

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON TUESDAY, 16TH DECEMBER at 9.15 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
Ms. Barbara Nolan, Staff Officer
Ms Siobhan Murphy, Executive Scientist.
Ms. Caroline Creane, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Mr. David Wall, Executive Planner
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Mr David Codd, Road Safety Officer
Ms Ann Marie Laffan, Slaintecare National Development Officer
Ms. Liz Hore, Director of Planning, Economic Development & Property Mgt.
Mr. Diarmuid Houston, Senior Planner
Ms. Deirdre Kearns, Senior Executive Planner
Ms. Fiona Fenlon, Executive Planner
Mr. Leon Murphy, Assistant Planner
Ms. Janine Fitzgerald, Staff Officer

On Teams

Mr. Enda Waters, Special Projects
Ms Edel Nolan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing

Apologies:

Mr. Neville Shaw

Congratulations:

The members expressed their congratulations to the following:

- FDYS on their 40th Anniversary.
- Davidstown-Courtnacuddy on winning the Leinster Junior Hurling Championship with a victory over Clane.
- The staff and outdoor crew of the Enniscorthy Municipal District on a very successful Christmas switch-on event.
- Bernie Millar on qualifying for the Hyrox International Final 2026.

Sympathies:

- The members expressed sympathy to their friends in their Sister Cities town, Blacktown, Sydney following the recent tragedy on Bondi Beach.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy expressed sympathy to all those who have lost loved ones at Christmas time and called all assembled to observe a minute's silence.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:**1.1.1 Minutes of the November Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 18th November 2025**

On the proposal of Cllr Byrne, seconded by Cllr O'Rourke, the Minutes of the November Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 18th November 2025 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Matters Arising

- Cllr O'Rourke enquired if there was any response from Minister Murnane-O'Connor regarding her proposed visit to Enniscorthy.
- Cllr O'Rourke requested an update on the Columbarian Wall and the Outdoor Gym equipment.

District Manager Claire Lawless said there had been an acknowledgement received from the Minister's office but agreed to push for a response.

The tender documents are ready for the Columbarian Wall and will be advertised in the New Year.

There is currently no funding for the Outdoor Gym Equipment, but this can be looked at in 2026.

2.7 Flood Defence Report

Cathaoirleach allowed for a change in the running order to facilitate Mr Water's attendance at another meeting. The Flood Defence Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Mr Waters updated the meeting. The Public Consultation was well attended by members of the public and there was a lot of interest in the design of the bridge. Cllr Owens expressed frustration at the lack of progress.

2.1 Planning

The Planning reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted.

Executive planner David Wall attended on behalf of planning. Cllr Keogh raised the issue of the planning process where people are refused planning as the house size is too big for the site. This ends up being time consuming and costly for the applicant. Mr Wall agreed and said that the pre-planning process can avoid this situation and that workshops have been provided for architects so they should be aware of the criteria.

2.2 Community, Environment, Libraries & Fire Service

The Community, Environment, Libraries and Fire Service reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted and various issues discussed – in particular: -

- Dumping in Tombrack, Hospital Hill Bunclody, Ballyprecas
- Dog fouling in Enniscorthy
- Wheelie Bins left out on footpaths and streets
- Dumping in laneways
- CCTV blackspots
- Christmas Tree recycling

Executive Scientist Siobhan Murphy encouraged the members to report any known dumping blackspots as this will help to make a business case for CCTV. Ms Murphy said that Environment Section will be conducting a survey on lanes within the district. A survey was done in Templeshannon by the Environment Warden and the Traffic Warden a few months ago and households were advised not to leave bins out except on collection days. As the issue has been recurring Environment Section will work with the Enniscorthy MD on trying to find a better solution. There will be an advertising campaign in relation to the Christmas Tree recycling points. Ms Murphy will discuss the issue of dog fouling with the dog warden but pointed out that the onus is on dog owners to clean up after their dogs.

2.2.1 Presentation on Slaintecare Projects 2026

Ann Marie Laffan, Sláintecare, National Development Officer gave a presentation outlining the SCHCP areas and the projects that have been undertaken to date in particular work at Gimont and Forgelands and the work of the inter-agency Team. Projects for 2026 include Templeshannon Heritage and Folklore Project and Enniscorthy Newsletter.

