

**Minutes of the Rosslare Municipal District Monthly Meeting  
held on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 10.30hrs in the Block A, Ground Floor  
Meeting Room, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford, and MS Teams (Remote).**

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**Presiding:** Cllr Frank Staples – An Cathaoirleach

**Officials Present:** Nóirín Cummins – District Manager  
Dean Waters – Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Ken Jones – Executive Engineer (Water)

**Remote Attendance**

**Councillors:** Cllr Lisa McDonald – Leas Cathaoirleach  
Cllr Ger Carthy  
Cllr Jim Codd  
Cllr Jim Moore

**Officials:** Annette O'Neill - District Director / Director of Services  
Mark Collins – Executive Engineer (Roads)  
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer (Water)  
Michele Bridges Carley – Administrative Officer (Housing)  
Tom Banville – Senior Executive Officer (Planning)  
Liam Bowe – Executive Planner  
George Colfer – Executive Engineer (Environment)  
Anita McLoughlin – Administrative Officer  
Amanda Byrne – A/Director of Services

Cllr Frank Staples, An Cathaoirleach, welcomed all those in attendance and commenced the meeting.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

***1.1 Monthly Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021***

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of January 18<sup>th</sup> 2021, were proposed by Cllr Jim Moore, seconded by Cllr Jim Codd, and agreed by all present.

***1.2 Matters Arising***

*1.2.1 Housing DoS - Estate Maintenance*

*1.2.2 Executive Planner - Draft County Development Plan*

*1.2.3 Planning SSO - Planning Enforcement*

The responses to the previous month's queries were noted.

### *Congratulations*

Congratulations were afforded to;

- The Skrine family, after Helen Skrine's book on the Boxwell family featured on RTÉ's 'Nationwide'.
- The Tomhaggard Womens Shed, following a RTE Radio 1 Countrywide feature on the Women's Shed about how people are coping during Lockdown.
- Raymond Shannon, local mental health advocate, who has beaten competition from all over Ireland to be declared winner of the Mental Health Hero category at the inaugural Hero Awards.
- Red Books, a small independent bookstore based in Wexford Town, for the promotion of local authors and for giving a platform to local talent.

The Members further agreed that community spirited volunteers who were still working tirelessly through the pandemic should all be acknowledged.

### *Sympathies*

Sympathies were extended to the families of the late Ger Woolley, and the late Sharon Bennett.

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

*2.1 Proposed Developments for Taking in Charge in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 and Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).*

- a) The Greens*
- b) South Bay*

Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer, presented the reports and responded to the queries raised.

A discussion followed.

Following concerns raised by Cllr Ger Carthy, regarding the exact location of the *Greens Estate*, the Senior Executive Officer advised that the estate was in Rosslare.

For clarity, the Members requested that in future the actual location of the proposed estates be included on the report that is presented.

Cllr Jim Moore also requested that details of the original developer be listed on future reports.

The Senior Executive Officer, agreed to include this information on all future reports.

On the proposal of Cllr Jim Moore, seconded by Cllr Jim Codd, it was agreed to proceed as outlined.

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

The Chair invited the reports, as directed, with minutes to reflect the order of business in which items were taken.

#### ***3.1 Roads Report***

The Executive Engineer presented his report and responded to questions from the Members agreeing to investigate matters raised and confirmed that only works deemed essential were allowed whilst operating under level 5 restrictions.

The Executive Engineer also confirmed that the Roads Programme was currently being finalised

A discussion followed.

The Members agreed, considering the on-going reduction of National Funding and the subsequent countywide constraints for roads maintenance, the RMD Roads Engineer was delivering results.

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Cllr Lisa McDonald joined the meeting.

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The Executive Engineer advised that District road length was approximately 620km and that the budget for annual road strengthening works enabled approximately 12km to be completed, with approximately 200-300m failing post works for varying reasons.

The District Director advised the Members that this was a National problem and a direct result of the lack of appropriate funding provided across the country for the road network.

A discussion followed.

The Members further agreed that it was important to have a unity of purpose and that it was essential to work together to achieve the best possible results from very limited funding.

#### ***3.2 Water Services Report***

Dan McCartan, Senior Executive Engineer, New Ross, delivered the report and responded to the queries raised by the Members.

Following queries raised by Cllr Ger Carthy regarding Irish Water connections policy, specifically with regard to a development subject to possible planning



enforcement, the Senior Executive Engineer agreed to provide a summary of the current position for the Members.

### **3.3 Housing Report.**

Michele Bridges Carley, Administrative Officer, delivered her report and responded to queries from the Members.

#### *Homelessness*

Following observations made by Cllr Lisa McDonald, the process for dealing with Homelessness was discussed at length.

The Administrative Officer acknowledged the comments of the Members and advised that the issue would be discussed in full at the forthcoming *Special Housing Meeting* which was scheduled to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, and would be held “*in committee*”.

Cllr Ger Carthy suggested that the entire issue be dealt with at the *Special Housing Meeting* and any queries be submitted directly to the Administrative Officer.

The Members agreed to forward the names and circumstances of any homeless cases to the Administrative Officer.

### **3.4 Planning Report**

The Executive Planner delivered his report and dealt with all queries which were raised by the Members.

#### *National Development Plan - Submission*

Cllr Ger Carthy requested a copy of the Planning Departments submission on the National Development Plan, specifically in relation to the strategic importance of Rosslare Europort and the surrounding area, be presented at the next monthly meeting, or a special meeting be arranged if timelines dictate.

