

MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON TUESDAY, 15TH JULY at 9.30 a.m.

Attendance:

Councillors:

Cllr. Barbara-Anne Murphy (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Pat Kehoe (Leas-Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Aidan Browne
Cllr. Trish Byrne
Cllr. John O'Rourke
Cllr. Jackser Owens

Officials:

Ms. Carolyn Godkin, Director of Service
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Manager
Mr. Michael Drea, County Secretary
Ms. Adrienne Larkin, Senior Staff Officer
Ms. Barbara Nolan, Staff Officer
Ms Siobhan Murphy, Executive Scientist.
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer
Mr. Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Mr. Greame Hunt, Executive Planner
Mr. David Whitty, Executive Engineer

Members of the Public: Ms Sarah Kelly

Apologies:

Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Ms. Angela Finn, Senior Staff Officer, Housing

Votes of Sympathy:

The Members expressed their sincere sympathies to the following: -

- Siobhan O'Neill on the passing of her mother Alice O'Neill (née Kelly).
- Cllr Pat Kehoe on the passing of his uncle, James (Jimmy) Kehoe.
- The Murray family on the passing of P J Murray.

Congratulations:

The Members expressed congratulations to the following

- Ferns United on their recent victory against Moyne Rangers in the 'Flash' Dunne Wexford Women's Cup Final
- Wexford Academy of Irish Dancing, Bree on being awarded World Titles - both individual and teams - at the World Open Championships and their successes at the Leinster Fleadh.

- Niall Wall on becoming Leinster Champion 2025 in Amhráin Bhéarla (Fir) at the Leinster Fleadh.
- The 1798 Centre on 'The Longest Day' commemorative event at Vinegar Hill.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1.1 Minutes of the June Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 17th June 2025

On the proposal of Cllr Owens, seconded by Cllr O'Rourke, the Minutes of the June Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 17th June 2025 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.1.2 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 23rd June 2025

On the proposal of Cllr Byrne, seconded by Cllr O'Rourke the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 23rd June 2025 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3.2 Draft Polling Scheme 2025 – for noting.

It was agreed by the Members that item 3.2 be brought forward for discussion at this juncture to facilitate attendance at Gorey Council meeting.

County Secretary, Michael Drea and Senior Staff Officer, Adrienne Larkin answered various questions and concerns expressed by the Members about the Scheme.

Cllr Murphy welcomed the opportunity to discuss matters in the Council meeting so that the public know that we are trying to make it as convenient as possible to vote.

All the members agreed that as much as possible should be done to keep people voting. Already some people felt that due to the revised electoral districts they didn't know who they were voting for and if now they must travel a distance to vote they might not bother. The numbers of people voting is falling

Mr Drea said that a considerable amount of work had gone into the scheme, and he praised the work of the Franchise section. The scheme is being discussed at all the Council meetings and there will then be a Public Consultation process. Any comments or suggestions will be considered at that stage and then the revised scheme will be brought to the full plenary Council for adoption. He said that the logic is not to discommode people or make it difficult for them to vote but that it was not advisable to have two constituency polling booths in the same building as there is huge potential for errors and confusion.

2. Consideration of Reports & Recommendations:

2.1 Planning

The Planning reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted.

Executive planner Greame Hunt confirmed that for the time being he and his colleague Patrick Jordan will be covering the Enniscorthy District, and they will be available for members queries.

Cllr Murphy expressed disappointment at the two-year progress report of the County Development Plan, in particular the lack of land zoned for development in Bunclody and the surrounding areas. She also queried the current length of time for pre-planning. Greame Hunt to revert on the current situation but confirmed that there are staff shortages and hopes that this matter will be rectified shortly and this will speed up the process.

2.2 Community, Environment, Libraries & Fire Service

The Community, Environment, Libraries and Fire Service reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted.

The members raised various concerns including:-

- Locator apps for walking trails following a recent incident in Borodale
- Cameras at dumping blackspots
- Bins out on footpaths in Templeshannon
- Dumping at public bin at entrance to Peace Park on Irish Street
- Clothes banks not being emptied
- Dog fouling on public walkways and lack of dog foul bins – how many Dog Wardens are there in Co Wexford.
- Lack of brown bins in some parts of the district

Executive Scientist Siobhan Murphy responded to the members queries.

CCTV – the process of installing CCTV is a lengthy legislative process. She stressed that it is not a silver bullet in tackling dumping issues and can only be used when other measures have failed.

Ms Murphy confirmed that the Environment Warden and the Traffic Warden have recently done a survey of bins on footpaths in Templeshannon – they will continue to monitor the situation.

She will refer the issue of the dumping at the entrance to the Peace Park to Enforcement in Environment Section.

Clothing Bring Banks – to be referred to Leonard Poole.

Dog foul bins will be reviewed by Enniscorthy MD.

Brown Bins – there are three providers in Co Wexford. It is mandatory for the collectors to provide brown bins. Two companies are compliant and one is not. Environment will continue to engage with this provider and encourage people to inform Environment Section if they do not yet have a brown bin.

