

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 8th September 2021 in St Michael's Theatre, New Ross**

Presiding: Councillor Pat Barden

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

rOfficials Present: Mick McCormack – District Manager
Eamonn Hore - District Director
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer
David Murphy – A/Executive Engineer
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing
Liam Bowe – Executive Planner
Eadaoin Kavanagh – Clerical Officer
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer

Others Present: Deputy Verona Murphy
David Looby New Ross Standard

Apologies:

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting in St Michael's theatre 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 theatre staff already.

Sympathies

Cllr Sheehan expressed sympathies to the families of Nick O' Callaghan, Charlton Hill, New Ross and Mollie St Ledger, Upper William St., New Ross.

Cllr Connick extended sympathies to the family of Nick O Callaghan, whose son Jas was a former New Ross Town Councillor

Sympathies were expressed by Cllr Michael Whelan on the death of Paul Molloy, Saltmills and Pittsburg, who had earned a purple heart for his bravery during the Gulf War.

Cllr Fleming expressed sympathies on the death of Nick O Callaghan, Peggie Cowman, Rathfardon, Clonroche, Ollie O Brien, Lr Michael St., and Andy Berry, Waterford Road.

Sympathies were expressed by Cllr Murphy to the families of Peggy Flynn, Kilbraney and Bridie Foley, Dunganstown.

The Chairman sympathised with all the families on their losses.

Congratulations

As a former Chairman of Wexford Ladies Football Team, Cllr Whelan congratulated the team on reaching the All-Ireland Ladies Intermediate Football Championship Final 2021 and commiserated with them on the result. Cllr Sheehan, Cllr Murphy, Cllr Fleming, Cllr Connick and Cllr Barden also congratulated the team.

Cllr Sheehan congratulated Sophie Becker on her performance in the Tokyo Olympics and also commended Bill Caulfield for his bravery in saving a man from drowning in the river Barrow recently. He congratulated the District Manager and his team in relation to the work being carried out in the town under various projects.

Cllr Murphy congratulated Clonroche jockey, Tom O Brien on becoming one of only 7 current riders to reach 1000 wins in Ireland and the UK.

The Tokyo Para Olympians were congratulated by Cllr Fleming and he also congratulated golfer, Leona Maguire who was instrumental in Europe's Solheim Cup win in Toledo, Ohio. He also praised the 'Ilen' Walled Towns Network event which culminated in a trip on the Ilen from New Ross to Waterford.

Cllr Connick joined in with all the congratulations and wished the Piano Festival organisers best of luck with the event. He congratulated the Kennedy Summer School and the Baginbun Festival on their events and also mentioned the 'Ilen' ship event. He congratulated St Michael's Theatre staff on the Summer Sessions.

The Chairman wished to be associated with all the congratulations above.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting –

The July 2021 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Connick and seconded by Councillor Sheehan.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2.0 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

2.1 District Managers Report

The District Manager delivered his report.

Autumn Festival series Kennedy Summer School/Eugene O’Neill, New Ross Piano Festival.

He congratulated the directors and organisers of the Kennedy Summer school on what is becoming the leading Summer school in the Country.

He wished the New Ross Piano Festival and the Eugene O Neill Festival every success.

All of these Festivals are supported by Wexford County Council and New Ross Municipal District and on behalf of the organisers he thanked the Elected Members of New Ross Municipal District for their continued support.

Summer Festival

The District Manager commended Tomás and the team in St Michaels Theatre for managing a wonderful season of Summer Sessions and creating a fantastic buzz with live entertainment right throughout the Summer.

On behalf of St Michael’s theatre Committee, Cllr Murphy expressed thanks to the Elected members of NRMD for providing the funding for these events and the District Manager complimented her on the Summer Sessions initiative.

Baginbun Festival

Congratulations were extended by the District Manager to the organisers of the Baginbun Norman festival on its inaugural event on 5th September 2021. It was a great success and very educational event with great potential to grow into a very significant festival when conditions allow in the future. Again, this committee have expressed thanks to the members of the NRMD for their financial support.

CCTV

He advised the Members that the New Ross Town CCTV scheme is due to be advertised for public submissions in the next few weeks. An enquiry was made as to whether the New Ross CCTV project could be extended to Clonroche. The Manager advised that while that project wasn’t suitable for extension, that he would investigate other avenues.

Staff Changes

Sean Whelan, the new Town Gardener was welcomed by the District Manager and the Members.

Destination Towns

The Members were told that work is continuing on the Destination Towns project with very positive feedback.

