

**MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE
PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON TUESDAY,
20TH MAY 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. Eileen Morrissey, A/Director of Service
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Manager
Ms. Barbara Nolan, Staff Officer
Mr. Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms Siobhan Murphy, Executive Scientist.
Mr. Marcus Linehan, Executive Planner
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer
Ms. Siobhan Lynn, Administrative Officer, Roads

Via Teams:

Ms. Edel Nolan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Ms. Angela Finn, Senior Staff Officer, Housing Capital

Apologies:

Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer

Votes of Sympathy:

The Members expressed their sincere sympathies to the following: -

- The Doyle family of Moran Park on the passing of Aidan (Eddie) Doyle
- The Fortune family on the sad passing of Mark Fortune
- The Kelly family on the passing of Hayden Kelly
- The Keogh family on the passing of Bernadette Keogh
- The Shannon family, Gimont on the passing of Lawrence.
- The Dillane family on the passing of Ivy Dillane (nee Bolger).

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the April Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 15th April 2025

On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Kehoe, the Minutes of the April Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 15th April 2025 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Matters Arising

Cllr Owens asked about the proposed Civic Reception for the Wexford Football League team to mark their success in winning the Oscar Traynor Trophy. District Manager advised that date for the reception to be confirmed.

Cllr Murphy noted the completion of the recent bus link survey - 10% of the town population participated which looks good for getting a bus service for the town.

2. Consideration of Reports & Recommendations:

2.1 Planning

The Planning reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted. The Members wished Executive Planner Marcus Linehan the best of luck as he moves on to a new role and thanked him for service to the Enniscorthy Municipal District.

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:-

- Ongoing dumping hotspots
- CCTV
- Control of Dogs – concern expressed about the low level of fines for 2025 given the untold damage that dogs can do to livestock
- Burial wall at Enniscorthy graveyard
- Road sweeper for Ferns

Executive Scientist Siobhan Murphy responded to the Members queries and advised that CCTV will not be in place until later in the year. She encouraged the reporting of dumping, and these reports will be responded to by Environment Section in due course. She agreed to highlight the dumping at Patricks Street/Place with the Environment team so they can list it as a hotspot. The statistics available regarding dog fines are for the first quarter and a new dog warden will be appointed soon.

Ms Murphy confirmed that there are now funds in place for a Mattress/Furniture amnesty which will be announced sometime in the Autumn.

It was proposed by Cllr O'Rourke and Seconded by Cllr Browne that Enniscorthy be a test site for the burial wall.

The Members praised the work of the Enniscorthy Fire Service for their efforts at the recent fire in Tara Hill.

Eileen Morrissey, County Librarian, updated the meeting on Enniscorthy & Bunclody libraries. Libraries are ready for a busy summer season with the Summer Reading Programme which incorporates a reading adventure with focused library events. My Little Library Bags is a scheme that gifts books to children who are starting school in September with the aim of encouraging lifelong love of reading and use of libraries. For adults the libraries are offering a Skills for Life course in conjunction with the WWETB which focuses on a range of adult literacy challenges including digital, financial and media literacy. Ms Morrissey said that both Enniscorthy and Bunclody libraries are vibrant busy spaces and are open six days a week.

The members complimented the library services and discussed ways to target adults most in need of literacy services.

2.2.1. Presentation by Creative Places, Enniscorthy

Deryn O'Callaghan from Creative Places, gave a presentation on the above and answered questions from the Councillors. All the Councillors were supportive and complimented the work so far and discussed how to keep the project going as currently there is 18 months left on the project. Ms O'Callaghan confirmed that efforts will be ongoing to secure further funding to continue the project.

Eileen Morrissey said that Wexford County Council through the Arts Department and Enniscorthy Municipal District are very committed to the programme. Creative Places is a national programme and Enniscorthy is one of the most successful. The Council is optimistic that a new funding stream will be in place soon.

2.3 Housing

The reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted. Ms. Edel Nolan and Ms. Angela Finn responded to questions and comments from the members in relation to the report in particular:-

- Funding for energy upgrades on housing stock
- The Lyre
- Affordable Housing schemes and possibility of Affordable Sites
- Choice Based Lettings
- Out of hours service (Voxpro)
- DPA grants
- More detailed reports of Housing need (breakdown of 1 x bed/2 x bed).

Ms Nolan agreed to revert to the Housing Engineer on the issue of energy upgrades on houses that have already been assessed.

Ms Morrissey agreed that there are concerns about the Out of Hours service and this is being reviewed at Management level.

It was agreed to update the Members with a detailed breakdown of housing need for the July meeting.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne at this juncture called for a break in the meeting to allow for tea at 10:43 am. The Meeting resumed at 10:58 am.

2.4 Municipal District Report

Murphy Floods Site

A valuation on the site has been received in the order of €280,000. It is recommended that the site be placed on the market subject to a development clause. The valuation stated that the current viability of the site would be challenging from a development perspective due to development costs.

