

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 13th September 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
Councillor Bridin Murphy

Officials Present: Eamonn Hore - District Director
Liz Hore- Director of Services
Alan Fitzhenry- District Manager
David Murphy, A/Executive Engineer
Breege Cosgrave- Head of Economic Development
Angela Lawless- Administrative Officer
Mick McCormack- Town Regeneration Officer
Michelle Duffin – Assistant Staff Officer
Eoin Furlong- Clerical Officer
Gerry Forde – Senior Engineer Environment (Teams)
James Lavin – Senior Executive Planner
Tom Banville- Senior Executive Officer
Seán Meyler – Senior Executive Engineer (Teams)

Others Present: David Looby New Ross Standard
Eamonn Prenter, Cunnane Stratton Reynolds
Prithvi Gowda, Cunnane Stratton Reynolds

Apologies: Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner
Melissa Goff, Senior Staff Officer

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all to the meeting.

Standing orders were suspended to allow for presentations.
This was proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Sheehan.

Town Centre First Draft Plan

Mick McCormack & consultants presented the Town Centre First Draft Plan and responded to questions from the Members.

The Members were advised a public consultation would take place on the 21st September and a final draft would be available at the end of September. Members were encouraged to submit any comments and feedback on the plan as soon as possible.

Following a query from Cllr. Barden on the night-time economy the presenters advised leisure water activities on the river, pedestrianisation, later opening hours for shops, a clean environment and making the town safe would be priority to drive tourism in the town.

Economic & Enterprise Up-date

The head of Economic Development delivered the presentation and responded to questions from the Members.

Director of Services Liz Hore addressed a number of queries from Members in relation to the status of the advanced factory. Discussions are currently on-going for a construction company to build the factory suitable for an IDA client.

Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF)- Target list of derelict & vacant properties in New Ross

S.E.O. Tom Banville delivered the presentation and requested the support of Members regarding future S.183 orders in relation to derelict properties in the town. He then responded to questions from the Members.

The S.E.O. confirmed the C.P.O. process has commenced on the properties as listed. The focus will be on moving properties away from passive to active ownership and ultimately utilising as residential units.

All properties will be evaluated and Department approval must be sought to purchase any unit over €224k.

The Cathaoirleach put forward a motion to extend the duration of the meeting. This was proposed by Cllr Bridin Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Michael Whelan.

Director of Services Liz Hore welcomed the presentation and advised it should not be viewed in isolation but as part of Housing for All.

The Cathaoirleach thanked all presenters for their attendance and presentations.

Sympathies

Cllr. Connick offered sympathies to the family of our work colleague Alan Deacon, Clonroche, Victor Hennessy, Southknock, New Ross, Billy Cashin, Tower Grove, New Ross, Noel Dunne, Convent Hill, New Ross, Michael (Skipper) Dalton, Pondfields, New Ross, Monica Condon, Haughton Place, New Ross, Claire Delaney, Bishopsland, New Ross and John Walshe, South Street, New Ross.

Cllr Sheehan offered sympathies as above and to the family of Teresa Wickham, Haughton Place, New Ross.

Cllr Murphy offered sympathies to all listed above and the family of Mary Ellen Cullen, Clonroche, Enniscorthy.

Cllr Fleming offered sympathies to all listed above and the families of Breda Ryan, Clonleigh, Palace East and Margaret McDermott, Duncormick.

Cllr Whelan offered sympathies to all listed above.

A minutes silence was then observed for Alan Deacon, Water Services Caretaker RIP.

Congratulations

Cllr Connick congratulated cyclists Mia Griffin & Kelly Murphy on their recent sporting achievements.

Cllr Sheehan congratulated Mary McGrath on her recent retirement from Tesco's after 17 years having raised over €100,000 for charities.

Cllr Whelan congratulated all involved in making the Kennedy Summer School such a success, the organisers of the Wexford Volkswagen Stages Rally held recently & rugby player Tadhg Furlong who is competing in the Rugby world cup with the Irish Rugby team.

Cllr Murphy congratulated New Ross Swimming Club on a very successful season winning best overall team for 2023.

Cllr Fleming & Cllr Barden congratulated Cloughbawn & Clongeen GAA clubs on their recent wins in the Intermediate & Junior County hurling finals.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting –

The July 2023 Minutes were proposed as presented by Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Murphy.

