

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF
THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE
PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON TUESDAY,
21ST OCTOBER 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. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Service
Ms. Lynda Lacey, Director of Finance & ICT
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Manager
Ms. Barbara Nolan, Staff Officer
Ms. Lisa Moore, Assistant Staff Officer
Ms Siobhan Murphy, Executive Scientist.
Mr. Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Mr. David Wall, Executive Planner
Mr. David Whitty, Executive Engineer, Special Projects

Members of the Public: Ms. Sarah Kelly

Apologies: Mr. Larry McHale
Ms. Angela Finn

Votes of Sympathy:

The Members expressed their sincere sympathies to the following: -

John Joe Murphy on the passing of his mother, Ann Murphy (née Jordan).

Congratulations:

The members congratulated Mia Whelan the under-16 player from Wexford who scored in her debut for the Republic of Ireland in Prague

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1.1 Minutes of the September Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 16th September 2025

On the proposal of Cllr O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr Byrne, the Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 16th September 2025 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Matters Arising

- Cllr. O'Rourke requested an update on the invitation to Minister Jennifer Murnane O'Connor to come to Enniscorthy to discuss setting up a Drug Rehabilitation Centre.
- Cllr. O'Rourke requested an update on the purchase of outdoor gym equipment.
- Cllr. Kehoe enquired about the transfer of land at The Lyre.

The officials responded to all queries raised and it was noted that an acknowledgement had been received from Minister Murnane O'Connors office.

2. Draft Budgetary Plan 2026

Director of Finance, Lynda Lacey went through the report which had previously been circulated. The GMA remains as 2025 amount. The members expressed some disappointment that there had not been an increase. A question was raised about the members discretionary fund and Ms Lacey confirmed that this was still at the discretion of individual members.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Rourke and seconded by Cllr Byrne the Draft Budgetary Plan 2026 was approved by the Members.

3.1 Planning

The Planning reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted.

Executive planner David Wall attended on behalf of planning. He confirmed that within the planning process every consideration is given to individual planning applications but in some cases the impact of the application on the wider environment must take precedence.

3.2 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: -

- **CCTV** – Executive Scientist Siobhan Murphy confirmed that six locations have been identified, and a pilot business case is being prepared.
- The issue of some bin companies still not providing brown bins despite this being a statutory requirement was raised – Ms Murphy to follow up with the individual providers.

3.2.1 Presentation by TAP Retail

Stephen Hallahan gave a presentation on TAP retail – an exciting pilot Digital Retail Village (DRV) to help local retailers sell online with Click and Collect within 6km, supported by Wexford County Council and Enniscorthy Municipal District.

District Manager, Claire Lawless said she is looking forward to this exciting initiative which will be a great boost for local businesses. The members thanked the District Manager for her work on the project so far.

The members were unanimous in welcoming this initiative saying it is important to support local business and that anything that will help them compete on the online platform is welcome. Mr Hallahan confirmed that the drivers will be recruited in the local area, and this will create further employment opportunities.

3.3 Housing

The reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted.

Ms Redmond was pleased to announce that since the issuing of the report she had confirmation of Phase 2, Milehouse comprising of 7 x 1 bed bungalows and 26 x 2 bed units. Estimated completion is March 2026. This development was welcomed by all the members as there is a great demand for smaller units.

The members raised some concerns in particular: -

- Anti-social behaviour in Approved Housing Body owned properties/estates.
- Tenant Purchase Scheme – where are the deeds of the purchased properties held?
- Tenant In-situ scheme
- Choice Based Lettings
- Lack of availability of 4-bed properties
- Timeline for Affordable Housing Schemes

Ms Roseanne Redmond answered questions and queries from the members.

It was confirmed by the Director of Service that dealing with anti-social behaviour within AHB properties is the responsibility of the AHB not the Council. This will be communicated to the AHBs.

The Affordable Housing Scheme portal will be launched in 2026.

A discussion took place about accessing homeless services. Director of Services said that it is imperative that anyone with a Notice To Quit engage with the Homeless Unit and to keep in contact as the service is very overstretched.

Cllr Murphy requested that an official from Housing Capital attend the meeting each month.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Murphy at this juncture called for a break in the meeting to allow for tea at 10:35 am. The Meeting resumed at 10:48 am.

