

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on the 16th October 2024 at 14:30hrs in the
Council Chamber, The Tholsel, Quay Street, New Ross.**

- Presiding:** Cllr Bridin Murphy – An Cathaoirleach
- Councillors:** Cllr John Dwyer – Leas Cathaoirleach
Cllr Pat Barden
Cllr John Fleming
Cllr Marty Murphy
Cllr Michael Sheehan
- Officials:** Alan Fitzhenry – District Manager
Eamonn Hore – District Director
Lynda Lacey – Head of Finance
David Murphy – Executive Engineer (Roads)
David Wall - Executive Planner
Michelle Duffin – Assistant Staff Officer
Dean Waters – Staff Officer
- Remote:** Martina Donoghue – Administrative Officer (Housing)
Hugh Maguire – Administrative Officer (Environment)
- Apologies:** Pdraig Lyng – Senior Executive Engineer (Water Services)

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Bridin Murphy, confirmed that the requisite quorum was in place, welcomed all those in attendance and commenced the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of September 25th 2024, were proposed by Cllr John Dwyer and seconded by Cllr Marty Murphy.

Congratulations

Congratulations were afforded to Wexford and Rathgarogue & Cushinstown's Eoin Porter following his selection for the Leinster squad competing in the Gaelic football interprovincial series at Croke Park.

The U16 hurlers from Adamstown were also commended for their success in the Irish Independent U16 Hurling Championship Rionn 4 Cup Final.

Best of luck wishes were offered to the Gusserane U16 Camogie for their forthcoming Rionn 1B Championship Final, and the Cloughbawn Camogie team for their forthcoming Intermediate Championship Final taking place on Saturday 19th October.

Sympathies

The Members also expressed sympathies to the families and friends of all those recently deceased.

Due to the attendance of Lynda Lacey (Head of Finance) and scheduled *Draft Budgetary Plan General Municipal Allocation (GMA) 2025* presentation, an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Bridin Murphy, recommended the suspension of standing orders to facilitate a change in the order of business.

Cllr Michael Sheehan proposed the suspension of Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr John Fleming, and Standing Orders were duly suspended.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Bridin Murphy, requested the order of business to be reflected in the minutes.

3.1 Draft Budgetary Plan (GMA) 2025

Lynda Lacey (Head of Finance) presented the Draft Budgetary Plan General Municipal Allocation (GMA) 2025 before clarifying certain matters raised by the Members.

A discussion followed.

On the proposal of Cllr John Dwyer, seconded by Cllr Michael Sheehan, the Draft Budgetary Plan General Municipal Allocation (GMA) 2025 was adopted as presented.

Cllr John Dwyer departed from the meeting.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

2.1 District Managers Report

The District Manager delivered his monthly report and highlighted the following information;

Eugene O'Neill Festival 2024

On behalf of the District, I would like to send huge congratulations to the organisers of the 2024 Eugene O'Neill Festival. The final event of the Autumn Festival Series, saw large crowds and brought business and visitors to the town and district.

As part of an almost fully sold-out weekend of theatre and music, we welcomed to New Ross a large California delegation, strengthening our Friendship City relationship with Danville. We also welcomed a cast of professional actors, academics and members of the Board of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation and Society. In total over 30 visitors from California and the wider US, visited New Ross for a week, in addition to the large crowds in the theatre each night.

The festival is supported by Wexford County Council and the New Ross Municipal District and the organisers are sincerely grateful to the Elected Members of New Ross Municipal District for their continued support.

New Ross Workingmen's Club 125th Event

Wexford County Archive and the New Ross Municipal District will hold an archive handover event at 7pm on Monday 21st October, here in the Tholsel. The New Ross Workingmen's Club are celebrating 125 years and have agreed to give their club archive to the Wexford County Archive for safekeeping. The Cathaoirleach Cllr Bridin Murphy will accept the archive officially on the night, and all Members are invited to attend.

Celebrations for Paralympian Linda Kelly

On behalf of the Cathaoirleach and Members of NRMD, an invitation was sent to Paralympic athlete and local hero Linda Kelly, following her amazing Gold & Silver medal haul in Paris and the World Championship double a few weeks later, to a Civic welcome and celebration. The private Civic event will take place on Tuesday 22nd October at 4.30pm here in the Tholsel, where the Cathaoirleach and Councillors can celebrate Lindas incredible achievements in sport, along with her family and some close friends.

An additional public event was offered for a park in New Ross, but the local communities of Ballyanne and Cushinstown are holding events in her honour and Linda is happy that these events offer the public a chance to meet & greet her. The NRMD is supporting the fundraising event which features Linda Kelly on Sunday 20th at 12pm in Cushinstown Old School hall, and all are welcome to attend.

Nollaig New Ross 2024

The Christmas Team has met to discuss the 2024 Christmas campaign for New Ross Town. We are all looking forward to the Christmas lights "Switch On", which takes place on Saturday 23rd November and signals the start of Christmas 2024. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Murphy, accompanied by Santa Claus, will turn on the New Ross lights. We will have our Santa parade to the Tholsel as well as live musical entertainment on the day and the Rathnure Characters will be on hand to meet the children too.

As always and with the support of the Elected Members, we will invest heavily this year in the Christmas campaign with our Christmas lighting in town and "Switch On" ceremony, and to provide festive cheer we will provide 10 Christmas trees around the town. Working with our partners, we will have further information on the Christmas campaign at the November meeting.

We would ask everyone to support New Ross and District again this year and come and enjoy the festive season and the buzz in New Ross Town. Please remember to shop local this Christmas.

