

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting  
held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in the Brandon House, New Ross**

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**Presiding:** Councillor Pat Barden

**In Attendance:** Councillor Bridín Murphy  
Councillor Anthony Connick  
Councillor Michael Sheehan  
Councillor Michael Whelan

**rOfficials Present:** Mick McCormack – District Manager  
Eamonn Hore - District Director  
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer  
Eilis Furlong – Executive Engineer  
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing  
Niall Sheehan – Asst Planner  
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer  
Brian Galvin – Senior Engineer  
Tom Banville – SEO Planning  
Paul L’Estrange – Chief Fire Officer

**Others Present:** Deputy Verona Murphy  
David Looby New Ross Standard

**Apologies:** Councillor John Fleming  
Liam Bowe – Executive Planner  
Brendan Cooney – Snr Executive Scientist

**Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting in the Brandon House Hotel and the District Manager addressed some housekeeping issues particularly in relation to the wearing of masks at all times unless speaking – covid certs had been checked by the hotel staff on entry already.

On the proposal of Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Connick, standing orders were suspended for a presentation on the former site of the oil tanks on the Quay in New Ross and on Derelict sites in New Ross.

## **Special Projects**

Brian Galvin, Senior Engineer, Special Projects, brought the plans for the former site of the oil tanks on the Quay in New Ross for the Members consideration and answered queries in relation to them. The District Director complimented the Special Projects team on the plans and said that they would continue the quayside theme.

Approval of the plans to go to public consultation as a Part 8 application was proposed by Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Murphy

## **Derelict Sites/Fire Department**

Tom Banville, SEO Planning, presented the Derelict sites report for New Ross and addressed questions and concerns from the Members. He invited the Members to contact the Derelict sites team with the details of any properties which they wished to have investigated with regard to dereliction. Paul L'Estrange, Chief Fire Officer, answered the Members queries in relation to the Fire Department/Derelict Sites.

## **Sympathies**

Cllr Sheehan expressed sympathies to the family of Liam Carroll, Pondfields, New Ross on their bereavement

Cllr Barden sympathised with the family of Patrick Fortune, Adamstown, on their bereavement

Sympathies were expressed by Cllr Murphy on the death of Patricia Codd, Rathfardon, Clonroche

## **Congratulations**

Cllr Sheehan wished success to the Wexford Volkswagen Stages Rally, taking place on 17<sup>th</sup> October in the New Ross area and to the Eugene O'Neill festival in St Michael's theatre New Ross from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October and to Gráinne Tobin who is a member of the Frontline choir on RTE.

Cllr Whelan congratulated Ballycullane Ploughing Association who brought home 5 all Ireland ploughing medals from the National Ploughing Championships

Cllr Barden congratulated the Raparees on winning the Wexford Senior Hurling Title

## **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

1.1 Monthly Meeting – The September 2021 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Sheehan and seconded by Councillor Murphy

## **Matters Arising**

Following a request from the Members, the District Manager and District Director agreed to ask the Director for Economic Development for a detailed list and map of available lands for development in the New Ross District and a report on the status of the site for sale in Butlersland.

## **2.0 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.**

### **2.1 District Managers Report**

The District Manager delivered his report.

### **Nollaig – A Traditional New Ross Christmas**

He advised the members that the district is looking forward to a traditional New Ross Christmas this year with the Chairman Cllr Pat Barden and Santy himself turning on the Christmas Lights at the launch of New Ross Christmas 2021 outside the Tholsel on the 20<sup>th</sup> November and asked everyone to support New Ross and District again this year. The Members agreed that Sophie Becker would also be asked to switch on the lights.

## **CCTV**

The New Ross Town CCTV scheme as presented to the Members was advertised on the 28<sup>th</sup> of Sept and is out for public consultation. The link was given to the Members and all were encouraged to review the plan and submit observations

## **Wexford Rally**

The Members were advised that the Wexford Rally has chosen to locate their base this year in New Ross at the albatross site which brings significant economic benefits to the Town and District and that the Wexford Rally 2021 would take place this weekend in the New Ross District. The District Manager commended Wexford Motor club for their engagement and acknowledged and thanked Cllr Anthony Connick for his role in helping maximise the opportunities from Wexford Rally 2021 in New Ross Town and District. Cllr Connick thanked the Officials and the Gardai for their assistance with the Rally.