The Councillors were unanimous in their support of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme and agreed that all the initiatives arising from the programme are making a visible impact.

2.3 Housing

The reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted. Senior Staff Officers Edel Nolan and Caroline Creane answered the members queries.

The members noted that there would be an information evening on the Affordable Housing Scheme (Cnoc na Greine) in Enniscorthy Castle on the evening of the 16th December.

2.4 Municipal District Report

Pairc Na Gabhar, Bunclody

A revised plan for Pairc Na Gabhar has been drawn up. The proposed development will now proceed to Part 8 Planning. It will be presented to Members early in the new year.

Enniscorthy Town CCTV Project

Works are progressing well on the project. Works will continue into the New Year.

Civil Works and Electrical Works are complete. Waiting on authorisation for access to Garda Communication Mast from Garda Headquarters. There have been some changes to the application process since we submitted the application so there has been a delay there.

Bunclody CCTV Project

Updated Garda Vetting Forms were requested from the Garda Commissioners office.

Awaiting authorisation from the Garda Commissioner.

Enniscorthy Digital Retail Village

The Enniscorthy Digital Retail Village (DRV) pilot scheme went live on Friday 9th December just in time for the busy Christmas period.

Funded as a pilot initiative by Wexford County Council's Local Enterprise Office and Enniscorthy Municipal District, the scheme brings local businesses together on one shared digital platform, enabling customers to purchase from multiple shops in a single transaction.

Participating retailers include Staffords Butcher Shop, Evolv Health and Wellbeing Store, Toyful, Authentic European Food Shop, Londis, Prep & Go Meals, Mahady Breen & Co, My Sport, Pet Depot, Meraki Greek Street Food, General Office and School Supplies, Reid's Off License, Gillen's Cafe and Meet Brazil.

All users within a 3km delivery radius of Enniscorthy Town Centre get free delivery.

Every purchase made through the Digital Retail Village directly benefits Enniscorthy's small businesses, helping them thrive and ensures that money spent locally continues to support local jobs and the future of Enniscorthy's small business community.

Sponsorship of Roundabouts – date extended.

Enniscorthy Municipal District seek *Expressions of Interest* for sponsorship of the landscaping and maintenance of Roundabouts in the Enniscorthy area as listed below.

Sponsorship of the roundabout will entitle the Sponsor to have defined advertising rights on the roundabout. Roundabouts offer an excellent promotional opportunity for businesses and organisations. At this point businesses and organisations are invited to register their interest in sponsorship, when the interested parties are identified a short meeting will be held to outline the Sponsorship Scheme Policy.

To Register:

Please send in the details of your company or organisation, the roundabout(s) you are interested in sponsoring and details of the person in your organisation who will attend the briefing meeting.

Expressions of Interest should be returned in a sealed envelope clearly marked:

“Expressions of Interest for Sponsorship of Roundabouts” to,

Enniscorthy Municipal District Office, Market Square, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford, Y21 W2V4 by 4:00pm on Friday 31st December 2025.

LIST OF ROUNDABOUTS - ENNISCORTHY

1. Blackstoops Roundabout R772,
2. Shingaun Roundabout R702
3. Bellfield Road Roundabout R702
4. Abbey Square Roundabout R744
5. Ross Road Roundabout L2028.

Festival Programme 2025

Christmas Light Switch on Events

Enniscorthy Christmas Light Switch On

A large crowd gathered in Enniscorthy for the Enniscorthy Christmas Lights switch on event.

Many thanks to Santa, Mrs Claus, the Elves, and characters from Rathnure Panto, and Martina Leacy's Dance Academy who provided festive fun with the parade leading up to the Market Square. Free kids face painting was popular on the day.

South East Radio broadcasted live from the Market Square from 3pm with local businesses going live on air to promote Enniscorthy and encouraging all to shop local this Christmas.

Free hot chocolate was offered to the first 50 customers who called into Warren Gillens Café and The Heavenly Café who mentioned the 'Enniscorthy Christmas Light Switch on'. Selection boxes were given out to the children at the event.