Pedestrianisation

A meeting is to be held in the next few days with the appointed Consultants to do the traffic management studies for the pedestrianisation proposal.

Streetscape Enhancement Measures 2021 Scheme.

The Elected Members and Officials of NRMD have been encouraging many of the retailers in New Ross town to submit an expression of interest for the above scheme and are hopeful of a good uptake. The extension of the Streetscape scheme to areas outside New Ross was requested. However, the members were informed that the current scheme did not allow for that but that should other funding streams become available, that it might be possible. Clarification was requested as to whether 'adjacent' properties had to be next door or in the same street and it was proposed by Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Connick, to write to Minister Heather Humphreys in relation to extended the deadline for works to be completed under the scheme.

Wexford outdoor Summer assistance allocation

Working with the local Councillors the District Manager was delighted to be able to help Courtnacuddy development, Lacken trails, Carrigbyne trails, Clonroche Development and Fethard development Committees with outdoor furniture that enhance the trails and amenities in their villages and areas. A seat is also being installed on the Arthurstown to Duncannon trail.

NRMD Venue for Council Meetings

On the proposal of Cllr Whelan and seconded by Cllr Connick and with agreement of all the Members, it was decided to continue with meetings in the Theatre until conditions allow for a safe return to the Tholsel.

Meeting with Callan Thomastown MD

The Callan Thomastown meeting was postponed due to time restrictions until conditions will allow for physical meetings and then the meetings will alternate between Kilkenny and Wexford venues.

Nationwide filming

Nationwide were in New Ross for a day in August and took of footage of the Murals and other improvements and spoke with our chairman and artists from the New Ross Walls

Green Flag judging – awaiting results

Results of the recent Green Flag judging for the Library park and Pearse park is awaited.

Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021

New Ross Christmas Festival 2020 has been shortlisted in the seventeenth annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021.

Playground Pearse Park

A site start date of early Oct is expected.

Irish Walled Towns Network

The District Manager highlighted New Ross being the main feature on the front page as well as five other page of the bi monthly IWTN ezine and complimented Ger Walsh, Staff Officer on her work on this

The Manager and all involved in the items and events on the report were congratulated by the Members and some queries were raised.

It was requested that the Planning SEO attend the next meeting in relation to derelict sites and it was suggested that the Fire Service be invited to attend as they would deal with fires in derelict buildings from time to time.

A monument to those who had fought and died in World War 1, was requested.

A request was made to investigate the restoration of the well at the Three Bullet Gate.

The attendance of Alan Fitzhenry, Business Development Officer, at next months meeting, was requested by the Members.

2.1a Special Projects Report

The contents of the report were noted by the Members.

2.2. Roads Report

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

He agreed to look at signage for Lacken Cross, to follow up with the NTA about the bus shelter at the Apex, to investigate in relation to the pedestrian lights in Ballycullane and the speed limits at Creacon/Cambiln and to investigate additional bus shelters and space for the Local Link to stop at Corcorans Cross.

In relation to the LIS, he advised that no new applications would be accepted until the current list had been dealt with.

On the proposal of Cllr Fleming and seconded by Cllr Sheehan, the agreement to enter the Part V111 process in relation to the Rathgarogue Junction Realignment, was agreed by all.

2.3. Water Services Report

The Senior Executive Engineer delivered his report and responded to queries from the Members. The Members and the Director commended the SEE on his achievement in securing funding for the repair of Fethard and Mountgarrett Castles.

2.4. Housing Report.

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

The Members requested that consideration be given to the sale of vacant houses to eligible persons.

They also enquired as to the source of funding for upgrades to Approved Housing Body housing stock.

The AO agreed to include date vacated on the list of vacant properties.

She advised, however, that it may not be possible to give a final costing on repair works to two specific houses, due to works still being on-going.

The AO agreed to revert to the Members in relation to the demolition of a vacant house in Adamstown.

On the proposal of Cllr. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr Connick, it was recommended by all that:-

- The CEO of Respond be invited to a meeting of the Municipal District, as soon as possible to discuss the units in the old Mercy convent, the meeting to be held at the convent.
- New Ross Municipal District write to the Minister for Housing to express concern about the units in the old Mercy convent having been funded, but still vacant.

2.5 Planning Report

The Executive 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

N/A

5.0 Notice of Motion/s –

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

N/A

7.0 AOB

A discussion took place in relation to the Development plan.

The Chairman enquired as to a safety audit at Duncannon Pier and the District Manager agreed to revert to him on the issue.

A discussion took place in relation to land at Butlersland and any alternatives that might be available. The District Director and District Manager agreed to look for the information before the next meeting.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____