

**WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL****Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council Held Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
in the Council Chamber at 2.00pm (with some remote attendance)****Attendance:****In the Chair:** Cllr. Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach.**Councillors:**

<b>Barden</b>	<b>Pat</b>	<b>Kavanagh</b>	<b>Paddy</b>	<b>O'Rourke</b>	<b>John</b>
<b>Boland</b>	<b>Nicky</b>	<b>Kehoe</b>	<b>Pat</b>	<b>Sheehan</b>	<b>Michael</b>
<b>Browne</b>	<b>Aidan</b>	<b>Kelly</b>	<b>Leonard (Online)</b>	<b>Staples</b>	<b>Frank</b>
<b>Byrne</b>	<b>Cathal</b>	<b>Kenny</b>	<b>Donal</b>	<b>Staples</b>	<b>Robbie</b>
<b>Carthy</b>	<b>Ger</b>	<b>Laffan</b>	<b>Garry</b>	<b>Sullivan</b>	<b>Joe</b>
<b>Codd</b>	<b>Jim</b>	<b>McDonald</b>	<b>Darragh</b>	<b>Walsh</b>	<b>Catherine Biddy (Online)</b>
<b>Donohoe</b>	<b>Anthony</b>	<b>McDonald</b>	<b>Lisa</b>	<b>Walsh</b>	<b>Oliver</b>
<b>Dwyer</b>	<b>John</b>	<b>Murphy</b>	<b>Barbara- Anne</b>		
<b>Farrell</b>	<b>Mary</b>	<b>Murphy</b>	<b>Bridín (Online)</b>		
<b>Fleming</b>	<b>John</b>	<b>Murphy</b>	<b>Marty</b>		
<b>Forde</b>	<b>Tom</b>	<b>O'Brien</b>	<b>Aoife Rose</b>		

**Officials:**

Ms. A. Byrne, A/Director of Services  
 Ms. A.M. Colfer, A/Administrative Officer  
 Mr. M. Drea, County Secretary  
 Ms. C. Godkin, Director of Services  
 Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services  
 Ms. L. Hore, Director of Services  
 Mr. E. Taaffe, Chief Executive

**Apologies:** Cllr. Jackser Owens, Cllr. Raymond Shannon, Mr. S. Howell, A/Director of Services, Ms. L. Lacey, Director of Finance

### **Votes of sympathy:**

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of Mary Barron, sister of Cllr. John Fleming.
- The family of Alice Maguire, mother of Hugh Maguire, Environment Section
- The family of Mr. Thomas Byrne - Light Truck Driver, New Ross Area Roads.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. P. Breen extended sympathy to the family of eight-year-old Malika Noor Al Katib who was fatally stabbed in New Ross. As a mark of respect, the Council observed a minute's silence.

Cllr. M. Sheehan joined the Cathaoirleach in expressing sympathy and commended the local community for their response to the harrowing incident, and the first responders who assisted Malika and her mother.

### **Congratulations:**

Cllr. J. Fleming congratulated Rathnure on winning the Intermediate hurling Leinster Final.

Cllr.'s J. Codd, P. Kavanagh, M. Sheehan, P. Breen, and C. Byrne congratulated the seven candidates who were elected in the Wicklow Wexford and Wexford constituencies and offered commiserations to those who were unsuccessful.

Cllr.'s M. Sheehan, O. Walsh and P. Breen commended former deputies Brendan Howlin and Paul Kehoe for their service.

Cllr. M. Sheehan commended Cllr. B. Murphy for the way she dealt with on-line abuse which she had received.

The Members commended the staff of Wexford County Council for their work in dealing with the aftermath of Storm Darragh, however, frustration was expressed at the out of hours call centre service and delays experienced. Mr. E. Hore commended the Council staff for their work in responding to storm Darragh.

## **1. Presentation - Launch of the 2024 - 2029 Local Economic & Community Plan**

Ms. Dymphna O'Connor presented the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to the Members. Ms. O'Connor outlined the purpose of the LECP is to set out for a six-year period, the objectives and actions required to promote and support the economic and local community development of the county.

Ms. O'Connor advised that it's a statutory document which all Local Authorities are required to develop and future funding for Economic and Community projects will be linked back to the LECP. Ms. O'Connor outlined that the framework document sets out the ambition, approach, policy framework, socio-economic profile, consultation findings, SCOT analysis followed by 6 High Level Goals, objectives and actions.

Ms. O'Connor thanked the advisory committee comprised of:

- Cllr Aidan Browne, Chair of the LCDC,
- Former Cllr. Michael Whelan, who was chair of the Economic and Enterprise SPC from 2018 to mid-2024,
- Cllr. Joe Sullivan, former chair of the Housing and Community SPC,
- Directors of Service Carolyne Godkin and Liz Hore,

- Former Community staff members Alice O’Gorman and Claude Clancy and project co-ordinator Ronan Griffin.

