

**Minutes of the Rosslare Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on the 17th May 2021 at 10.30hrs in the Block A, Ground Floor Meeting
Room, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford, and MS Teams (Remote).**

Presiding: Cllr Frank Staples – An Cathaoirleach

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

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)
Ken Jones – Executive Engineer (Water)
Michael Drea – Senior Executive Officer (Housing)
Liam Bowe – Executive Planner
George Colfer – Executive Engineer (Environment)
Annette Dupuy – Healthy County Coordinator

Apologies: None

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

Sympathies

Sympathies were extended to the family of the late Angela Leahy, Rosslare Harbour, Maisie Hogan, Taghmon, and Ellen (Nellie) Furlong, Bush, Rosslare.

Congratulations

Congratulations were afforded to Lauren Williams, Bridgetown College student, following her participation in the “*Senior Category*” of the 2021 *Student Enterprise Programme* national finals.

Following the easing of restrictions best wishes were extended to the established business community and all new retail outlets in the District.

The Wexford Group “*Wexford People, Helping People*” was commended for its voluntary work in the community.

The continuing work of all the District clean up groups was also acknowledged.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting – 19th April 2021

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of April 19th 2021, were proposed by Cllr Lisa McDonald, seconded by Cllr Jim Moore, and agreed by all present.

1.2 Matters Arising

1.2.1 Planning Department - Taking in Charge / Irish Water

(a) Pipe Maintenance Responsibility

1.2.2 Planning Enforcement - Ballygillane Road, Rosslare Harbour

1.2.3 Planning Enforcement - Motorhome / Camper Van Park, Kilmore

1.2.4 Environment Department - Kilmore Quay Charter Boat Operators

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

1.3 Special Meeting – 13th May 2021

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of Rosslare Municipal District to consider the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on the Draft County Development Plan held on 13th May 2021, were proposed by Cllr Ger Carthy, and seconded by Cllr Jim Codd.

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

None

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 previously circulated report and responded to questions from the Members agreeing to investigate matters raised.

Grass Cutting and General Maintenance

Cllr Ger Carthy stated that the Lay-bys, Ashfield Roundabout, and Tagoat Village, were in need of attention and that all locations needed to be maintained to an appropriate standard.

The District Director advised the Members that this was *National Biodiversity Action Week 2021* (15th – 23rd May), and that Wexford County Council is fully committed to fostering a culture which promotes biodiversity, which included leaving the cutting of grass to 6 week intervals where practicable.

A discussion followed regarding the appropriate balance between the maintenance of green areas and Biodiversity.

The District Engineer advised the Members that a contractor had been informally appointed to maintain green areas until the *Community Employment Scheme* was in place.

Following a request by Cllr Lisa McDonald, the District Engineer agreed to circulate the current grass cutting and maintenance schedule/s.

Forth Mountain Access Road – The New Line to Pennylands

Following observations by Cllr Lisa McDonald on the current state of the access road from the Rosslare side and the inconsistent levels of expenditure and investment from District to District, the District Director advised the meeting that discussions had commenced with the Roads Director of Services, regarding the funding of improvement works.

Killinick / Kilrane Lay-by's – Project Update

The Executive Engineer advised that, in line with the District Manager's Report, phase 1 had now commenced and was progressing on schedule.

Ashfield Roundabout – Project Update

The District Manager advised that positive discussions had taken place with Liz Burns, Art's Officer, regarding this project and she hoped to have a comprehensive update available for the next meeting.

3.2 Water Services Report

Ken Jones, Executive Engineer, delivered the previously circulated report and responded to the queries raised by the Members.

Cllr Ger Carthy again raised the issue of Irish Water allowing connections on sites that are subject to ongoing planning enforcement proceedings. The District Manager agreed to seek further clarification as requested.

3.3 Housing Report.

Michael Drea, Senior Executive Officer, presented the previously circulated report and responded to queries from the Members.

A discussion followed.

Housing Supply – Social & Private Rented

Following her observations at the April monthly meeting regarding the supply of social housing in the District and the lack of solutions being offered, Cllr Lisa McDonald again requested a District specific report detailing current availability to include all forms of social housing/private rented supply and demand within the District.

Tagoat Village Development – Social Housing

Following queries from Cllr Ger Carthy, the Senior Executive Officer agreed to request a report from the Senior Architect detailing progress made to date and the timelines involved in connection with the delivery of this project.

Capital Spend – Social Housing

Following queries from Cllr Lisa McDonald, the Senior Executive Officer agreed to provide details of the differentials between the 5 Districts.

Staffing Structure – Housing Capital Team

Following observations made by Cllr Ger Carthy, the Senior Executive Officer agreed to circulate the staffing structure of the appropriate personnel involved in the planning, design, and delivery of social housing units.

Social Housing / Housing Support Services – Out of County Applicants

The Senior Executive Officer outlined the current procedures and explained the *National Homeless System* which details any interaction, however, agreed to investigate best practice to see if any improvements could be made to current arrangements in dealing with Social Housing / Housing Support applicants that were advised to return to their County of origin and apply for those supports from the relevant authorities in that County.

Voids – Long Term / Medium Term

The Senior Executive Officer agreed to provide details of medium to long term voids in the District.

Land Availability – District Villages

The Senior Executive Officer advised the Members that although supply was demand led it was also subject to the availability of appropriate land, agreeing to provide details of land availability in the District for the provision of social housing.

Statistics – “Sofa Surfing”

The Senior Executive Officer advised that any statistics would be limited to actual presentations made, but did agree to provide details based on the information available.

Affordable Housing Survey

The Senior Executive Officer agreed to provide ongoing feedback from the public consultation programme on-line survey.