Many thanks to Enniscorthy MD staff for organising the event. The event is going from strength to strength each year. Thank you to An Garda Síochána and the Fire Brigade for assisting at the event.

Bunclody Christmas Light switch on

There was a great atmosphere in Bunclody for the Christmas lights switch on event which took place on Saturday 29th November. Santa Claus got a special escort from An Garda Síochána. Well done to the hard working committee who organised the event.

Best Christmas Window Display Competition

Enniscorthy Municipal District will host the Best Christmas Window Display Competition again for 2025.

Business owners in Enniscorthy, Ferns and Bunclody are invited to take part, as dressing windows for Christmas really helps to create a wonderful atmosphere in our towns and villages.

The prizes for the winning entries are:-

1st Prize €200 Wexford Chamber Shop Local Gift Card

2nd Prize €100 Wexford Chamber Shop Local Gift Card

3rd Prize €50 Wexford Chamber Shop Local Gift Card

The winning entries with the WOW factor will be announced on Friday 19th December.

Please register your interest in entering the competition by emailing emdreception@wexfordcoco.ie

Best of Luck to all!

SANTA'S ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS – THE NATIONAL 1798 REBELLION CENTRE

Enniscorthy Municipal District are delighted to support Santa's Enchanted Christmas.

Last chance to get your tickets. The event will run from until Saturday 23rd December.

Spaces are filling fast. 2429 tickets sold to date. Don't miss out on this magical experience.

Bookings are also open to visit Santa Paws with your furry friends.

Book now: <https://santasenchantedchristmas.ie>

Public Survey - What 'type' of town is Enniscorthy? What is our 'brand'?

Enniscorthy Tidy Towns (ETT) has received feedback from tidy towns judges that when approaching Enniscorthy, it is difficult to get a sense of what 'type' of town we are - they questioned what is our towns 'brand'?

ETT has prepared survey in link below to get your views on what 'type' of town you consider Enniscorthy to be. The survey is open to all members of the public so please share widely. The more responses the better our action plan to address this issue will be!

[Public Survey - What 'type' of town is Enniscorthy? What is our 'brand'? – Fill out form](#)

Out of Hours Emergency Council Phone Number for Christmas period

The out of hours Emergency Contact number of 053 919 6000 will continue to operate throughout the Christmas period including weekends and evenings.

2.5 Roads Report.

The Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. The members raised some concerns in particular: -

- Lights at Gaelscoil
- Parking at the corner of Ross Road & Patrick Street
- School parking at St Aidans
- Ramp at Parnell Road/Wafer Street junction
- R730 Killealy Balmorris Cross
- Parking on double yellow lines at Irish Street.
- Roundabout in Bunclody

Executive Engineer Neil Dempsey advised that he would look at the lights at Gaelscoil and fix same. Line marking is needed at the Ross Road to define parking areas. Re school parking, it has been necessary to maintain access to some residences and at school time these are being used as parking spaces. Re Wafer Street junction and the ramp at Parnell Road end, the rationale of the design is to slow the traffic down. No one should be going through the junction so fast that the speed ramp is a problem. There will be another speed ramp outside Gus Byrnes after Christmas, and this will further slow the traffic. There has been lots of praise for the new pavements and drop kerbs.

Regarding accident blackspots the Roads Section are not always notified of accidents and therefore are not aware of issues. It is important that these issues are brought to the attention of the Engineer so that they can build up a knowledge of what is going on.

Traffic warden will be advised to increase patrol of Irish Street.

The issue of poor lighting at the Pedestrian Crossing on Slaney Street was raised.

Cllr Murphy raised concerns about trip hazards on paths in Bunclody. Mr Dempsey will do a walkaround in early 2026 to survey this. Cllr Murphy also requested traffic lights on the roundabout in Bunclody to ease congestion.

Mr Dempsey advised that the Killealy Road is on the list for resurfacing in 2026.

At 10:54 Cllr Owens left the meeting.