## **2. Confirmation of Minutes**

### **2.1 County 2.1 County Council Meeting 11th November, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the County Council Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

#### **Matters Arising:**

Cllr. R. Staples asked for clarity if a vote was taken at the November Council meeting in relation to the establishment of a mental health sub-committee. Cllr. Staples said a Councillor had posted on social media that the Members had voted against it when his recollection was that no such vote had taken place. Mr. M. Drea clarified that no vote was taken on the matter at the November meeting.

Cllr.’s C. Walsh, D. McDonald, F. Staples, B. Murphy and P. Kavanagh speaking on behalf of Cllr. R. Shannon who wasn’t present, all expressed their disgust at the social media post in relation to the establishment of a mental health sub-committee.

Responding to the criticism Cllr. A.R. O’Brien outlined that a motion was unanimously passed at the October meeting and some Members subsequently spoke against the motion.

Cllr. T. Forde said he will be establishing a mental health committee and will be contacting all Members to see if they wish to be part of it. Mr. E. Taaffe asked that Cllr. Forde revert with the terms of reference and membership of the committee.

Cllr. F. Staples also took issue with what he perceived to be a misleading social media post in relation to the LPT. Cllr. T. Forde said the post was in no way mis-leading, adding that it was carefully worded to ensure it was accurate.

### **2.2 Statutory Budget Meeting 25th November, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the Statutory Budget Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

## **3. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:**

### **3.1 Intention to dispose of property at 8 Eire Street, Gorey, Co. Wexford**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. D. McDonald the Council resolved to dispose of property at 8 Eire Street, Gorey, Co. Wexford, in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

### **3.2 Intention to lease former Bank Of Ireland premises at St. Martin's Road, Rosslare Harbour, Co Wexford.**

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan the Council resolved to lease the former Bank Of Ireland premises at St. Martin's Road, Rosslare Harbour, Co Wexford, in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

### **3.3 Dispose of property Main Street, Fethard On Sea, Co. Wexford.**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. P. Barden the Council resolved to dispose of property at Main Street, Fethard On Sea, Co. Wexford, in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

**4. Wexford County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 - Core Strategy Monitoring Report for Year 2 - For Noting**

The Council noted the contents of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 - Core Strategy Monitoring Report for Year 2.

Cllr. M. Sheehan sought an update on the Local Area Plans for Enniscorthy and New Ross. Ms. L. Hore advised that work has commenced on the Local Area Plan for Enniscorthy. Ms. Hore outlined that new legislation is yet to be enacted but when it is, a Local Area Plan will not be required for a town of New Ross' scale.

**5. Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 - 2029 - For Adoption**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde, the Council resolved to adopt the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029.

Cllr. T. Forde sought an update on the accommodation plans for the traveller families in Park for the next Municipal District meeting.

**6. Draft Corporate Plan 2025 – 2029 – For Adoption**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. O. Walsh, the Council resolved to adopt the draft Corporate Plan 2025 – 2029.

**7. Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024 - 2029 - For Adoption**

Cllr. L. McDonald proposed the adoption of the draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024 - 2029 subject to the following amendments:

- Section 5.1 – The Housing and Community SPC to be split into two SPC's, (1) Housing and (2) Community and Rural Affairs.
- Fire and emergency move to the Transportation and Water Services SPC.

Cllr. O. Walsh seconded the proposal, and the Council resolved to adopt the amended Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024 – 2029.

Cllr. O. Walsh proposed Cllr. D. McDonald as Chair of the newly formed Community and Rural Affairs SPC, seconded by Cllr. John Fleming, and agreed by all.

**8. NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2023 - Analysis of Wexford County Council Performance**

The Council noted the contents of the NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2023 - Analysis of Wexford County Council Performance.

## 9. Replacement of Cllr. Frank Staples on Healthy County Committee

On the proposal of Cllr. D. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. F. Staples, the Council resolved to appoint Cllr. B. Murphy as Cllr. F. Staples replacement on the Healthy County Committee.

## 10. Chief Executives Report

The Chief Executive and members of the Management Team responded to a wide range of queries from the Elected Members regarding the following:

- The new road signs at Ballycarney junction were welcomed and queried if they will be permanent.
- When will the video audit at Clohamon be available?
- The 2023 EPA Report outlined that six local authorities, one of which was Wexford failed to achieve the required "Strong or Excellent" score in 10 or more of the 20 national environmental enforcement priority areas. Can we improve on this?
- Request for progress report on the M11.
- Request that works be carried out to Starvehall Cross.
- The coastal erosion defence works undertaken at Seaview, Kilmore were welcomed.
- Disappointment expressed at the projected timeline of 2029 for the Rosslare coastal erosion defence works.
- Query if Wexford County Council is proactively removing deceased persons from the Register of Electors.
- Request that adverse weather beds be provided on a more permanent basis.
- Timeline for dredging works on Crescent Quay.
- Request for additional festival funding for Enniscorthy and a second annual festival on foot of the nighttime economy report.
- Status of safe route to schools works for Enniscorthy Community College, Ballaghkeene NS, Kiltaly NS and St. Patrick's NS Ballyroe buck.
- Request to see the proposed works for Leeches bend and Tominearly before they go to tender.
- Clarification sought in relation to a case where a lady was told Wexford County Council doesn't offer grants for window and door upgrades.
- Request that Cllr. A.R. O'Brien's address details be amended on the Council's website.
- Request that public facilities such as halls be used as polling stations rather than schools. Who has the final decision on polling station selection?
- Request for signage for illegal dumping blackspots.
- Request for erection of slow down, children at play signs.
- Observation that a lot of the green bollards at junctions are dirty and need to be cleaned.
- Update on Glenville Road and Larkin's Cross works.
- Update on IDA advance factory in Enniscorthy.
- Update on New Ross advance factory.
- Query if funding for additional bus stops has been received?
- View expressed that the law requiring the candidate's address to be included on the ballot paper should be changed.