In the interim Enniscorthy MD will proceed with installing a temporary car park at the site.

Unauthorised Placement of Advertising Structures

Enniscorthy Municipal District has issued correspondence to businesses in the town to advise that the use of advertising structures on or along public paths and roadways is not permitted.

The unauthorised use of advertisement structures including sandwich boards and bollard sleeves can cause difficulties for the public, particularly those with visual impairments and people relying on mechanised support for mobility. These structures also detract from the presentation of the town centre.

Unauthorised structures including sandwich boards and bollard sleeves are subject to the provisions of the Planning and Development Acts, The Litter Acts and the Roads Acts.

Business have been requested to reconsider the use of these structures, discontinue and remove the structures without the need for further involvement of the Council.

Unauthorised structures which remain in place after the 31st May, 2025 will without any further notice be removed by Wexford County Council.

No undertaking is given in respect of items removed, Wexford County Council will not be responsible for storing nor for any damage arising and may attach costs for storage or retrieval.

Pedestrianisation Rafter Street

The pedestrianisation of Rafter Street has been strictly enforced from the 12th May between the hours of 10.00am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday as per Bye-Laws.

New signage has been erected, and new bollards have been installed. These will be operated by Wexford County Council and Emergency Services will have a code for the lockbox in the event of an emergency.

The enforcement of the pedestrianisation of Rafter Street will improve pedestrian safety and create a more appealing space for residents, customers and visitors to enjoy.

CCTV Enniscorthy

Meeting with Civils Contractor took place on 14th May. Works will commence shortly. The CCTV installer has been booked to follow civils works.

Enniscorthy Municipal District Shopfront Painting & Flower Grant Scheme 2025

Closing date for application for the Shopfront Painting & Flower Grant Scheme 2025 is 20th May . The number of applications received to date is as follows:-

7 Shopfront Painting

6 Flower Grant Scheme

4 Beach Bus Services subsidised by Wexford County Council & the NTA in partnership with Local Link

Beach bus services for summer of 2025

- Enniscorthy to Curracloe- €2/adult, €1/child, €5/family(2 adults & 2 Children) charged each way
- Wexford to Curracloe - €2/adult, €1/child, €5/family(2 adults & 2 Children) charged each way
- Kilmuckridge to Morriscastle - Free
- Gorey to Ballymoney- €2/adult, €1/child, €5/family(2 adults & 2 Children) charged each way

This has been a very positive initiative for many reasons including carbon savings; freeing up car park spaces at beaches and making beaches accessible to those who may not have access to transport.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2025

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2025 was launched by Minister Calleary on Wednesday 19 March 2025.

Applications prepared and submitted by Enniscorthy Municipal District under the scheme are as follows:

- Pairc na Gabhair Bunclody
- Bunclody Park

- Ballyhogue Community Centre – Old Post Office Ballyhogue

Funding was received in 2023 to purchase the Ballyhogue Post Office under the Building Acquisition Measure of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. An application has been submitted under the 2025 scheme to convert building to a centre for community use.

More details to follow if applications are successful.

Street Cleaning

A Contractor will commence street cleaning in the main areas of the town in the coming weeks.

Pairc Na Gabhar Buncldy

Public Consultation event took place on Wednesday 16th April in St. Aidan's Hall Buncldy. All comments were taken on board. The Part 8 Planning was lodged on the 28th April.

Applications have been submitted for funding to the Community Recognition Fund Scheme and the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. If the funding applications are successful, the project will be progressed further.

European Year of the Normans 2027 Festival and Events

The President of Normandy is hosting an International Programme of Events in 2027. The French and the Normandy Region are intent on making 2027 a memorable year throughout Europe and it is important that County Wexford is involved. It will be a superb opportunity to promote our Norman Heritage and tell the Norman story on a massive stage. Enniscorthy Municipal District has formed a sub-committee to discuss Norman Programme of events for the District. A funding application will be submitted to host the events.

Fleadh Cheoil Fringe Events

Enniscorthy Municipal District will host a series of Fleadh Cheoil Fringe events at the following locations in May and June.

30th May 5pm. Craobh Chaoimhín Naofa CCÉ Buncldy Comhaltas @ The Mall, Buncldy

22nd June 12pm-5pm Live Music Enniscorthy Comhaltas, Fr Murphy Comhaltas Boolavogue, 'Rebellion Day' @ National 1798 Rebellion Centre, Enniscorthy

4th July @ 7pm Ferns Comhaltas, Open Air Session Ferns Castle & The Thatch Bar Ferns.

4th-6th July Enniscorthy Irish Folk and Ballad Festival @ Treacys Hotel & The Whitehouse Bar.

The Enniscorthy Street Rhythms Dance Festival

The Enniscorthy Street Rhythms Dance festival takes place in the Market Square and Enniscorthy Castle on the 31st May and 1st June. The festival is a celebration of music, dance, creativity and nature for all ages featuring sustainability & biodiversity talks, workshops and stalls.

