members. The Director informed the Members that the 9 steps up to the Graves offices, which were only 65 meters from the site of the garden, had been preserved by Matt Cullen and would now be integrated into the design of the new development. He hoped that the development would be ready by Summer 2022.

Draft Budgetary Plan

Annette O Neill, Head of Finance, presented the Draft Budgetary Plan for 2022. Following queries and discussions with the Members and the acknowledgement that it was appreciated that the GMA would remain as it was for 2021, given the difficulties which Covid 19 has brought, it was proposed by Cllr Connick and seconded by Cllr Whelan that the GMA be approved as presented.

The Chairman thanked the presenters for their attendance and presentation and the meeting then resumed as per Standing Orders.

Sympathies

Cllr Connick expressed sympathies to Tony Kehoe and family on the death of Kathleen Kehoe, formerly of Knockmullen, New Ross and to the family of Monsignor William O Neill of Savannah who died recently.

Sympathies were expressed to the families of Sheila Cummins, Ballyanne, Mary Lyng, Ballintubber and Seamus O Cualáin, Adamstown, by Cllr Fleming.

Cllr Barden and Cllr Sheehan sympathised with the family of Tom Furlong, Adamstown and Cllr Sheehan also sympathised with the family of Liam Carroll, Pondfields, New Ross

Congratulations

Cllr Barden wished Cora Connick, daughter of Cllr Connick, every happiness on her upcoming wedding day.

Cllr Fleming congratulated Tadhg Furlong on his 50th international cap.

Gusserane O Rahilly's Football team were wished luck in the Senior County Final by Cllr Whelan

Ramsgrange Community School principal, Rachel O'Connor, who was elected recently as President of the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) was congratulated by Cllr Sheehan.

All the Members wished Liam Bowe, Executive Planner, success in his new job in an Bord Pleanála and thanked him for his work in the planning department of Wexford County Council.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting –

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

“Nollaig – A Traditional New Ross Christmas”

He advised the Members that plans for the Christmas 2021 campaign are well advanced with a full programme of events planned and that the live music performance programme Round 2 would be incorporated into the Christmas campaign.

The festivities are to start with the turning on of the Christmas lights on the 20th of Nov by the Chairman Cllr Pat Barden and Sophie Becker accompanied by the President of the County Wexford Chamber of Commerce and Santy.

The District Manager noted the concerns of the Members re Covid Health and Safety and advised that he would take it into consideration.

Local Live Performance Programming Scheme (LLPPS) Round 2.

Through the Arts section and the Dept of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht and Media, another €25k has been allocated to support those in the Live Entertainment Industry. Mini tenders from 6 Event Companies have been invited for Live performance events around the Town and a successful company will be appointed to run the events by mid-November enabling the provision of further entertainment and stimulus to the Town centre and complementing the Christmas campaign.

CCTV

The District Manager outlined the current status of the New Ross CCTV project and gave projected timelines for the project. He advised that one additional camera was being considered for the Lawn Cemetery section of St Stephen's Cemetery as part of the plans for the extension. The Members also requested that a list of the submissions for the Consultation Process be sent to them.

Destination Towns

The Members were advised that a delegation from Failte Ireland came down for a tour and were brought around the Town and shown the progress to date. A video was also commissioned to give them a full sense of the works carried out under this scheme and the delegation was very impressed with the works. The video would be shown at the end of the meeting.

Pedestrianisation

The Consultants had been asked to proceed to carry out Traffic counts and further vehicular traffic analysis to support the preliminary report and the District Manager advised that he would report back to the Members on progress in this regard.

Playground Pearse Park

The Members were informed that Contractors have made a good start on the Playground, the site is secured, and works are ongoing and that it is expected to be open before Christmas.

Commemoration of Armistice day at the World War 1 monument in St Stephens Cemetery

A wreath is to be laid by the Chairman Cllr Pat Barden at the new WWI memorial in St Stephens Cemetery on the 11th November at 11am in recognition of those who served in the Great War from the New Ross District.

Norman Way Local Business and Community Information Evenings.

The Members were informed that the Planning section have a number of local Business and Community evenings organised over the coming Month in the District including Fethard and New Ross. The meetings are to give attendees the opportunity to learn more about the Norman Way and how it can make a positive impact on their business or community and as many as possible were encouraged to attend what would be a very informative event.

2.2. Roads Report

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

She advised that the lights on Creywell Road would be switched on on 8th December.

The Members were also advised that the works in Riverview Estate were being addressed and that works required in Ard Alainn Estate were being investigated.

The Engineer advised the Members that works on Lighting and footpaths on the Ring Road were currently at design stage.

2.3. Water Services Report

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

He advised that he had secured a further €8000 and €15,000 respectively for Fethard and Mountgarrett Castles for additional works.

2.4. Housing Report.

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

She advised that she would provide an updated vacant houses report and a report on a house at the Bullawn.

2.5 Planning Report

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

He was again wished success in his new role by the Members and he thanked them for their courtesy to him over the years.

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.

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 Draft Budgetary Plan for 2022 – Annette O’ Neill Head of Finance

(Took place earlier in the meeting)

4.0 Other Business

4.1 Presentation by Eamonn Hore, Director of Services on ‘The former fuel tank site on the Quay’.

(Presented earlier in the meeting)

4.2 Joint Policing Committee Public Meeting 2021 Notice – the Members were informed of the meeting

4.3 Development Land Banks, New Ross

(Presented earlier in the meeting)

5.0 Notice of Motion/s

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 Notification to All Members from Access Officer – the Members were advised re the Notice

7.0 AOB

A Meeting with the Superintendent was requested and the District Manager advised that he would arrange it

An updated Derelict sites report was requested

Cllr Connick wished good luck to the District Tidy Towns Committees on the imminent results of this years awards.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____