3.4 Municipal District Report

Enniscorthy Digital Retail Village is coming!

Wexford County Council with Enniscorthy Municipal District, is piloting a Digital Retail Village (DRV) to help local retailers sell online with Click & Collect and local home delivery (free within 3km).

To encourage strong adoption, Wexford County Council will provide 88% funding for the ten suitable retailers that sign up to participate, meaning the initial investment will cost only €200 ex. VAT. Equivalent to a little over 55 cent per day.

The National 1798 Centre & Enniscorthy Castle

Maura Bell was appointed Manager of the 1798 Centre and Enniscorthy Castle since August. We wish Maura all the best in her new role.

Columbarium Wall- Enniscorthy Lawn Cemetery

The Engineers will meet on site next week to discuss technical aspect of this project to be included in the tender. Tender documents will then be finalised for the installation of Columbarium Wall. Wexford County Council will run the tender once documentation has been completed.

Shopfront Painting & Flower Grant Scheme 2025

Enniscorthy Municipal District had a fantastic response to the Shopfront Paint and Flower Grant Schemes for 2025. The Scheme supported 75 businesses which has brought great improvements to our town – from freshly painted shopfront to vibrant hanging baskets and blooming planters.

A big thank you to all the local businesses who applied. These improvements make our town a better place to live, work and invest.

If you're a business owner, don't miss the next round of grants to be advertised in the first quarter of 2026. Let's keep the momentum going and make our towns even more beautiful!

The total amount of funding approved was €13,268.00

Enniscorthy Town CCTV Project

The civil works on the Enniscorthy Town CCTV project are complete. Some electrical works are outstanding. The Contractor will be back on-site next week to complete them. It is planned to have all this work complete by the end of this month and to then commence the installation of the CCTV equipment.

Bunclody CCTV Project

Awaiting authorisation from the Garda Commissioner. All going well the scheme should be finalised shortly.

Tree Maintenance Programme

Enniscorthy Outdoor Crew are currently carrying out tree maintenance in the district.

Trees along the Country Walk have been trimmed back to improve safety for walkers and to allow better access along the route.

Enniscorthy Astro Pitch, Ross Road

The Astro Pitch was officially opened on the 25th February 2025. This is a fantastic facility that is available to the community, schools, and clubs to use throughout the district with over 25 groups already making a booking. An online booking and payments system has been introduced in September to improve convenience.

Booking can be made by scanning the following QR Code which will automatically direct you into the Wexford Football Alliance portal on Sportskey.

Wexford Football Alliance will attend the November meeting to give a report on this fantastic new facility.

Heritage Panels Vinegar Hill

The artwork and text (in English and Irish) for two information panels were sent to the graphic designers and the two signs have been fabricated.

Festival Programme 2025

Halloween

Enniscorthy MD have erected Halloween silhouettes in the Market Square

Our Halloween Spooktacular Shop Window Competition has been launched. Business owners are encouraged to decorate their premises as the Halloween themed window displays contribute to the Halloween atmosphere.

The most Spooktacular winning entries will be announced on Friday 31st October and will receive Wexford County Chamber Vouchers sponsored by Enniscorthy Municipal District.

Enniscorthy Municipal District is delighted to support Haunted Hallows Ghosts Tours to be held on October 17th and October 31st. Wex Walks in association with Historical Walking Tours are bringing the popular Halloween tour to Enniscorthy.

The tours are sold out for 2025. It is hoped to expand on this for 2026.

Christmas Festival & Light Switch on.

The Switch on of the Christmas Lights will take place on Friday 28th November starting at 5.30pm. Further details to follow.

The ticket sales for Santa's Enchanted Christmas experience are double compared to this time last year. The event will run from Saturday 29th November to Saturday 23rd December. Marketing Campaign to begin next week.

Funding Streams Available to Community Groups

LAWPRO Catchment Support Fund 2026

The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) works on behalf of Ireland's 31 Local Authorities to protect and restore water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries, ground and coastal waters, through catchment science and community engagement.