- Request that the CBL system be amended so that applicants are notified if they aren't getting an offer of a property.
- Update on library works in New Ross.
- Request that works be carried out to the Mill O'Rags as water is damaging the road.
- Timeline for Castlebridge cycle lane?
- Timeline for Uisce Éireann works at Ardcolm Drive?
- Request that resident's association's funding be increased to allow overgrown or dangerous trees to be cut.
- In areas of regular flooding can rivers be dammed upstream from the flooding black spots.
- Update for ongoing plan for Oyster Lane Plaza.
- Request that the Chief Executive or Director of Service for Economic attend the next New Ross Municipal District meeting.

The meeting adjourned for a comfort break at this point.

Cllr.'s G. Carthy, J. Dwyer, M. Farrell, and B. Murphy left the meeting at this point.

## **11. Minutes of CPG**

### 11.1 Minutes of CPG Meeting 2nd December, 2024

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Barden, seconded by Cllr. P. Kavanagh the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the CPG Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2024.

## **12. Minutes of Meetings (for Noting):**

12.1 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

12.2 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

12.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2024

12.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2024

12.5 Rosslare Municipal District – 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2024, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2024.

12.6 Special Rosslare Municipal District Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024.

12.7 Borough District of Wexford Protocol Committee Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2024

The Members noted the minutes, as circulated.

## **13. Correspondence and Communications**

13.1 Letter from Alan Dillon, Minister of State for Planning and Local Government re: motion dated 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

13.2 Letter from Waterford City & County Council re: motion dated 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

13.3 Email from Private Secretary to the Minister of Finance re: motion dated 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

13.4 Letter from Kerry County Council re: motion dated 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

13.5 Letter from Leitrim County Council – Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District dated 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

The Members noted the correspondence, as circulated.

#### **14. Councillor's Conferences and Training**

14.1 List of Conferences / Training - List Attached  
13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024 - Celtic Conferences – “Health Services Entitlements”,  
Clonakilty, Co. Cork. Conference Fee €130

10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - Celtic Conferences – “The Finance Act”, Carlingford, Co.  
Louth. Conference Fee €130.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny, the Council resolved to approve attendance at the above conferences.

14.2 Councillors Conference Report

- Report on European Forum at Abbaye aux Dames in Caen – 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2024
- Report on Remembrance Event to mark the sinking of the SS St. Patrick – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024

The Members noted the reports.

#### **15. Notices of Motion**

15.1 Cllr. AoifeRose O'Brien

"To ask this council to write to the incoming Government requesting an increase in funding for Wexford roads, acknowledging that Wexford County Council is allocated the least funding nationally per kilometre of road; acknowledging the increased need for such funding."

Cllr. A.R. O'Brien proposed the motion. Cllr. G. Laffan seconded the motion subject to the following amendment - "is allocated the least funding" to be replaced with "is amongst the worst funded". This was agreed by all and carried.

The agreed motion is as follows:

"To ask this council to write to the incoming Government requesting an increase in funding for Wexford roads, acknowledging that Wexford County Council is amongst the worst funded nationally per kilometre of road; acknowledging the increased need for such funding."

15.2 Cllr. AoifeRose O'Brien and Cllr. Tom Forde

"We call on the incoming Minister for Housing to ensure that applicants for social housing supports are not rejected based on the amount of space in the home of their parent(s). We believe that an adult has their own need for housing, independent of their parent(s) and we ask that Wexford County Council support this through their housing scheme."

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. A.R. O'Brien, and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

Cllr. J. Sullivan indicated that he believes there is merit in the motion but felt it should be referred to the Housing SPC as it needs to be teased out. Cllr. A.R. O'Brien agreed for it to be referred to the Housing SPC as long as it is on its first agenda.

15.3 Cllr. Tom Forde

"This Council calls on the incoming government to recognise and vindicate the right of all persons to adequate housing and to set a date for a referendum on the right to housing."

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. C. Byrne, and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

**16. Any Other Business**

Cllr. M. Sheehan proposed that Wexford County Council write to David McRedmond, CEO of An Post and invite him to attend a meeting regarding the proposed changes for New Ross post office and to discuss the issue of contracts which are up for renewal. This was seconded by Cllr. P. Barden.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**

Daingithe ar an

lá de Eanáir, 2025.

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*Cllr. Pip Breen*  
*Cathaoirleach*

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*Michael Drea,*  
*County Secretary*