Director of Services Carolyn Godkin confirmed that the Emergency Services can locate someone within 3 minutes if they have a phone. She concurred with the members that there is a need to continue to develop walking trails and provide as much information as possible to the public about same.

Cllr Murphy thanked John Colfer, recently retired Dog Warden with Wexford County Council for his service to the County. She welcomed the appointment of Cabrini Desmond to the position. It was suggested that she should attend the September meeting of the EMD to address members concerns.

Cllr O'Rourke thanked Ms Murphy for the recent work done at Patrick Street and Patrick Place on behalf of the residents there.

Cllr Murphy praised the Library Service for their work on the Summer Starts Reading Adventure and all the free events that they deliver throughout the summer months for families.

All the members praised the Fire Service and suggested that any community events taking place should invite the Fire Staff to attend and provide a pop-up info service for the public. A query was raised about free Smoke Alarms. Director of Services said that had been a national scheme but that she would look into it.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Murphy at this juncture called for a break in the meeting to allow for tea at 10:33 am. The Meeting resumed at 10:52 am.

2.3 Housing

The reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted. Ms. Roseanne Redmond responded to questions and comments from the members in relation to the report in particular:-

- Update on The Lyre
- Turnaround time for vacant properties
- Retrofitting in Enniscorthy District

Ms Angela Finn will revert to the Members on The Lyre.

Regarding vacant homes – it really depends on how much work needs to be done but 12 weeks would be the average turnaround time.

There is allocation for retrofitting 120 units for the County for 2025. So far in Enniscorthy District 9 units have been upgraded and a further 5 in the pipeline. Enniscorthy District gets 22.5% of the overall allocation.

2.4 Municipal District Report

Civic Reception

A Civic Reception will be held in Enniscorthy Castle on Thursday 17th July at 6.30pm. for the Wexford Football League team who won the Oscar Traynor Cup 2024-2025 and who were crowned All-Ireland champions.

Columbarium Wall

Wexford County Council will commence planning for the provision of a Columbarium wall in Enniscorthy graveyard. Enniscorthy Municipal District will support technical requirements and site location when the planning is complete.

Murphy Floods Site

The development of the carparking at Murphy Floods commenced on Tuesday 13th May and is now almost complete. The carpark includes pedestrian linkages to both the Mainstreet via a set of concrete steps and a pathway/ramp to the Dunnes Stores side. Provision has been made for additional public lighting as mentioned by the Members. Drainage and kerbing have been put in place. Macadam and line marking has also been completed. Top soiling the green spaces and fencing has been erected.

This carpark should add 37 more carparking spaces for the town. Development of this site has opened the centre of the town and will provide important linkages between Mainstreet, Irish Street, Barrack Street and Island Road.

St John's Campus Enniscorthy Activity Garden

Work is almost complete with the development of this site. The amphitheatre, raised planter beds, macadam footpaths, and water feature has been installed on this site. Electric ducting and water have been installed. Granite seating has also been installed. Many thanks to S&N granite who sponsored some of the granite for this project.

The lawned and wildflower areas have also been prepared and has now been planted. We are grateful for the good work carried out by the patients under the supervision of HSE Staff with the advice and assistance of Mr. Eoin Leacy Horticulturalist manager at Kilcannon Garden Centre, in planting some of the flower beds. Some musical instruments are on order (similar to those in the Orchard Peace Park) and will be delivered in 5 weeks' time.

Heritage Panels Vinegar Hill

The historical content for the panels is now complete and is currently being translated into the Irish language to be included on the panel.

Shopfront Painting & Flower Grant Scheme 2025

We had a fantastic response to the scheme this year. The total number of applications received/eligible are as follows:

42 Shopfront Painting Grants - estimated spend €12,900

26 Flower Grant - estimated spend €3,800

2 Awning Grants - estimated spend €1,000

The total cost of the scheme for this year is estimated at approximately €17,700.

The Flower Scheme deadline for submitting receipts is 17th July. Paint/Awning deadline for completion of works is 11th September. The scheme was introduced to improve the attractiveness of the town and make it a better place to live, work and invest.

Enniscorthy Town CCTV Project

The civil works on the Enniscorthy Town CCTV project commenced on the 9th June and are now complete. The Contractor will start the electrical works on Monday 14th June and will be completed in three weeks time.

The scheme will provide a deterrent to crime and anti-social behaviour, improve public safety and assist emergency services when investigating an incident and assist the Local Authority in the management of public areas for the wellbeing of the town.

The CCTV system should be fully operational by mid October.

Bunclody CCTV Project

Awaiting authorisation from the Garda Commissioner. Update on the Section 38 application has been requested.

Bins left on public footpaths and public spaces.

A survey was carried out in the Templeshannon area on the 8th July in regard to bins obstructing footpaths and spaces. The properties have been noted and WCC will continue to monitor the area.

Correspondence has issued previously to homeowners informing them of the bye laws regarding leaving their bins out for collection.

