

**Minutes of the Rosslare Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on the 20th April 2022 at 10.30hrs in the Council Chamber, Carricklawn,
Wexford, and MS Teams (Remote).**

Presiding: Cllr Jim Codd – Leas Cathaoirleach

Councillors: Cllr Lisa McDonald
Cllr Ger Carthy

Officials: Annette O'Neill - District Director / Director of Services
Mark Collins – Executive Engineer (Roads)
Ken Jones – Executive Engineer (Water)
Caroline Creane – Senior Staff Officer (Housing)
Shay Howell – County Architect
Gerry Forde – Senior Engineer (Environment)
Barry Kelly – Executive Technician
Dean Waters – Staff Officer

Remote Attendance

Councillors: Cllr Frank Staples

Officials: Nóirín Cummins – District Manager
Tom Banville – Senior Executive Officer (Planning)
Ger Mackey – A/Senior Executive Officer (Community)

Apologies: Cllr Jim Moore – An Cathaoirleach

Cllr Jim Codd, Leas Cathaoirleach, advised that it was an honour to Chair the District meeting, welcomed all those in attendance and commenced the meeting.

Cllr Jim Codd, Leas Cathaoirleach, requested that a moments silence be observed in the memory of Aidan Moffitt and Michael Snee following the sad events which took place in Sligo, expressing solidarity and support to the LGBTQ+ community.

A period of silence was then observed by all present.

Sympathies

Sympathies were extended to the family of the late John Codd - Killinick.

Congratulations

Best wishes were afforded to John & Pip Murphy for the success of the recently held deferred 29th Phil Murphy Weekend, a Traditional Irish Music Festival in Carrig-on-Bannow, and also to Kevin Casey following the opening of his new *Crepes by the Quay* outlet in Kilmore quay.

Congratulations were also afforded to the successful Wexford team that secured 7 titles at Kingscourt, Co Cavan, in the All-Ireland Adult 4-Wall Singles Finals and Juvenile All Irelands in both singles and doubles. Particular praise was reserved for Robert Byrne from Bridgetown, Mark Doyle and Bobby Doyle from Trinity.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting 23rd March 2022

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of March 23rd 2022, were proposed by Cllr Ger Carthy and seconded by Cllr Lisa McDonald.

1.2 Matters Arising

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1.2.1 Outgoing correspondence to the Chief Executive regarding flooding issues in the District

1.2.2 RMD Notice of Motion submitted to the plenary council for consideration

1.2.3 Bus Shelter Update / Bus Shelter Programme

The responses and information provided in relation to queries from the previous meeting were noted.

The Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the information submitted regarding the provision of Bus Stop Shelters, requesting detail of all locations in the District be included in the report, along with the Design, and the relevant funding sources.

A discussion followed.

The Members agreed that the District Manager should invite the Director for Roads to the next meeting to discuss the delivery of bus shelters in the District.

Cllr Ger Carthy proposed an emergency motion requesting *"A structured plan be formulated prior to the May Monthly Meeting with details of design, possible funding sources, and delivery targets, for the following locations;*

- *Kilrane*
- *Tagoat*
- *Killinick*
- *Drinagh*
- *Rosslare Strand*
- *Wellington Bridge."*

Cllr Lisa McDonald seconded the emergency motion on the provision that locations across the entire District were evaluated, whilst allowing preference to be given to older ongoing issues and requests.

2. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members

None

3. District Manager Report

3.1 District Managers Report

As the District Manager was in remote attendance, the Staff Officer highlighted two items contained in her report as directed.

Skeater Rock – New Project

The Staff Officer advised the meeting that the public realm works were moving forward on schedule and that it is hoped to have an official opening of the development in May or June.

The work and diligence of Michael Brazzill, Executive Engineer, was also acknowledged.

Amenity & Arts / Resident Association - Grants 2022

The Staff Officer advised the Members that correspondence has issued to all **Resident Association 2022** applicants following the endorsement by the Members of the proposed allocations at the March Monthly Meeting.

He further advised that the **Amenity & Arts 2022** draft allocations would be presented at the next available meeting following the receipt of all the individual allocations from the Councillors.

On the proposal of Cllr Ger Carthy, seconded by Cllr Frank Staples, the allocations were adopted in principle without the need for presentation. It was agreed that a complete listing would be circulated to the Members for information purposes when available.

Bridgetown Community Park – Town & Village 2019

The Members expressed concern over the current status of the park and the lack of progress on site.

The District Director advised the Members that RMD had been proactive in terms of project delivery with continuous engagement with the Community Group, and recent discussions with the Community Section surrounding the anticipated completion and delivery of the park expected towards the end of April.

It was agreed that the facility needed to be completed to a high standard and subsequently showcased accordingly.

Ministerial visits to the District

The Members expressed their disquiet regarding the lack of notification being received when government officials attend various events or visits to the District.