Matters Arising

N/A

2.0 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

2.1 District Managers Report

The District Manager's report was delivered report and queries from the Members were responded to.

South-East Greenway (Phase 1)

The District Manager thanked everyone for their involvement in making the official opening of Phase 1 (New Ross to Glenmore) of the South-East Greenway a huge success. Minister of State at the Department of Transport and at the Department of Environment, Climate & Communications, Jack Chambers TD, attended on the day along with the Cathaoirleach and Councillors from the New Ross, Callan-Thomastown & Piltown Districts. The event was well attended and very well received, with positive local and national media coverage for New Ross.

The District Manager confirmed dog foul bin were being put in at the Rosbercon car park as a matter of priority.

Proposed Change of Date of October NRMD meeting to Wed 18th October

This issue was dealt with under Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members

Town and Village Renewal 2023.

The District Manager confirmed four applications were received from around the District for consideration. A shortlist will now be prepared for the Department of Rural & Community Development.

CCTV

The District Manager advised The CCTV scheme pack, approved by the Garda Commissioners Office, is still with Garda HQ. Once received, the project can progress to issuing the CCTV tender. The GP Section of the council is overseeing the tender process and work has already begun on the requirements for civil and electrical elements. It is planned for advance ground works to start by the end of the year.

Brennan's Lane/Shambles

The project team have reviewed all drawings and design details received from Avanti Architects, the Consultants on the Brennan's Lane/Shambles Project. Edits have been submitted to Avanti, and the final set of drawings and documents are due back. Once approved, Avanti will advertise the tender to secure a contractor.

Duncannon Fort Masterplan

Urban Scale Interventions (USI) and their multi-disciplinary team have almost completed their work on the masterplan. Stakeholder engagement meetings and public consultation took place in August, with a lot of engagement and responses given to the consultants. The plan is being finalised for review and it is planned to present this at the October meeting.

Duncannon Fort Works

Following a request for quotation, Colm Moriarty (licenced archaeologist) has been appointed to carry out archaeological services for the Duncannon Fort works. He will apply for Section 14 Ministerial consent (under the National Monuments Act) and will begin site investigations, before works commence in early 2024. A pre-planning application has also been submitted by the project team, as required.

Advance Factory

Updates were presented by the Economic Development team earlier in the meeting.

Motorhome Park

The District Manager advised work is continuing on detailed design. Part VIII documents will be prepared, with a plan to bring it before the Members before the end of 2023.

Pedestrianisation

The planned pedestrianisation of Quay Street and how best to develop this, will be informed by the TCF plan which is due for completion by the end of September 2023. The draft plan was presented earlier in the meeting. Funding will be sought under Town Centre First also.

Pearse Park Works

The District Manager outlined all the works which have taken place in Pearse Park over the last few months. The park was recently visited by the Green Flag judges, and it is hoped the Pearse & Library Parks will maintain their Green Flag status. In addition, works supported by Sports Capital Funding on the tennis court and athletics area are due to begin next week and resurfacing of the memorial garden will take place shortly. The District Manager requested the public & community who use the park, to report any incidents of vandalism or anti-social behaviour to the Gardai immediately.

EVENTS

Autumn Festival Series: Kennedy Summer School, Eugene O'Neill & New Ross Piano Festival.

The District Manager thanked the directors and organisers of the Kennedy Summer School for making it such a success again this year.

He also advised the 17th New Ross Piano Festival was officially launched on the Dunbrody Famine ship in August, and looks forward to the fantastic programme of

events which runs from 20th-24th September and wished them every good luck with the event.

The Members were also informed the Eugene O'Neill Festival will run from the 12th to the 15th October in St Michael's Theatre, commencing with the Eugene O'Neill Foundation production of Anna Christie. The District Manager looks forward to welcoming friends from Danville, California to New Ross.

The District Manager thanked the Members of New Ross Municipal District for their continued support and expressed gratitude on behalf of the event organisers.

Summer Sessions

The New Ross Summer Sessions took place again this year during July & August with 7 excellent Saturday evening concerts enjoyed by all in St. Michael's Theatre. Free to attend, having been significantly funded and supported by the Elected Members & Wexford County Council, the concerts featured a variety of artists with something for everyone. Tomas Kavanagh and his Team at St Michael's Theatre wish to thank the Members for their continued support of this festival.