Brennan's Lane/Shambles

Works continue at pace on this town centre renewal project, with MJS Civil Engineering as contractors. Works at Brennan's Lane are expected to last until the end of 2024, with The Shambles completing shortly thereafter. The District Project Team are working closely with our consultants Avanti Architects on this Town & Village Renewal Scheme & WCC co-funded project. We look forward to seeing the finished results.

Duncannon Fort Works

Works at Duncannon Fort continue at speed. The plan is for the works, which include a new bridge deck, electrical wiring, toilet block upgrades and some internal building improvements (3 buildings only), to be completed by the end of 2024. Various contractors are engaged. This project is funded under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme with additional funding from Wexford County Council.

CCTV

The New Ross Town CCTV Pack is still awaiting approval from the Garda Commissioners Office.

Quay Street

Funded under the RRDF scheme, the District Project Team continue to prepare for commencement of the design phase and plans/timelines for this transformative development will follow in the coming months.

- a) Following comment from the Members, the District Manager undertook to provide an update on the old Courthouse for the next meeting.
- b) Following observations from the Members regarding the unsightly nature of the rubbish accumulating on the steps leading from Mary Street to the old Augustinian Church, the District Manager agreed to correspond with the owners requesting the matter is addressed.
- c) The Members requested information in relation to the destruction of the premises / dangerous structure at the Brennan's Lane entrance on South Street. The District Manager advised that it is private property and gave as much detail as available.
- d) Following comment from the Members, the District Manager agreed to circulate information of the planned works at Stokestown, which he anticipated would commence in early November.
- e) Following discussion surrounding the Ramsgrange wastewater treatment plant delays and the serious impact that this situation was having on Ramsgrange Community School with regard to their planning application, the Members requested that where possible Wexford County Council assist the School and the Department of Education in resolving the matter.

The District Director suggested that a meeting with Uisce Éireann could be arranged to highlight the importance and urgency of the project, agreeing that Wexford County Council, the School, and the Department of Education could work towards resolving the matter with a temporary system which could then be replaced by a the main drainage connection when available.

Cllr John Dwyer returned to the Chamber.

2.1.1 Special Projects Report

The content of the previously circulated report was noted.

2.2 Roads Report

The District Engineer delivered the Roads Report to the Members before updating the Members on the following matters:

- *Safe Route to Schools*
- *Traffic Management*
- *Taking in Charge*

2.3 Housing Report

The Members noted the content of the report.

2.3.1 New Ross MD Specific

The Administrative Officer apologised that the New Ross MD Specific report was not available following a change to internal processes advising the Members that it shall be available next month as per normal, before responding to their queries and clarifying the following matters:

Choice Based Lettings

As the information requested at the previous meeting was not contained in the report, the Administrative Officer advised the Members that she would circulate detail on the units allocated through the Choice Based Lettings process, specifically the number of bedrooms of the properties allocated, by e-mail directly following the meeting.

Social Housing Development - Adamstown

Following an enquiry from Cllr Pat Barden, the Administrative Officer agreed to liaise with the Housing Capital team in relation to the commencement date of the project.

2.3.2 Housing Capital Project Report

Noted.

2.4 Planning Report

The Executive Planner delivered his report before clarifying certain matters for the Members.

2.4.1 Planning Decisions – Grants

Noted.

2.4.2 Planning Decisions – Refusals

Noted.

2.5 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

The content of the previously circulated report was noted.

Following discussion surrounding the planned library works in New Ross, the District Manager agreed to request more detail on the proposal to include the expected delivery timeframe.

2.6 Community Development Report

Noted.

2.7 Environment Report

The Administrative Officer introduced the previously circulated report and responded to the questions of the Members.

Grange Beach Access

The Administrative Officer agreed to request a further update from Coastal Engineer, George Colfer, on timelines for the necessary works at Grange Beach in connection with the unstable cliff.

2.8 Fire Services Report

The Members noted the content of the report.

Following observations from Cllr John Dwyer regarding Fire Certification and evacuation procedures for the apartment buildings in the Town, the District Manager agreed to liaise with Chief Fire Officer, Paul L'Estrange, on the matter.

2.9 Members Portal

Noted.

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

3.1 Draft Budgetary Plan (GMA) 2025

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

3.2 Consideration of Section 183 Notice for the following property / lands

a. The Old Bike Shop, Priory Street

On the proposal of Cllr John Dwyer, seconded by Cllr Michael Sheehan, the Section 183 notice was endorsed, unanimously agreed, and allowed to proceed to the plenary session as presented.

4. Other Business

None

5. Notice of Motion/s

None

6. Correspondence

None

7. AOB

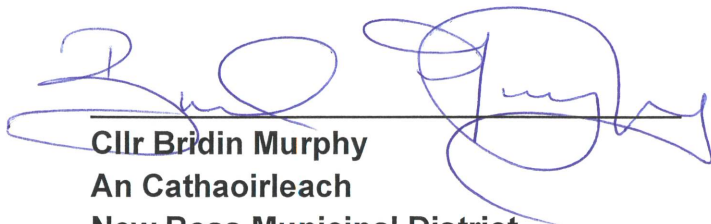
Hotel Deficit – New Ross

Following observations of the Members regarding the unfortunate plight Ukrainian families who have settled in the community are now facing having been issued

with notice to leave their accommodation at the end of the month by central government, the Members noted that there was a continuing deficit of hotel accommodation in the Town, which in turn was having a stifling effect on local business opportunities and tourism.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed on the 13th November 2024



Cllr Bridin Murphy
An Cathaoirleach
New Ross Municipal District