A discussion followed.

The District Director advised the Members that there is no obligation on government ministers to advise the Council of such visits to the county and as such the Council has no input in the preparation of the itinerary, invitations or agenda for such visits, whilst agreeing that we would certainly advise the Members if we had any knowledge of such planned visits.

4. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

Following a proposal by the Chair and agreement by the Members, the Chair invited the reports as directed, with minutes to reflect the order of business in which items were taken.

4.8 Community Development Report

The content of the previously circulated report was noted by the Members.

Bridgetown Community Park

Responding to previous comments from the Members, the A/Senior Executive Officer confirmed that the Community Section were working closely with Rosslare Municipal District towards the completion of Bridgetown Community Park, and that it was hoped to have an official opening in May or June.

Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis

The A/Senior Executive Officer advised the Members that Wexford County Council continued to work closely with St Mary's GAA Club, the Friends of Rosslare, and all the agencies in a very challenging situation, and that with the assistance of all those involved the challenge was being met.

The Members commended the multi-agency approach and acknowledged the work of the community groups involved with providing supports to Ukrainian refugees.

4.3 Housing Report.

The Senior Staff Officer delivered her previously circulated report and responded to questions from the Members and agreed to investigate any specific matters outstanding and respond appropriately, these specific items included;

- *The number of 1 and 2 bed apartments required in the District to meet the housing need*
- *The number of people originally from Wexford included in the 115 homeless deaths recorded in Dublin during 2021*
- *The number of homeless deaths recorded in Wexford during 2021*
- *The affordable and social housing delivery plan for RMD to 2030*
- *Details of timeframes between 1st and 2nd inspections of privately rented properties occupied by recipients of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)*
- *Update on appropriate land acquisition through an expressions of interest advertisement for the development of small clusters of 4-7 houses in the District, as outlined by Michael Drea, Senior Executive Officer, at the February meeting*

District Specific Reports

Following comments from Cllr Lisa McDonald, the Members agreed that future housing reports being presented at District level should only contain District Specific data.

The Senior Staff Officer agreed to action this request.

Proposed Pilot Scheme – Single Dwellings in rural locations

Cllr Ger Carthy queried why an update on the proposed *Single Dwelling Pilot Scheme* for the delivery of individual houses in the District, or the requested *Plan of Action* in relation to the *Pilot Scheme* was not contained within the report.

The County Architect advised the Member that he had not made a commitment to deliver the previously proposed *Pilot Scheme*, and further requested this to be put on record.

A discussion followed.

The following Emergency Motion was proposed by Cllr Ger Carthy;

“The Chief Executive be invited to attend the next District Meeting to discuss the Single Dwelling Pilot Scheme and other housing matters”.

The Emergency Motion was seconded by Cllr Lisa McDonald.

Nominated Areas of Choice – Integrity of Data

Following on from comments by the Members initially made during the February meeting regarding housing demand in the District and the nominated areas of choice on the *Housing Support Form* not being a true indicator of demand in the District, the Members again questioned the integrity of the data.

A discussion followed.

The Members requested that a true indication of applicants preferred locations be achieved by completing an information gathering exercise. This would be completed by contacting those on the Housing List and offering them the opportunity to confirm 3 preferred areas of choice, on a without prejudice basis to previous information submitted and their current application, therefore nullifying the impact of strategic nominations on previous information compiled for housing need. This information could be then used as a true indicator of housing need within the District.

The Senior Staff Officer agreed to relay the request.

Housing Stock – Location Indicator

Cllr Ger Carthy requested that current housing stock be plotted on a map which would identify stock in the District and could be cross referenced with the chosen preferred locations as nominated by housing support applicants in the information gathering exercise.

4.4 Planning Report

The previously circulated report was noted by the Members before the Senior Executive Officer responded to their questions.

Resources – Staff Shortages

Following comments from the Members regarding the ongoing staff shortages in the Planning Department, the Senior Executive Officer confirmed that following the interview process, appointments were in the process of being completed.

4.5 Planning Decisions – Grants

The content of the previously circulated report was noted by the Members.

4.6 Planning Decisions – Refusals

The content of the previously circulated report was noted by the Members.

4.3.1 Tagoat - Delivery of Social Housing Units x16 / Shay Howell, County Architect

The County Architect delivered his presentation on the proposal for the Tagoat Social Housing units and circulated accompanying documentation, and then responded to the questions raised by the Members.

Following comment from the Members regarding the length of time being taken to delivery this project, the County Architect outlined the various problems encountered during the previous 3 years.

A discussion followed.

Cllr Ger Carthy re-stated that the project should be built using single stage process and not the 4 stages as proposed.

The County Architect advised the meeting that the single stage process could not be used in this instance as the cost would be more than the 2 million threshold which was equivalent to approximately 8 units, and therefore it did not meet the qualifying criteria for single stage process.