2.5.1 Update on Road Traffic (Special Speed Limit)

David Codd, Road Safety Officer, updated the members on the next steps to implementing the SSLs and the timelines involved. He answered the members queries on the proposals with particular reference to N80 and the 30km speed limit in urban centres.

2.7 Special Projects.

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

2.8 Festival Funding 2026

The proposed Festival Funding allocations were circulated to the members. On the proposal of Cllr O'Rourke seconded by Cllr Browne the Festival Funding allocations were agreed and adopted by the members.

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

None.

4. Correspondence

The District Manager advised that the Blacktown Delegation will visit from 15th to 21st March 2026. She will draw up an itinerary for approval by the Members.

5. Any Other Business

It was proposed by Cllr Byrne and seconded by Cllr Kehoe to suspend the Standing Orders on this meeting at **11:09 am** to discuss the Proposed Variation Number 1 to the County Development Plan 2022-2028 - Land Use Zoning and Objectives for Enniscorthy

Cathaoirleach Cllr Murphy confirmed the suspension of Standing Orders and welcomed the members of the Planning Department in attendance regarding the Proposed Variation No.1 to the County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Ms. Liz Hore introduced the Planning Team present and advised the Members of the requirement to vary the current County Development Plan (CDP) so as to align the Plan with the revised housing growth targets as set out by the Minister for Housing earlier this year. Ms. Hore confirmed that Part 3 of the new Planning and Development Act 2024 was due to come into effect today, therefore the proposed variation would be proceeding under this legislation. Ms. Hore advised that a Special Meeting of Wexford County Council will take place on the 26th of January 2026 to formally commence the variation process.

Mr. Diarmuid Houston, Senior Planner gave a presentation on the requirement for and process of varying the CPD, noting the following items:

- The target for the county has risen from a figure of 1072 units per annum to 1622 to 2034, with 50% headroom.
- The timeframe for the variation process is quite short.
- The variation to the CDP is an opportunity to prepare an ambitious plan for Enniscorthy that will identify objectives in terms of infrastructure required and that will zone additional land to support the development of Enniscorthy and the associated increase in population.
- The variation maps will be presented to the Council Members at the Special Meeting in January, after which they will go out to public consultation for submissions, for a period of 4 weeks.
- Any conflicts of interest in terms of submissions made should be declared from the outset.

Mr. Houston presented the draft zoning maps and advised that it is proposed to over-zone Enniscorthy to support the ambitious plan for the town. Mr. Houston identified the areas where the zoning has changed, advised of the justification for these changes and also highlighted the areas where it is proposed to zone further.

The draft maps were reviewed, with the following discussed:

- The increase in industrial zoning was welcomed as there is a severe shortage of industrial land in the county.
- Members placed emphasis on the need to create communities and not just houses.
- A site for a new primary school has been identified in the draft zoning map and the Members welcomed this, while also pointing out that further educational facilities would be needed if the population was to grow at its current rate as all schools are currently full to capacity and students are currently travelling outside of the parish to attend school.
- The zoning of land for a proposed greenway was welcomed and Members asked that emphasis be placed on developing parks and green spaces also.
- Waste-water capacity was highlighted as being an issue but Mr. Houston advised that if the land is not zoned the infrastructure will not follow.
- The new Planning legislation allows for 10-year CDPs going forward and it may be necessary to proceed with a variation of the current CDP to extend its lifespan from 6 to 10 years. A decision will be made on that in the future.
- If there is a conflict of interest in terms of submissions regarding zoning of land Members are to notify the County Secretary who will advise as to how to proceed.
- Road networks will be funded through development contributions and regional funding.
- There is requirement for a by-pass to avoid congestion in the town.
- Further services, such as GPs and pharmacies, are required to make the town more attractive.

Cllr Murphy and Ms. Hore emphasised the importance of making members of the public aware of the upcoming consultation period in which submissions can be made. Ms. Hore advised that it is hoped that the consultation period will commence at the start of February and run for a period of four weeks.

Cllr Murphy thanked the members of the Planning Team for their work on the variation to date.

This concluded matters at 1:15 pm

Barbara Anne Murphy

CATHAOIRLEACH

20th January 2026

DATE