3.4 Planning Report

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

Old Mill – Bridgetown

Cllr Jim Moore requested an update on the status of the Old Mill in Bridgetown regarding the derelict nature of the property.

The Executive planner agreed to investigate and revert.

Planning Enforcement – Kilrane Area

Following a query from Cllr Jim Codd regarding possible unauthorised development and the issuing of a waste permit for a new recycling facility, Cllr Frank Staples reminded his fellow Councillor that the Senior Planner, Diarmuid Houston, was investigating the matter as requested at their meeting on May 13th.

The District Manager agreed to follow up and request an update on behalf of the Members.

Planning Enforcement – Motorhome / Camper Van Park, Kilmore

Following a query from Cllr Jim Codd regarding possible unauthorised development in Kilmore, Cllr Frank Staples referred his fellow Councillor to the response contained in *Matters Arising (item 1.2.3)*, stating that an enforcement complaint had been received and that an inspection would be arranged to investigate the matter further.

Cllr Jim Codd acknowledged the response, and then requested additional detail on all planning permissions for such development in Kilmore. The Executive Planner agreed to investigate and revert.

A discussion followed.

Planning Enforcement

Following concerns raised by the Members regarding the duration of some long standing planning enforcement cases and the lack of a clear understanding of the process and information being provided, Cllr Ger Carthy proposed that an *in-committee* meeting be arranged with Senior Planning Management for a frank and open conversation regarding the differing status of current planning enforcement cases, the proposal was seconded by Cllr Frank Staples.

The District Manager noted the frustration of the Members and agreed to arrange a meeting as requested.

3.5 Planning Decisions – Grants

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

3.6 Planning Decisions - Refusals

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

3.7 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

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

3.8 Community Development Report

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

The absence of a Community representative was again noted by the Chair. The District Manager advised that following the request at last month's meeting, she had contacted Paul L'Estrange regarding the attendance of a Community representative and was assured that a representative would be attending in May. An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Frank Staples, again requested that a representative attend future meetings. The District Manager agreed to forward this request.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021

Considering the rural nature of the Rosslare District the Members raised concerns following the release of the new criteria for the 2021 scheme which appears to target urban areas.

On the proposal of Cllr Ger Carthy, seconded by Cllr Frank Staples, it was agreed that correspondence be sent to the *Department of Rural and Community Development* in the hope that the criteria may be relaxed or changed to ensure that rural areas were not disadvantaged within the new framework of the scheme.

The District Manager agreed to forward correspondence on behalf of the Members.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme Major Application 2021 – Rosslare

On the proposal of Cllr Ger Carthy, seconded by Cllr Jim Moore and agreed by all present, Rosslare is suggested as the major €500,000 project to be put forward by Wexford County Council with the full endorsement of the Rosslare Municipal District Members.

The District Manager agreed to forward correspondence to the *Economic Development Department* on behalf of the Members.

3.9 Environment Report

George Colfer, Executive Engineer, delivered the previously circulated report to the Members and responded to queries raised.

3.9.1 Seaview / Coastal Erosion - Update

The Executive Engineer advised the meeting that on the 21st April the OPW had agreed to provide funding for the Seaview Coastal Erosion Scheme, and that the tender for consultants had been subsequently released on the 28th April, with tender results expected at the end of May.

A discussion followed.

The Executive Engineer advised the meeting that additional individual houses would each receive a specific erosion assessment.

Cllr Jim Moore welcomed the news that funding had been allocated by the OPW and requested monthly progress reports.

The Executive Engineer agreed to provide monthly reports as requested.

Cllr Ger Carthy raised the issue of slippage problems at Greenore, St Helens and asked if this location would be part of the feasibility study.

The Executive Engineer agreed to investigate and revert.

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

On the proposal of Cllr Lisa McDonald, seconded by Cllr Jim Codd, *Standing Orders* were duly suspended.

3.10 Fire Services Report

The previously circulated report was noted by the Members.

3.11 Members New Support System

The previously circulated report was noted by the Members.

4. District Manager Report

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

RMD – Annual Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Frank Staples, seconded by Cllr Jim Codd, it was agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Rosslare Municipal District would take place on Friday 25th June at 10:30am. This was agreed by all present.

Killinick / Kilrane Lay-by's – Update

Discussed earlier in the meeting under item 3.1

Ashfield Roundabout

Discussed earlier in the meeting under item 3.1

4.2 Be Summer Ready - Preparing you, your business and your home for summer

The document was introduced by the District Manager.

Cllr Lisa McDonald suggested working towards making the District “summer ready”. Cllr Frank Staples supported the suggestion and recommended a meeting be held with the District Director, District Manager, District Engineer, and representative from Environment, to progress the matter.

On the proposal of Cllr Lisa McDonald, seconded by Cllr Frank Staples, it was requested that the meeting be arranged.

The District Manager agreed to facilitate the request.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Student Enterprise Programme National Final - Local Enterprise Office

5.1.1 Summary / e-invitation

The correspondence was noted.

6. Notice of Motion/s – None

7. Any Other Business

Old Graveyard - Killag

Following concerns raised by Cllr Jim Codd regarding an unstable gable wall in the Killag Graveyard, the District Manager agreed to escalate the matter.

8. Special Business (Internal / External Presentations etc)

8.1 Healthy Wexford - Presentation by Annette Dupuy, Healthy County Coordinator, Community Development

Due to technical difficulties and connectivity issues the presentation was deferred to the June meeting at the request of The Chair.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed on the 21st June 2021

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

Cllr Frank Staples
An Cathaoirleach
Rosslare Municipal District