

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE
PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON TUESDAY,
25TH MARCH at 9.30 a.m.**

Attendance:

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

Officials: Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Service
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Manager
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Ms. Edel Nolan, Senior Staff Officer
Ms. Barbara Nolan, Staff Officer
Mr. Marcus Linehan, Executive Planner
Mr. Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer, Planning
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer
Mr. David Whitty, Executive Engineer, Special Projects
Mr Liam O Donovan, Community Safety Co Ordinator

Via Teams: Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer
Mr. Mark Devereux, Snr Executive Engineer, Housing
Capital

Apologies: Ms Siobhan Murphy, Executive Scientist.

Congratulations:

Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne wished Ms Edel Nolan the best of luck in her new role and thanked her for her hard work in the Enniscorthy District. Cllr Owens, Cllr Murphy, Cllr O'Rourke and Cllr Kehoe added their good wishes.

Caithaoirleach Cllr Browne congratulated all involved in the three St Patrick's Day parades, in particular the Killealy Parade for a great show and a very good community effort. Cllr Owens requested that we review the position of the viewing stand in the Enniscorthy Parade. It was agreed that this could be reviewed for next year. Cllr Kehoe congratulated all involved in the Bunclody parade for a great turnout.

Cllr Owens congratulated Paul & James Nolan for their success at Cheltenham.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne congratulated the Wexford Football League on their 2:1 victory over Waterford in the Oscar Traynor Trophy semi-final in Ferrycarrig Park.

Votes of Sympathy:

The Members expressed their sincere sympathies to the following: -

- The McManus family, Ballindagin on the passing of Sarah McManus
- The O'Toole family, Knockduff on the passing of Martin O'Toole
- The Larkin family, Monageer, on the passing of Breda Larkin
- The Hendrick family, Enniscorthy, on the passing of Francis Hendrick

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the February Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 18th February 2025

On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Kehoe, the Minutes of the February Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 18th February 2025 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Matters Arising

Cllr. Owens requested an update on the Murphy Floods site. Director of Services explained that the proposal for resurfacing site, planting and steps to Market Square had been put out to tender, but none had been received. It is a busy time for construction. Hopefully a contractor will be sourced soon, and the works can commence. Cllr. Owens pressed for a timeframe. Director of Services stated it is not possible to give a definite time frame.

Cllr Kehoe questioned should the site be put on the market. Director of Services informed the members that an auctioneer had been appointed to value the site for the open market.

Cllr Kehoe requested an update on pedestrianisation of Rafter Street.

2. Consideration of Reports & Recommendations:

2.1 Planning

The Planning reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted. The members put forward several queries and concerns in particular:-

- Former convent at Templeshannon – is there a plan for this building following the exemption by Wexford County Council?
- Protected structures – what is the policy?
- Discussion of the pre-planning process and the reduced time-frame for applicants.
- Interim review of County Development plan.

The Executive Planner answered the members queries and agreed to circulate legislation regarding protected structures.

2.1.1 Taking in Charge Programme 2025 Update

Tom Banville, SEO of Planning gave a presentation on the status of the Taking in Charge Programme 2025.

- Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne requested the full list of the 27 estates on the DPI priority list.
- Cllr Owens questioned how The Paddocks is not on the DPI list as it was constructed 30 years ago. It was explained that there were issues with the developer about outstanding works to be done to bring it up to standard.
- Cllr Murphy questioned the other estates which are not included in the 27 and how estates are prioritised.
- Tom Banville explained the rationale behind prioritising those which are closer to assets and serve a bigger area and that the more complicated the connection the further down the list.
- Cllr Murphy commented that this meant that the more troublesome ones won't be done, and these will have a bigger environmental impact further down the line.
- Cllr Kehoe asked about utilising new and more sophisticated one-off percolation systems to facilitate rural development where Uisce Eireann can't assist. Tom Banville agreed to report back on this.

2.2 Community, Environment, Libraries & Fire Service

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

Cllr Murphy queried was there any plan for litter picking on the N80 as it looks very bad again and a lot of people had complained to her. Neil Dempsey stated that in relation to N80 there was no budget for litter picking and that the current focus was on cutting overhanging trees and hedging.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne asked for an update on CCTV usage for catching individuals dumping.