The Executive planner agreed to relay the request to the Forward Planning Team, Senior Planner, and Director of Services, who are currently working on the detailed submission.

#### *Derelict Sites*

Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer, responded to the queries raised in relation to Derelict Sites.

Following a query from Cllr Ger Carthy, the Senior Executive Officer confirmed that the *Harbour View Hotel* was not on the Derelict Sites Register and committed to re-examining the file and re-inspecting the site.

A discussion followed.

Cllr Ger Carthy stated that there should be a zero tolerance approach for sites with this level of dereliction following years of neglect.

The District Director advised that the process needed to be used fully in an effort to avoid dereliction in the District and County.

Following requests from the Chairman, and Cllr Jim Moore, the Senior Executive Officer agreed to circulate the definition of a Derelict Site as stipulated in the 1990 Derelict Sites Act, and to forward a report specifically detailing the derelict sites of the District.

### **3.5 Planning Decisions – Grants**

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

### **3.6 Planning Decisions - Refusals**

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

### **3.7 Libraries Archives & Arts Report**

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

### **3.8 Community Development Report**

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

A discussion followed.

Cllr Ger Carthy requested that the *Expression of Interest* deadline for the 2021 *Town and Village Renewal Scheme* be extended. The Members unanimously agreed with the request.

The District Manager agreed to liaise with the Community Department regarding a possible extension of time.

### **3.9 Environment Report**

George Colfer, Executive Engineer, delivered the Environment Report to the Members and responded to queries raised.

#### **Seaview**

The Executive Engineer updated the Members on coastal erosion funding application and beach access.

Cllr Ger Carthy requested a report be submitted on the OPW element of funding, and also the WCC funding allocation to deliver on previous promises and commitments.

Cllr Lisa McDonald stated that at the previous briefing session organised by the Environment Department, the Members had been advised of 3 possible solutions, with solution “B” being chosen as the best fit, but now the position had moved.

Cllr Ger Carthy stated that a 2<sup>nd</sup> briefing session was needed as it appeared that the Members had been misled.

The District Director acknowledged the frustration of the Members and agreed that if the involvement of the OPW was indeed a change of direction then a full report or briefing session was necessary.

A discussion followed.

The Members unanimously agreed that a further briefing session was required, with the possible involvement of Community representatives through MS Teams.

The District Manager and Executive Engineer agreed to arrange the briefing session.

#### *Coastal Path Erosion – Rosslare Harbour*

Following observations by Cllr Jim Codd and Cllr Ger Carthy, the Executive Engineer advised the Members that longer term solutions were currently being investigated and he agreed to report back to the Members with findings.

### **3.10 Fire Services Report**

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

## **4. District Manager Report**

The District Manager delivered her report and responded to questions from the Members.

A discussion followed.

#### *Casual Trading*

The District Manager advised the Members of the timeframe involved for the introduction of Bye-laws and suggested that in the meantime, to formalise Casual Trading, the Members could adopt a temporary licence agreement as suggested last month by Cllr Jim Moore.

The Members agreed that in the absence of current appropriate legislation that a temporary licence system would be introduced in the District. The Members also agreed to forward possible locations prior to the next meeting.

The District Manager agreed to bring a draft licence agreement to the next monthly meeting for the consideration of the Members.

The Members requested that the formulation of Countywide *Casual Trading Bye-laws* continues to be prioritised and progressed accordingly.

#### *Twinning – Rosslare / Dunkirk*

The Members noted and welcomed the progress.

#### *Dedicated Office Space*

Cllr Ger Carthy welcomed the news that the new dedicated office space was now operational, and noted that all the Members had supported and encouraged the project from the outset.



On behalf of the Members, Cllr Ger Carthy thanked all those involved with the delivery of the Project.

**5. Correspondence**

*None*

**6. Notice of Motion/s –**

*None*

**7. Any Other Business**

*MS Teams - Quality of sound*

Following observations by Cllr Jim Moore regarding poor sound quality and feedback, it was noted that the problem had been experienced by many attendees at the meeting.

The District Manager agreed that the matter would be investigated and rectified.

**8. Special Business (Internal / External Presentations etc)**

*8.1 Members Representations - Section 40, of the Data Protection Act, 2018.  
/ Presentation by Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services & Anita McLoughlin,  
Administrative Officer.*

Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services, introduced the presentation before handing over to Anita McLoughlin, Administrative Officer, to deliver the presentation and also advise of the necessary requirements and process.

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The Chairman, Cllr Frank Staples, advised the Members of the current time.

On the proposal of Cllr Ger Carthy, seconded by Cllr Jim Moore, *Standing Orders* were suspended.

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A discussion followed.

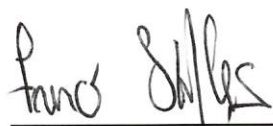
The Members raised concerns regarding the timeframes involved and the quality of responses through the *Members Support System*.

Anita McLoughlin, Administrative Officer, advised that the system was much improved and requested a volunteer from RMD to join the *Members Support System Working Group* to assist in its continued development and to address any concerns that the Members may have.

Cllr Jim Moore agreed to join the *Working Group* to represent the District.

**THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

Signed on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Staples', written over a horizontal line.

**Cllr Frank Staples**  
**An Cathaoirleach**  
**Rosslare Municipal District**