Under the 2026 Catchment Support Funding call, organisations are invited to apply for financial assistance under Stream 1 to support essential organisational costs to enable them to complete projects for water quality improvements. Such costs may include statutory and/or legal fees, insurance costs associated with catchment management, accountancy fees, website annual support costs, an organisation's promotional materials and group development activities.

In cases where an organisation has CLG status and a proven track record with LAWPRO, organisations are also invited to apply for Stream 2 funding for capacity building including staff costs, rent and rates. The fund will open for applications on 13th October via LAWPRO's online portal: [Surveys | Online Consultation Portal of the Waters and Communities Office](#)

LAWPRO Small Grants and Events Scheme 2025

This grants scheme is for community groups to apply for small scale initiatives and events outside of LAWPRO's targeted open calls. It covers events such as World Wetland Day, Biodiversity Week, Science Week, etc. It may also be used for small awareness raising initiatives such as surveys and plans, citizen science, hosting a meeting, workshops, litter pick, publications, biodiversity signage, or other such small scale initiatives. Applications must have a water quality or water awareness focus.

Contact David Rafter, Community Water Officer for the South East Region before making an application on drafter@lawaters.ie.

District Manager Claire Lawless answered questions from the Members on various matters, in particular: -

- CCTV – contractors are on site finalising electrical works. When operational there are protocols for how information can be accessed – this will be at the discretion of the County Secretary.
- Parking at Pearse Road during big GAA fixtures – it was agreed that the local residents should engage with the GAA on this issue and there is not a role for the Council here.

- Removal of flags from the Bridge in Enniscorthy – it was confirmed that the flags have been there since St Patrick’s Day and have been removed to prepare for Christmas Decoration of the Town. A request was made for more lights on the bridge and this will be considered.

Cllr Murphy highlighted recent research on the River Slaney at Bunclody carried out by LAWPRO. The findings are that this section of the river is not polluted. This shows that engagement from everyone on environmental matters can yeild positive results.

3.5 Roads Report.

The Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Executive Engineer, Neil Dempsey said there is a huge volume of work going on in the district including Safe Routes to School in Killealy, works at Weafer Street & The Duffry as well as the Old Dublin Road.

He answered questions and queries from the Members, in particular: -

- Footpaths outside sorting office at Bellfield Road
- Signage at GAA
- Signage at Castledockerell and Milehouse
- Broken bollards and signs
- District Development Projects – update
- Road markings at Dorans Bridge, Killealy
- Stop sign in Clohamon Village
- N80 Roundabout at Bunclody

Mr Dempsey will follow up on Dorans Bridge and Clohamon Village.

The Members thanked Mr Dempsey for his efforts to date.

At 11:18 am Cllr Owens left the meeting.

3.6 Flood Defence Scheme Report.

The Flood Defence Scheme Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. There were no questions arising.

3.7 Special Projects.

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Executive Engineer David Whitty updated the Members. Special Projects met with officials from URDF and did a walk-through of three projects in Enniscorthy. The officials were positively

disposed to the projects, and it is expected to hear regarding funding before year end. Emma Hickey is the recently appointed Senior Executive Architect and now leading on Templeshannon – she will be developing a brief for full stage design team. Castle Grounds – substantial survey ongoing to finalise planning stage design. Special Projects hope to be back before the Members in December.

Works at the Sports Hub are progressing.

The members raised some queries, in particular: -

- Plan for Templeshannon & Castle Quarter
- Enniscorthy Green-tech Park Phase 2

Cathaoirleach Cllr Murphy emphasised how vital it is to get the Castle Quarter and Templeshannon projects shovel ready so that the URDF funding can be availed of.

Mr Whitty responded to the Members queries.

Cllr O'Rourke left the meeting at 11:26.

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

None.

5. Correspondence

No correspondence.

6. Any Other Business

Cllr Murphy informed the meeting of a request for a temporary storage area to be made available to the Shoe Box Appeal. Anyone aware of any such facility to make contact as this is a very worthy cause.

It was proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Browne to nominate Slaney Search & Rescue for a Civic Reception to be held in their honour.

Congratulations were expressed to Reachability on the wonderful exhibition at Bellfield celebrating 50 years.

This concluded the business of the Meeting at 11:31 am.

Barbara Anne Murphy

CATHAOIRLEACH

18th November 2025

DATE