

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 8th November 2023 in the Tholsel, Quay St., New Ross**

Presiding: Councillor Anthony Connick

In Attendance: Councillor John Fleming
Councillor Michael Sheehan
Councillor Michael Whelan
Councillor Pat Barden
Cllr Bridin Murphy

Officials Present:

Alan Fitzhenry – District Manager
Eamonn Hore - District
Padraig Lyng – Senior Executive Engineer
David Murphy - Acting Executive Engineer
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing
Ger Walsh – SO
Michelle Duffin – ASO
Niamh Lennon – Executive Planner
Melissa Goff – SSO Environment
Barry Kelly – Executive Technician Housing Capital
Michael Brazzil – Executive Engineer

Others Present: David Looby New Ross Standard

Apologies: N/A

Standing orders were suspended to allow a presentation by Michael Brazzill on Risk Remediation.

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

Presentation on Risk Remediation

A presentation was given by Michael Brazzill, and he gave examples of the type of works carried out under the scheme and he responded to questions from the Members. He told the Members that Wexford's risk rating had improved from 24th in the country to 4th. He advised that he was hopeful that further works would be carried

out when his replacement was appointed, as he has now moved to Rosslare Municipal District. However, he also advised that funding was reducing.

The Cathaoirleach and Members and Director congratulated the Executive Engineer on the scheme and on the huge improvement in Wexford's rating and wished him success in his new role.

Sympathies

Cllr Connick sympathised with Michael Drea, County Secretary, on the death of his brother Matt. He also sympathised with the family of Peggy Stafford, Campile.

Cllr Barden offered sympathies to Mary Bradley on the death of her father Joe and to Deputy Verona Murphy on the death of her father Paddy and to the family of William Sweetman, Carrig on Bannow.

Cllr Barden and Cllr Fleming sympathised with the family of Lar Gaffney, Lacken.

Cllr Fleming also sympathised with the families of Michael Doyle, Palace East and Barry Kelly, Lacken.

Congratulations

Cllr Murphy and her husband Philip were congratulated by all the Councillors on the announcement of her pregnancy.

Cllr Whelan wished the Gusserane Ladies Football team success in the Leinster Final.

Cllr Barden wished Adamstown Camogie Team success in the County Finals.

Cllr Sheehan congratulated all involved in the design, construction and launch of the Emigrant Park.

Cllr Fleming congratulated Aidan O'Brien on his Breeders Cup success.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting –

The 18th October 2023 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Fleming.

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.

Emigrant Park Official Opening

The District Manager was delighted to welcome Minister Heather Humphreys TD, back to New Ross for the official opening ceremony of the newly built Emigrant Park, on Thursday 26th October along with the Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, Nancy Smyth and the Irish Ambassador to Canada Dr Eamonn McKee.

He advised that it was a hugely successful opening, with lots of positive feedback on the day and since the opening and thanked all who worked on the project and the opening to make it such a success.

Congratulations were offered by the Members, and the Director advised that links to Canada which commenced on the opening day, were being developed with the Canadian Ambassador.

Local Government Awards

The District Manager announced that the High Hill Norman Gardens has been shortlisted in the Urban Revival category at the upcoming Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023 and that the ceremony will be held on 23rd November in Dublin.

SEG Interpretation Plan Public Consultation

He also advised that TPHC, the consultants working with Failte Ireland, have announced a public consultation for the interpretation, wayfinding and orientation plan for the South East Greenway on 22nd November and that the purpose of this consultation day is a fact-finding mission / listening exercise for TPHC and all are welcome to attend.

Details are:

11:00 – 14:00 Rhu Glenn Hotel, Kilkenny

15:30 – 19:00 Brandon House Hotel, New Ross

PROJECTS

CCTV

The Members were advised that, the CCTV scheme pack, is still with Garda HQ and that the Gardai have now requested updated vetting for the file from some of the officials involved. They were also advised that Wexford County Council are progressing this at speed and are ready to move forward on works, as soon as the Gardai sign off.

In tandem to this, the District Manager announced that Wexford County Council has begun working on Phase 2 of the CCTV Scheme, with meetings held with the consultant and discussions held with the Gardai in the past week. Once locations are agreed, further information will be made available and there will be public consultation as per Phase 1.

Brennan's Lane/Shambles

The District Manager advised the Members that the project team are expecting new revised drawings & documents to be sent back from Avanti Architects by the end of this week. Once received and approved by the Council, Avanti aims to advertise the tender to secure a contractor within the next 4/5 weeks. Work has also now begun on Electrical Engineering specs and Quantity Surveying.

While some of the Members expressed disappointment at the length of time taken for the project to start, the District Manager advised that it was due to issues with staffing in Avanti and that plans would now be brought to the December meeting.

Duncannon Fort Works

The Members were advised that Colm Moriarty (licenced archaeologist) has been appointed to carry out archaeological services for the Duncannon Fort works. He had applied for Section 14 Ministerial consent (under the National Monuments Act) and consent was confirmed in October. Wexford County Council will begin site investigations, before works commence in early 2024. A pre-planning application has also been submitted by the project team and is with the Planning Section.