Director of Services updated the meeting that the legislation is now in place and will be implemented but that the Council would have to show that all other options had been carried out before CCTV is used.

Cllr O'Rourke commented that it is ironic that the bin companies are increasing their charges but are not taking a proactive approach against dumping. People are required to leave their bins out from the night before, but this means that they are accessible to people for dumping. He commended the Tidy Towns for the excellent work that they do.

Cllr Kehoe also commended all the volunteers who helped clean up but expressed frustration regarding the CCTV rules regarding exhausting every avenue.

Cllr Owens asked could bin companies be prevented from collecting during the day in the town outside restaurants and shops etc. The District Manager confirmed that

the bollards and enforcement of Bye Laws on Rafter Street will prevent this practice in future.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne commented on Marconi Park and commended Ashley Redmond (HLO) for the great work but said it needs to be looked at again. Could environment interact with schools, and could we be more creative with our messaging?

Director of Service Ms Godkin confirmed that Cliona Connolly the Environmental Officer works very closely with schools in Co Wexford to deliver this message.

Cllr Owens expressed concern about vacant properties while they are awaiting pre-let repairs. They become a target for dumping and could the process be speeded up.

Cllr Murphy proposed another mattress, sofa and paint collection in Enniscorthy this summer, and that this should happen on a regular basis. This was seconded by Cllr Owens.

Cathaoirleach Browne at this juncture called for a break in the meeting to allow for tea 10.28am. Meeting resumed at 10.41am.

2.2.1 Community Safety Coordinator presentation

Mr. Liam O'Donovan, Community Safety Coordinator gave a presentation to the meeting and took questions from the Councillors.

Cllr Murphy queried how this would work better than the JPC.

Mr O' Donovan explained that it is focused on action and accountability and is not aspirational. There will be more agencies involved than in JPC and it will be subject to review. ASB will be tackled with a multi-disciplinary approach, but it won't solve everything.

Cllr Kehoe asked about the three-month gaps between meetings and was there capacity to convene emergency committee of the forum if there was ongoing Anti Social Behaviour. Mr O'Donovan replied that this is a more strategic approach to Anti Social Behaviour and any serious incidents should be reported to the Gardaí.

Director of Services commented that the inter-agency approach is hugely valuable.

2.3 Housing

The reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted. Ms. Roseanne Redmond Senior Staff Officer and Mr. Mark Devereux Senior Executive Engineer answered questions from the members in relation to the report in particular:-

- Provision of 1 and 2 bed units in Enniscorthy
- Inclusion of transfer applications in housing need figures
- Retrofitting of Tigíns in the halting site in Bunclody.
- Site and survey costings for the Lyre.
- Archaeological surveys

- Increased capacity for rural development due to Uisce Eireann combined systems and diversions.
- Timeframe for turnaround of vacant properties.
- Length of time to process housing applications.
- One-off housing solutions for rural housing with stand-alone systems.

Ms. Redmond to revert to members in relation to Tigíns and processing time for social housing applications. Mr. Devereux to keep members updated on how Uisce Eireann diversions could help with rural housing development.

2.4 Municipal District Report

The Municipal District report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Murphy Floods Site

A tender was issued, on the 7th February, for the Design & build of a new Car Park facility with public realm elements and associated site works at Murphy Floods Site with a closing date of 14th March 2025. No tender applications were received by the closing date.

Estate Agents have been appointed to carry out a valuation and market assessment of this site with an expected lead time of approximately 1 month for the delivery of same.

St Johns Activity Garden

The Contractor will be back on-site next week to commence completing the works now that the special Granite and Cladding has arrived. This project is on schedule to be completed in June this year.

Public Payphone Upgrade

The public payphone and digital screen are now in operation.

Broadband/Wi-Fi can be installed but Enniscorthy MD need to set up a separate account with a broadband provider to do this. Quotes to be sought for same.

The digital screen will be used to promote upcoming events in Enniscorthy Municipal District and across the county.

Rafter Street Bollards

New recessed bollard mounts and bollards have been received from Hartecast Ltd., and these will be installed shortly.

This will allow us to strictly enforce the pedestrianisation of Rafter Street. New Signage will also be erected stating current byelaw times.