Commemorating the 109th anniversary of the 1916 Rising

The Annual Easter Monday commemoration took place on Monday 21st April.

The Reserve Defence Forces provided a Colour Party that led the parade to the Market Square. The event was attended by the Ballindaggin Pipe Band, Enniscorthy Historical Re-Enactment Society, Martina Leacy's School of Dance, Judy Heffernan, Anthony Nolan.

Many thanks to the Sub-Committee for organising the event.

Faile Ireland Networking Event

Grow Your Tourism Business at Our North Wexford Networking Event

This collaborative event between Ireland's Ancient East and Visit Wexford is designed to help you build valuable connections and unlock Wexford's tourism potential.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Wednesday, May 28th, 2025
- **Time:** 9:30am registration, 10:00am-1:30pm programme
- **Location:** Wells House & Gardens Ballyedmond, Gorey, Co Wexford Y25 CF96
- **Cost:** Free to attend

[**Register Now**](#)

Event Highlights:

- Updates from Fáilte Ireland and Visit Wexford
- Information session on tourism destination collaboration
- Facilitated networking opportunities
- Light lunch included

Who Should Attend?

Tourism business owners, managers, marketing professionals, event planners, tour operators, guides, community leaders, and anyone passionate about showcasing Wexford.

District Manager Claire Lawless answered questions and queries from the Members as follows:-

- While it was acknowledged by the Members that the Sandwich Boards and other advertising present a hazard it was agreed that businesses need to be supported with alternative forms of advertising. The District Manager is looking at alternatives and will be liaising with business owners.
- A deep-clean of streets and footpaths in Enniscorthy will commence in the coming week. Cllr Murphy requested that this be extended to Bunclody.
- Update on CCTV scheme for Bunclody. District Manager to get a timeline.
- A query was raised about level of occupancy of Senan House and does it need to be promoted more. District Manager to query this and get back to the Members.
- Due to the low numbers of applications received it was agreed to extend the closing date for the Shop Front Improvement Grant to 10th June 2025.

There followed a brief presentation from Senior Executive Engineer, Neville Shaw on the revised plan for the Murphy Floods Site. Mr Shaw answered the Members questions on same in particular

- Toilet facilities
- Perimeter fencing
- Parking spaces
- Installation of electrics for possible future use by stall holders
- Addition of more seating and lighting

The District Manager agreed to liaise with the Farmers Market to gauge interest in moving to the site in the future.

2.5 Roads Report.

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

- Cutting of hedgerows at dangerous junctions
- Kilmacthomas Cross – line markings
- Potholes at Ard Uise, Drumgould and at the allotment by the bottle bank
- Exit to road at Petits Car Park
- Crossing at St Aidan's School

Mr Shaw agreed to revert to Mr Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer, Roads on their queries.

2.5.1 Update on Millpark Road Carpark

Ms Siobhan Lynn, Administrative Officer, Roads Section, updated the members on the background and current situation in relation to the carpark. The members expressed disappointment that they had not been informed about the closure of the carpark as, had they been informed, they would have been better placed to answer questions from the public. It was agreed that the car park as things stand, is not economically viable. It was queried if permits could be issued for business owners to use the car park to free up spaces in the town centre. It was agreed to re-open discussions with the property owners and revert to the members.

2.6 Special Projects.

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

2.6 Flood Defence Scheme Report.

The Flood Defence Scheme Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Project Engineer, Larry McHale reported that the Public Consultation Day was held on Tuesday 13th May. About 70 members of the public attended as well as Elected Members and staff. There is a Consultation Portal on the website and the closing date to make submissions is 10th June 2025. Phase 1 of the scheme is removal of Seamus Rafter Bridge and that will alleviate the risk of flooding in the town. Mr McHale is confident that they will get approval for Phase 1. The Minister has confirmed the funding. Wexford County Council are in a good position to move this project forward.

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

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

- 3.1 "Declaring a Public Road" (Taking in Charge) of Forgelands, Units 1-84 & 118-125, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford

Proposed by Cllr Keogh, **Seconded** by Cllr Murphy

- 3.2 "Declaring a Public Road" (Taking in Charge) of Forgelands, Units 85-112, 112a, 114-117 & 126-135, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

Proposed by Cllr Owens, **Seconded** by Cllr Murphy

4. Correspondence.

A request has been received from Paddy Wildes, Captain Wafer Hall Committee for a deputation to meet with the members to discuss Templeshannon. It was agreed that the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach meet with Mr Wildes.

5. Any Other Business.

5.1 Proposed Date and Time for Annual General Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Owens and seconded by Cllr Keogh that the Annual General Meeting of the Enniscorthy Municipal District be held on Monday 23rd June 2025 at 10:00 am at the Presentation Centre.

This concluded the business of the Meeting at 12:15 pm.

Aidan Browne

CATHAOIRLEACH

17th June 2025

DATE