Advance Factory

The Director had confirmed that meetings and negotiations are ongoing and she will update the members as soon as she has progress to report.

Motorhome Park

The District Manager informed the Members that work continues on the detailed design for the Motorhome Park and that Part VIII documents will be prepared and will

be brought before the Members as soon as possible. The screening report and a survey of the site has been completed.

Pedestrianisation

As previously advised, the Members were informed that the planned pedestrianisation of Quay Street and how best to develop this, will be informed by the TCF plan and that funding will be sought under Town Centre First / RRDF.

Sensory Garden

The Members welcomed the development of a Sensory Garden in Pearse Park and were advised that a project team is established in the district and that designs are currently being finalised and quotes are being sought.

EVENTS

Duncannon Fort Masterplan Local Launch

As agreed at the previous meeting, the District Manager informed the Members that a local launch of the Fort Masterplan was scheduled for Thursday 16th November at 7pm in the Duncannon Community Centre and that invitations would issue, along with posters locally, and social media posts. He advised that the event is for stakeholders and local residents who contributed to the Masterplan and copies will be available on the night. The Masterplan will then be uploaded online for public access.

Nollaig New Ross 2023

The Members were reminded that the Christmas lights “Switch On”, would take place on Saturday 18th November and that the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Connick, accompanied by Santa Claus & The Nomads, would turn on the lights. There would be the Santa parade from the old fire station to the Tholsel as well as musical entertainment on the day and the Rathnure Characters to meet the children as well. They were also advised that Sensory Santy will be starting earlier at 12 midday until 2.30pm, to facilitate even more children than last year. Dreambig will be advertising and organising the bookings, which must be booked in advance.

With the support of the Elected Members, the Christmas campaign was invested heavily in, to provide festive cheer and the District Manager asked everyone to support New Ross and District again this year and come and enjoy the festive season and to shop local in New Ross Town!

Cllr Sheehan requested that an update on Docks be requested from the owner and Cllr Fleming and the District Director agreed to contact him.

2.1a Special Projects Report

The report was presented to the Members.

At the request of the Members, the District Manager contacted Special Projects and informed the Members that Bright and Co are being appointed for the Norman Centre Project.

2.2. Roads Report

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

He advised that there was a plan in relation to the water issue at Cushinstown but that he will have to liaise with the landowner on it.

In relation to the junction at Greene's in Clonroche, the Members were advised that the only solution would be to remove street parking, which would not be agreeable to the residents of the area.

The Roads Engineer advised that the completion date for the works at Scoil Naomh Abbain would be the end of November and that completion date for the Low cost safety works involving diversions at Dunmain and Black Pump Cross, would be end of November also.

The Roads Engineer was thanked for the works at William St and the three bullet gate and advised the Members that two more roads would be done now and that he would keep applying for further funding.

The Cathaoirleach expressed concern in relation to the high number of lights out in New Ross town but the Director advised that they were working on the situation with the contractors who had now appointed extra staff and that they should expect to see a huge improvement in the situation very soon.

2.3. Housing Report.

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

Cllr Murphy queried the shortage of choice-based lettings properties in the North of the District and whether the lack of expressions of interest from an applicant, due to the shortage of vacancies, would affect their priority. She was informed by the AO that it wouldn't adversely affect it.

Cllr Sheehan requested an update on a meeting to discuss Anti-social behaviour in the District. He also requested an update on the Housing Delivery Programme. He

was advised that details of schemes, approved for funding, are included in the monthly report.

Cllr Connick enquired as to the number of 'tenant in situ' houses purchased and was informed that 31 offers had been accepted and 9 were under review.

Barry Kelly, Executive Technician in Housing Capital brought the proposed housing development in Adamstown to the Members for their information.

He also informed the Members that there was a change in the plans for housing in Rosbercon, due to the acquisition of extra land. Due to queries by the Members on the plans, Cllr Sheehan proposed that the Members write to the relevant Director/s of Services to invite them to come to a housing policy meeting in New Ross. He also suggested revisiting plans for the houses in the Bullawn. However, it was agreed that the Members would await an email and map from the Snr Executive Architect before requesting a meeting with the Director/s.

2.4 Planning Report

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

In relation to a query on pre planning meetings, the Members were advised that turn around times for 1 off planning applications was about 61 days but that major preplanning would be less than that.

The Executive Planner agreed to revert on a query regarding the starting date for works in Terrerath and she advised that it was intended to fill the Heritage Officer vacancy as a matter of urgency.

2.5 Planning Grants

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.6 Planning Refusals

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.7 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.8 Community Development Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.9 Environment Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

The SSO responded to queries and requested that any outstanding complaint numbers be sent to her for her investigation.

2.10 Fire Services Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.11 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 Risk Remediation
(Presented earlier in the meeting)

5.0 Notice of Motion/s –

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 Letter of congratulations from Minister Humphreys in relation to the Emigrant Park.

7.0 AOB

Liz Hore, Director of Services was requested to attend the January meeting in relation to the Advance Factory.

It was proposed by Cllr Connick, seconded by Cllr Sheehan and agreed by all, that the December meeting would change to 3.30pm start time.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____