New Ross Guitar Festival

The 2nd annual New Ross Guitar Festival took place from the 10th to the 13th of August and was a huge success. The festival took in over €10,000 in ticket revenue, which is a big increase from last year. There was a great range of concerts, and several were accessible at no charge, to an appreciative public. The committee are already busy working on next year's programme and wish to thank the Elected Members of New Ross Municipal District for their continued support of the festival.

Baginbun Norman Festival & Tri the Hook

The 2023 Baginbun Norman Festival & Tri the Hook have both been held with great success. Baginbun saw fine weather and a large turnout on the day, with lots to see and do for families. The Triathlon was also a great success with plenty of enthusiastic visitors taking part. The organisers of both events wished to thank the Elected Members and the Wexford County Council staff for their help and support for these important events.

Culture Night

Working with the Wexford County Council Arts Section, there is a full programme of events organised for Culture night 2023, which takes place on Fri 22nd September.

Queries were then taken from Members.

Cllr. Sheehan condemned the vandalism in Pearse Park as recently reported in the local newspaper.

Cllr. Whelan congratulated Tri the Hook on such a successful event and thanked New Ross Municipal District for the support.

2.1a Special Projects Report

The Special projects report was delivered by Senior Executive Engineer Seán Meyler who responded to queries from the Members.

Information relating to the Skate Park will be included in next month's report.

Lighting on the Greenway forms part of Lot 5a and it is hoped this will be completed early next year.

Cllr. Sheehan questioned if Part 8 had been cleared for John Street.

Cllr. Barden queried if there were any complications with landowners that would result in delays with the next part of the Greenway.

Cllr. Murphy queried why Lot 5 was not included on the report.

Seán Meyler advised the Special Projects team are working through any issues in relation to the Greenway with Lot 4 & the other remaining elements being priority. Lot 5 is in two parts- A & B. Lot 5A is about to be awarded & Lot 5B will follow.

2.2. Roads Report

The Roads Report was delivered by the A/Executive Engineer David Murphy who responded to queries from the Members.

Cllr Connick queried the time frame for fixing of lights out in New Ross which are taking up to 4 weeks to get sorted after reporting.

Cllr Barden queried if the lights in the Bullawn can be turned off as they are constantly on.

Cllr Sheehan requested the Council ask the Department of Transport for an allocation of funding for roads. He also requested effective communication from the executive regarding notification of road works.

Cllr Whelan commented on the issues with the reporting system for faulty lights.

David Murphy noted the comments and has advised he has spoken to the lighting contractors and they are working through the issues. Funding has been confirmed for Lower & Upper William Street & Nunnery Lane.

Under the Greenlink project 6 road closures have been applied for over the coming weeks.

Director of Services Eamonn Hore commented on the difference between the ordinary maintenance of lights and the infrastructure. He noted the on-going problems and advised they will try to get a report regarding same for the next meeting.

2.3. Housing Report.

The Housing report was made available to the Members. As the Housing Officer was not in attendance queries will be e-mailed for a response.

2.4 Planning Report

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

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 Environment report was delivered by the Senior Engineer Gerry Forde who responded to queries from the Members.

Gerry reported on bathing water test results which shows excellence in the areas of Grange, Baginbun & Booley Bay, with Duncannon showing water quality levels as sufficient. A report will be circulated with further information regarding same.

Cllr Sheehan queried how accessible the beaches are for first responders and the hinderance of barriers in cases where an emergency response is required, requesting an audit regarding same. Gerry Forde responded to advise there are audits already in place regarding beach access.

Cllr Whelan asked if a system can be put in place so the Members know when the beaches are being closed and open again. He also stated how disappointing it is to have so much investment and to still have water issues, in particular the results from the Duncannon test.

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

3.1 Section 183 re Gladneys No. 5 John Street New Ross.
- proposed by Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Connick.

3.2 On the advice of the District Manager the Members agreed to change the date of the next meeting to the 18th October to facilitate the Council budgetary process.

4.0 Other Business

N/A

5.0 Notice of Motion/s –

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

N/A

7.0 AOB

Cllr Connick asked if the colour coded weather warnings could be included on Map alerter.

Director of Services Eamonn Hore has advised this issue will be included as an agenda item at the next Management Team meeting.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____