Depot for the Town Crew

Work has almost finished on the refurbishment of part of a building at the back of the library to form a permanent welfare facility for our town crew. This work commenced on the 13th February and consisted of installing new flooring and wall partition, toilet, shower and drying room along with kitchenette to facilitate welfare of our town crews. The only item remaining to be completed is to freshen up the unit through painting.

Grass cutting Enniscorthy MD

Our Grass cutting contract has commenced once again this year. Roark Horticultural services will be carrying out the grass cutting and parks and maintenance contract. The combined area of grass cutting is approximately 40 acres and covers public areas inside the Enniscorthy Town boundary.

Historical Town Initiative Slaney Street Project

The final shop front at no 29 Slaney Street, *Crystal Script*, has been completed under this project scheme.

This shop front had remained incomplete, as there was a considerable of structural support work required to support the existing façade, before the shop front could be installed.

1798 Centre

Consultants John Creed and Associates and a contractor have been engaged to look at, and design repair options, for the replacement of the roof truss timbers on the south gable of the 1798 centre.

This external wooden truss has been subjected to wet rot over the years and will need to be replaced.

Amenity & Arts Grants and Residents Associations Grant Scheme 2025

The total number of application received under the Amenity & Arts Grants Residents Associations Grant Scheme 2025 is as follows:-

2025 Amenity & Arts Grant Scheme	88
2025 Residents Association Grant Scheme	21

The overall allocation for 2025 for the Amenity and Arts Grant is €60,000 and €15,000 for the Residents Association Grants.

Agreement to be made on division of funding by Elected Members at the March meeting.

Brooklyn Bench

An information sign has been erected at the Brooklyn Bench located on the Slaney Nature Trail , Island Road.

CCTV Scheme Enniscorthy

A site visit was carried out by civil works installer last week. Awaiting start date to commence works.

CCTV Scheme Bunclody

Bunclody CCTV Scheme is still awaiting Section 38 Approval from Garda.

Wooden Pillars Installation

Enniscorthy Municipal District installed wooden artwork pieces at the promenade and also at Slaney Nature Trail, Island Road.

The pillars promote the flora and fauna along the walk.

The pillars were made by the Men's Shed with metal inserts completed by Noel McCormack and are a great addition to the area.

Festivals and Events

Enniscorthy's New Community All Weather Astro Pitch Officially Opened

The official opening of the new All Weather Astro facility in Enniscorthy was performed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Minister James Browne and the Cathaoirleach of Enniscorthy Municipal District, Councillor Aidan Browne on Monday 24th February.

The Astro pitch, located at the Ross Road, offers a top-quality, all-weather playing surface suitable for a variety of sports. The facility features modern amenities, including floodlights for evening play, dugouts and toilet facilities.

Wexford County Council signed a Management and Operations Contract, on a two-year pilot basis, with the newly formed community group, Wexford Football Alliance, which includes members of the Wexford Football League, Wexford Schoolboys

League, Wexford Women's League including Schoolgirls and Wexford FC. The innovative approach of this facility is also supported by the FAI.

A new online booking system will go live in the coming weeks.

St. Patricks Day Parade 2025

The 2025 Enniscorthy St Patricks day parade was a great success with a great turn out on the day as 28 groups and 700 people taking part the parade. The Grand Marshall on the day was Sinead Wall.

Many thanks to David Martin, Event Co-Ordinator and to all committee members who give up their spare time for the benefit of the town.

St Patricks Day Parade Committee in association with Cottage Autism Network were delighted to introduce a Sensory Inclusion Street on Templeshannoon Quay between the old and the new bridge. This area is for people of different abilities to access the parade in an environment which is safe and sensitive to their needs.

Thank you to the staff of Enniscorthy Municipal District and Wexford County Council who assisted with the event.

The Theme for this year parade was 'Love your Tribe' and attracted a number of cultures within the community to show off their traditional colours and customs.

Enniscorthy Municipal District, Wexford County Council sponsored prizes for the St. Patricks Day festival this year. The winners of three prizes are as follows:-

€250 Enniscorthy Indian Association

€250 Slaney Farms

€250 Revive and Thrive for the best Business Window Display

Deryn O'Callaghan, Enniscorthy Creative Places kindly organised a creative workshop with 'Love your Tribe' as the theme with Lyn Haughton and Mary Doyle for this years parade.