## **Streetscape Enhancement Measure 2021.**

There was huge Interest in the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021 with the Lions share coming to New Ross with 41 successful applications with a total cost of

works set at €221,553 and funding approved of €111,925. The District Manager commented that this is a massive endorsement in our Town by the traders which shows the optimism and pride that traders have for their Town and Businesses.

### **Destination Towns**

Work is continuing on the Destination Towns project. Most notable features of the programme over the last few weeks were the finishing of crests on Cook's lane and the civil works for the Arches on Brennan's Lane.

### **Pedestrianisation**

Preliminary Meetings have taken place with the Consultants regarding the Pedestrianisation proposal and a first draft of the Feasibility study for New Ross Town was received which will have to be backed up with further vehicular traffic analysis and studies before bringing to the members in the near future.

### **NRMD Venue for Council Meetings**

St Michaels Theatre was booked out for today's meeting and as a result we have come to the Brandon House Hotel. An announcement is awaited regarding a return to normality on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October in relation to returning to the Tholsel for the next meeting if conditions and regulations allow.

### **Playground Pearse Park**

A start date of 18th of October has been agreed for the playground with a completion date prior to Christmas.

### **St Kearns Explosion Commemoration**

The District Manager congratulated the organisers of the St Kearns explosion Commemoration on their event over the previous weekend and the organising Committee have thanked the Council for their support with the event.

### **Monument to Commemorate World War 1**

A monument is being procured to commemorate all of those who fell in the great War from the New Ross area, for a suitable site at St Stephens Cemetery and it expected to officially unveil it by Armistice Day which is the 11<sup>th</sup> of Nov.

### **Eugene O'Neill Festival**

The District Manager invited all Members to the official opening event of the Eugene O'Neill Festival on this Friday in St Michaels Theatre New Ross. He informed them that this year's main event is being filmed and will be streamed to our friends in Danville many of whom would normally be here but because of restrictions, will enjoy the events from the US. He thanked the organising committee who have done great work in making this festival happen yet again this year and he advised the Members that the Municipal District will continue to work with the committee and WIT in

exploring the possibilities of moving this friendship from Cultural and Civic to creating sustainable enterprise links and partnerships between the 2 Towns.

### **LAMA All Ireland Community and Council Awards**

The Members were informed that New Ross Municipal District has been shortlisted for the finals of the All Ireland LAMA Community and Council Awards 2021 in the Arts and Culture Category for the Summer Sessions 2021, giving National recognition to New Ross yet again.

Following delivery of his report, the District Manager was asked that:

- the Greenway Officer be invited to the next meeting
- that the District Manager write to Coca Cola to invite them to bring their Christmas Truck to New Ross
- that a meeting of the St Stephen's Committee be organised

The Assistant Planner was asked to investigate the possibility of a heritage grant for a ramp for the Parish Church

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

The contents of the report were noted by the Members.

### **2.2. Roads Report**

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

The Members welcomed the Roads Engineer back and thanked David Murphy for his work while covering the role.

The Members were advised that the lights on Cherries Road were expected to be turned on in the next two weeks.

Following a query in relation to funding in estates which had been taken in charge, the District Director advised that he would look at the issue but that funding had been, and would continue to be, an issue.

### **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.

Responding to a query, the AO advised that an update on Marshmeadows Halting Site would be included in the November monthly report.

## **2.5 Planning Report**

The Assistant Planner delivered his report and responded to queries from 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.

## **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**

N/A

#### **4.0 Other Business**

##### **4.1 Derelict Sites – Tom Banville SEO Planning and Paul L'Estrange Chief Fire Officer**

Presentation took place earlier

##### **4.2 Presentation by Brian Galvin Senior Engineer Special Projects on 'the Former Fuel Tank site on the Quay'**

Presentation took place earlier

#### **5.0 Notice of Motion/s –**

N/A

#### **6.0 Correspondence**

#### **7.0 AOB**

##### **7.1 Request from Bridin Moloney, Secretary New Ross District GAA, for permission to use New Ross District Logo on Committee Jackets**

Agreement to the request was proposed by Cllr Sheehan, seconded by Cllr Connick and agreed by all.

Cllr Sheehan requested that on the reopening of the country following the pandemic, that Civic awards be considered. The District Manager agreed to revert to the Members in relation to a Civic reception as had previously been held, where a number of groups and individuals, nominated by the Members, would be honoured.

The District Director advised the Members that as well as the New Ross Summer Sessions Festival being shortlisted for the LAMA awards, that 'the Norman Way, Phase 3' had been nominated for Best Heritage Project and that Min Ryan Park and Playground had been nominated under Best Public Park

**THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_