Cllr Lisa McDonald stated that she believed that the single stage threshold had been increased to 6 million in 2020, and therefore this project would be suitable at a total cost of 4.5 million approximately.

The Members requested clarification on the maximum threshold for the single stage process prior to the end of the meeting.

The County Architect agreed to seek clarification on the information he had provided and temporarily withdrew from the meeting.

4.9 Environment Report

The Senior Engineer delivered the previously circulated report and dealt with the queries which were raised by the Members, agreeing to further investigate and/or progress certain matters including;

- *Review of Bins at Beach Locations*
- *St Helens – Shower Installation*
- *Four Winds – Steps Installation Feasibility*
- *Rosslare Harbour – Public Convenience Installation*

Rejuvenation of Public Piers and Harbours Funding

The Senior Engineer advised the meeting that both Kilmore Quay and St Helen's had been successful in funding applications to the **Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine** under the *Rejuvenation of Public Piers and Harbours infrastructure Scheme*, with more detail to follow when available.

Cllr Lisa McDonald made her apologies and departed from the meeting.

4.9.1 Seaview / Coastal Erosion - Update

The Senior Engineer updated the Members on the status of the *Seaview Coastal Erosion Scheme* and responded to their questions.

4.2 Water Services Report

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

Following acknowledgment from the Chair of the current time being 12:30, Cllr Ger Carthy proposed the suspension of Standing Orders. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Frank Staples and the meeting continued.

The County Architect re-joined the meeting, confirming that the threshold was increased to 6 million in 2020 and it therefore would be possible to complete the Tagoat housing project in the single stage process.

Cllr Ger Carthy stressed the importance of receiving reliable information from the housing section in such matters and supplying accurate information to the Members in connection with the rules and regulations affecting housing delivery.

The Members thanked the County Architect for clarifying the matter, and he departed from the meeting.

4.1 Roads Report

The Executive Engineer delivered his report and responded to questions from the Members and noted other matters raised by Members including;

- *Incidental Flooding at Specific Locations*
- *Hill of Browns Castle Road Surface*
- *Clongeen to Loughnageer Road Surface*
- *Fingerpost Signage*
- *Sign on New Line*
- *Stop Sign at the Dirr / Cleariestown*
- *Line Marking*

Footpath – St Mary’s GAA Club to Tagoat Bus Stop

Following observations from Cllr Ger Carthy, the Executive Engineer agreed to complete a survey and to assess the possibility of submitting an Active Travel application for this location to increase connectivity. The District Director advised that this location was reviewed previously and there were access issues along the route but it will be reviewed again to determine what other options might be achievable.

Our Lady’s Island

Cllr Ger Carthy raised concerns over the ongoing issue regarding the safety of some overground ESB cabling in Our Lady’s Island.

Flooding – Ballygerry, Kilrane

Following comment from Cllr Ger Carthy, the Executive Engineer agreed to liaise with Sean Dobbs in an effort to solve the flooding issue prior to the installation of the new roundabout and link road.

Cllr Ger Carthy requested that a progress report be submitted to the next meeting.

Flooding – OPW

The Executive Engineer informed the meeting that he had met with the local representative of the OPW with regard to the proposed shuttering scheme and other shorter-term solutions to the flooding risk.

Flooding – Works in progress

The Executive Engineer advised the meeting that works have been progressed at multiple flooding locations, confirming that the locations have been mapped and that 3 contractors were actively working on drainage.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Cllr Ger Carthy queried if a **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)**, a sequence of conveyance systems and control structures designed to manage the drainage of surface water, could be trialled and tested in the Bridgetown area.

This would offer a more sustainable approach to managing surface water than conventional techniques by providing a system that mimics natural drainage paths.

The possible replacement of trenches, dykes, and storm drains was also discussed. The need for funding to reverse some of the consequences of certain farming initiatives was highlighted by the Members.

Beach Access – Summer Ready

Following comment from Cllr Ger Carthy, the District Director gave an update on the progress of the Beach Access survey currently being compiled using the Survey123 data gathering application.

4.7 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

The content of the previously circulated report was noted by the Chair.

4.10 Fire Services Report

The content of the previously circulated report was noted by the Chair.

4.11 Members New Support System

The content of the previously circulated report was noted by the Chair.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Notice of Motion/s –

None

7. Any Other Business

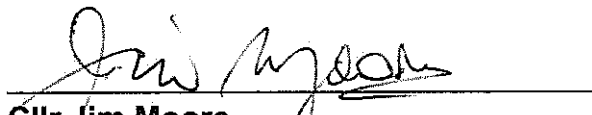
None

8. Special Business (Internal / External Presentations etc)

None

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed on the 18th May 2022


Cllr Jim Moore
An Cathaoirleach
Rosslare Municipal District