Live music performances from Ballindaggin Pipe Band, Celtic Routes, Enniscorthy Indian Community and South East Rock N Roll Club were held in the Market Square following the parade.

Easter Monday – 21st April

The Easter Monday Event with the celebration of mass will take place in the Cathedral at 10am followed by a procession to Market Square. Further details along with the running order of the event will be circulated in due course.

- Cathaoirleach Cllr Brown welcomed the Brooklyn information sign and new wooden pillars in the town.
- Cllr Murphy asked for an update on payphone in Bunclody. District Manager Claire Lawless said that she is in discussions with a contractor about options including a digital screen and defibrillator
- Bunclody Placemaking Project will come to the April meeting to give a presentation.
- Cllr Kehoe enquired about costing automatic bollards as manual bollards are not ideal. In the long run there would be a cost saving as no staff would be needed to operate. They could be operated by an app and the emergency services could access this also.
- Director of Services explained that this is not straightforward but could certainly be looked at.
- Claire Lawless said that the bollards would be installed shortly.

On the proposal of Cllr. Owens, seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke it was agreed to suspend the Standing Orders for a further ten minutes to allow the meeting to continue.

2.5 Roads Report.

The Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Cllr Murphy praised the roads section on the great work being done. Mr Neil Dempsey Executive Engineer answered questions from the members in relation to the report in particular:-

- Resurfacing of road from BallyCarney to Bree – not within budget.
- The Bridge at Still Point – due for surface dressing and line marking
- Reinstatement of yellow lines at Pearse Road – Engineer will follow up.
- New speed limit signs – signs have been replaced like for like and all local roads are now 60km per hour.
- Spring Valley speed ramps – contractor starting work next week
- The practice of placing cones on the street to secure parking in front of shops is not acceptable. Mr Dempsey to instruct roads crews to remove any such barriers. Reports to be logged on complaints system and a crew can be dispatched.

2.6 Flood Defence Scheme Report.

The Flood Defence Scheme Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Cllr Owens stated that people living on Island Road cannot get insurance against flood – they need a flood defence.

Larry McHale said that the removal of Seamus Rafter Bridge is important and that there would be a public consultation in early May. The OPW and the Minister support the scheme, and we should move on with it and investigate environmental issues. The proposal offers some level of flood relief. There will be a public consultation on

this, and the format is to invite Councillors in prior to the general public. Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne confirmed that this will be 7th/8th May and that all local businesses will be invited.

2.7 Special Projects.

David Whitty attended on behalf of Special Projects.

- The members were updated in relation to Castle Quarter. WCC to meet with National Monument Service who are positive about the plans. The archive design team are to include an exhibition space in the castle.
- Special Projects and the District Manager are due to meet with sports clubs to discuss proposed works at Enniscorthy Athletics Track.
- Cllr Owens asked about Templeshannon. David Whitty said that The Templeshannon Regeneration Project will be an agenda item at the April meeting.
- Cllr Murphy asked about Bunclody Park – have we acquired the land? The District Manager said she would investigate this.
- Cllr O'Rourke enquired how much it cost to purchase Old Castle Night Club. David Whitty said that he would ask property section to communicate direct on that.
- Cllr Browne asked about the Enniscorthy North Business Park and said that there was huge potential there for development and would create a lot of employment for the town. Cllr Murphy agreed that there is a need for an industrial area and the Enniscorthy North Business Park is ideal. Cllr Kehoe agreed but said there are traffic management issues in this area.

On the proposal of Cllr. Owens, seconded by Cllr. Keogh it was agreed to suspend the Standing Orders for a further ten minutes to allow the meeting to continue.

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

None

4. Correspondence.

None

5. Any Other Business.

Cathaorleach Cllr Browne wished Seamus Kinsella (former Town Foreman) well in his new position and thanked him for his service. He also wished his replacement Brian O'Neill every success in the role. This was supported by all the councillors.

At this junction the members of the press present were asked to leave the chamber.

This concluded the business of the Meeting at 1.00 pm.

Aidan Browne

CATHAOIRLEACH

15th April 2025

DATE