Individuals are not permitted to reserve parking spaces or obstruct public roads by placing bins or other objects on the public road.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2025- Ballyhogue Community Development.

A Public Information Event was held on Wednesday 25th June to listen to ideas and opinions of the local community for proposed development.

An application is now be finalised to be submitted to the Dept of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) by 25th July. It is proposed to the convert building and develop it as a multi-purpose community facility that will offer a wide range of facilities and services to all age groups.

There was great interest from the community and potential activities within the community hub mentioned included preschool and early learning, meeting rooms, enterprise hubs, mother and toddler groups, Men's and Women's Support Groups, Mother and Toddler Groups, Youth Groups, Adult Classes, Community Café and Shop and Community Garden.

Festival and Events

Enniscorthy Municipal District - National Play Day

Enniscorthy Municipal District hosted the National Play Day event on Wednesday 9th July in collaboration with FDYS and Creative Places Enniscorthy. Play Strategist Martin O'Donoghue facilitated a training workshop for people who work/volunteer in community settings engaging with early childhood up to teens and young adults. The workshop encouraged participants to explore how play can be used as a community building tool. This was followed by a two-hour inclusive Play Event in the Orchard Peace Park where participants of the workshop had an opportunity to see their newly learned skills put to work. A great family day was had by all. Many thanks to Barbara Nolan, Staff Officer who organised the event and EMD staff who assisted on the day.

The event was funded by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality under the National Play Day Funding Scheme 2025.

District Manager Claire Lawless answered the Members queries, in particular:-

- CCTV – date for completion.
- Timeline for Murphy Floods Car Park
- Proposal to move Farmers Market from Abbey Square to new Car Park as it would bring more footfall to town centre.
- Vinegar Hill – possible installation of engraved stone with historical information
- Columbarium Wall – is it in train?

The works for CCTV should be complete by mid-October. The Council are awaiting authorisation from The Data Protection Commissioner for the Bunclody CCTV Scheme. A full report on the new CCTV Scheme for Enniscorthy will be available at the next meeting.

The car park should be ready in approximately three weeks' time. The members were unanimous in their praise of the works so far and congratulated Neville Shaw on a very successful project.

The District Manager will liaise with the Farmers Market to see if it is a viable proposal to move them to the town centre.

Information stone – will investigate costs involved.

Columbarium Wall – Planning will be commenced.

The members complimented the staff of Enniscorthy District on the success of the recent Play Day at the Peace Park. It was proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr O'Rourke that Play Day become an annual event.

2.5 Roads Report.

The Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. The Members raised various concerns, in particular:-

- Allocation of funding across the districts of the road's refurbishment budget – how is it calculated?
- Taking in Charge update.
- Moving of sign on Church Street outside Church of Ireland Church – it is interfering with sight line of traffic going in and out.
- Gulley cleaning and grit removal – can this be done as soon as possible.
- Funding for Bus Stops in Bunclody

Senior Executive Engineer Neville Shaw will refer above to Mr Neil Dempsey who will revert in due course.

2.6 Flood Defence Scheme Report.

The Flood Defence Scheme Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Project Engineer Larry McHale answered queries from the members. Cllr Owens was dissatisfied with the amount of time the project was taking. Mr McHale confirmed that there will be a second Public Consultation in Q4 and hopefully Phase 1 will go to planning in Q2 of 2026. He said that everyone had worked hard to get it to this stage, and it was great to have had the Minister visit and get the commitment to funding from the OPW. He was confident that things will progress.

2.7 Special Projects.

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Cllr Owens asked about an approximate timeframe for development of the Castle Nightclub and about Templeshannon.

Cllr Murphy requested to see updated drawings for the Castle project. The Castle needs to be developed and if the Council are seeking URDF funding we need to be ready with our proposal.

Executive Engineer David Whitty confirmed that the Castle project is contingent on URDF Funding. The proposal is for Toilets/Café/Public Realm and ticketing facilities

to be delivered within a five-year timeframe. The design has progressed, and he is confident that it will receive funding.

In relation to Templeshannon Mr Whitty didn't have an update at this time but agreed to come back to the September meeting with more information.

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

3.1 Presentation of Draft Traffic and Car Parking Byelaws 2025 for agreement in principle

It was proposed by Cllr. Owens and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the name of the new car park revert to Murphy Floods Car Park rather than Barrack Street as previously suggested.

It was proposed by Cllr. O'Rourke and seconded by Cllr. Browne that the Draft Traffic and Car Parking Byelaws be agreed in principle.

4. Correspondence.

None

5. Any Other Business.

Cllr. Keogh proposed, seconded by Cllr. Browne to proceed to 'In Committee' at this juncture of the meeting to discuss Safe Routes to School proposal for Killealy.

Cllr Owens proposed seconded by Cllr O'Rourke not to go to 'In Committee'.

As agreement was not reached the Cathaoirleach put the decision to a vote. The result was 4 votes in favour and 2 against.

This concluded the business of the Meeting at 11.34 am.

Barbara Anne Murphy

CATHAOIRLEACH

16th September 2025

DATE