

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF
THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE
PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON TUESDAY,
17th December at 9.30 a.m.**

Attendance:

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

Officials: Ms Carlyne Godkin, Director of Service
Ms. Edel Nolan, Senior Staff Officer
Mr Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer.
Mr Larry McHale, Project Resident Engineer.
Ms Siobhan Murphy, Executive Scientist.
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Mr Marcus Linehan, Executive Planner.
Ms. Angela Finn, Senior Staff Officer.
Mr Eamon Hore, Director of Service.
Mr Sean Myler, Senior Engineer.
Mr David Whitty, Executive Engineer.

Via Teams: Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer.
Mr David Codd, Road Safety Officer
Mr Tom Byrne, Active Travel, Special Projects

Members of the Public: Mr Frank Murphy, Principal St Aidan's Primary School
Mr John Roche, Chair of Board of Management of St Aidan's Primary School.

Apologies: Ms. Claire Lawless, District Manager

Votes of Sympathy:

The Members expressed their sincere sympathies to the following: -

- Cllr Barbara Ann Murphy and Frank Murphy and family on the passing of their Aunt Margaret RIP.
- The O'Connor and O'Brien Families, Enniscorthy on the passing of Margarita O'Connor RIP.
- The Chapman Family on the passing of John Chapman RIP.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the November Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 19th November 2024

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. Kehoe the Minutes of the November Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 19th November 2024 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Matters Arising - None

2. Operation of Active Travel – Safe Routes to Schools Scheme at St Aidan's Enniscorthy.

Director of Services Mr Eamon Hore presented to the Members the current Safe Routes to School Scheme in operation at St Aidan's Primary School. Both Mr Frank Murphy, Principal of the School and Mr John Roche from the Board of Management of the school spoke to the meeting also.

Mr Roche suggested that extra orange flashing lights should be added to the Pedestrian Crossings to give extra notice to motorists. Both Mr Roche and Mr Murphy agreed that the scheme was working well and that they believed that there was no need for a warden outside the school. They informed the meeting that as students are coming and going from the school at various times during the day to attend other activities that a warden at school entry time and end of school time would lead to confusion with the children.

Mr Murphy stated that it was the school's objective to teach the children how to use the road safely and he has noticed that the children are becoming more responsible and has seen a major improvement. Mr Murphy did mention that if HGVs could be redirected to another route it would be a benefit also.

Both Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne and Cllr Owens objected to the scheme and requested a warden be re-instated.

Cllr O'Rourke reminded the meeting that staffing is an executive function, and the members cannot make decisions to this effect.

The members requested that the extra orange lights be added to the pedestrian crossings and that the line marking be redone each year. Mr Hore committed to the requests and added that extra signage would be erected to let motorists know that they are in a Safe Route to School area. Mr Hore also assured the members that this was not a financial issue and he believed that the safest system was in place.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne asked for an update on the four schools that have been approved for the Safe Route to School Scheme for 2025. Mr Hore committed to coming back to the Cathaoirleach with an update within a few moments.

3. Consideration of Reports & Recommendations:

3.1 Planning

The Planning reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted.

Cllr Owens asked the Executive Planner if Wexford County Council gave planning permission for the Casino in Enniscorthy. The Executive Planner informed the members that Wexford County Council had refused the planning permission for the Casino, however An Bord Pleanála granted it upon appeal.

Director of Services Ms Godkin informed the Members that planning was a separate statutory process from the Licensing application requirements and committed to reverting with further information.

Director of Services Mr Hore informed the Members that the four schools who are in the Safe Routes to School Scheme for 2025 are Ballaghkeen N.S, Killealy N.S., Enniscorthy Community College and Ballyroebuck N.S. Mr Hore also confirmed that works would be carried out in July/August.

Cllr Owens requested that a pedestrian crossing be put in at St. Senan's N.S. Mr Neil Dempsey Roads Engineer confirmed that he has been in touch with the principal and a programme of works has been discussed.

3.2 Community, Environment, Libraries & Fire Service

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

Cllr Murphy asked if the Fire Service was at full capacity staffing wise?

Director of Services Ms Godkin updated the members that there are some vacancies in Bunclody and New Ross Stations, however there is a rolling recruitment drive in place for the Fire Service.

Cllr Owens requested a meeting with the Enniscorthy Garda Superintendent and the Members be arranged for early next year.

3.3 Housing Reports

The reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted. The Members put forward several queries and concerns, in particular:

- Query on Choice Based Letting service with regards to shopping cart element.
- Query in relation to Homeless service opening times
- Update on the Lyre Site

Director of Service Ms Godkin and Housing Staff members in attendance answered the members queries.

3.4 Municipal District Report

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

CCTV Scheme for Enniscorthy gets the green light

Authorisation has been given by the Garda Commissioner to progress with the Enniscorthy Town CCTV Project.

A total of 22 CCTV cameras will be installed at different locations within Enniscorthy Town which have been agreed with An Garda Siochana.

The civil works are due to commence in January 2025.

A proposed amendment to the Bunclody CCTV Scheme was discussed at the CCTV Advisory Committee meeting that took place on 11th October 2024 and it was recommended that the amendment be forwarded for consideration of the Garda Commissioner.

All-Weather Astro Pitch, Ross Road, Enniscorthy

An information meeting for clubs was held in the Presentation Arts Centre on Wednesday 20th November. Two representatives from each club were invited to attend the meeting. There was a good attendance at the meeting. The clubs will submit their expressions of interest to the wexfordfootballalliance@gmail.com. A manual booking system is in place for the facility until the online booking system has been installed. The official opening will be held early in the new year.

Big Belly Bin Audit

An audit has been carried out on the Big Belly bins in the town centre. Plans are in place for the bins to be upgraded and refurbished. A collection of graphics are being drafted for the bins.

Public Payphone removal and upgrade project.

As agreed at the Enniscorthy Municipal District meeting in September 2023, Clear Chanel Ireland have removed the payphone on Weafer Street and have installed a new upgraded payphone and a public information interactive touch screen on Rafter Street. The interactive touch screen will have links to Visit Wexford.ie, Local Area Map and Wayfinding and Emergency Helplines. The public information screen will also promote local tourism and events. The project was of no cost to Wexford County Council. There is a capability to provide public Wi-Fi access points from the payphone and Enniscorthy MD intend to have this installed.

Enniscorthy Well Being & Active Garden

Works are progressing well on the garden. The design elements currently under construction include:

- Formal & informal garden spaces including opportunities for biodiversity
- Various seating options at key points throughout the site
- Activity spaces to include raised planters, water feature, play area
- New outdoor amphitheatre space

The Brooklyn Bench

The bench has been painted and the green area around the bench has been cut. Details are being finalised for new signage to be placed at the bench.

Festivals and Events

Playful Spaces Project Launch

The Cathaoirleach of Enniscorthy Municipal District Cllr Aidan Browne officially launched the Playful Spaces Project at the wonderful Orchard Peace Park. Funding for the project was secured from Department of Health. The project is supported by Healthy Wexford through the Healthy Ireland fund.

The musical instruments have been installed to add character to the peace park. The instruments will encourage old and young to the park. The play-along-the -way concept makes for a more interesting journey through the park.

Special thanks was given to Lisa Moore, Assistant Staff Officer who took the lead on the project and came up with the idea for the musical instruments and brought the project to fruition.

Enniscorthy Christmas Light Switch On

A large crowd gathered in Enniscorthy for the Enniscorthy Christmas Lights switch on event.

Santa, Mrs Claus, the Elves, and characters from Rathnure Panto, and Leacy's School of Dance provided festive fun with the parade leading up to the Market Square. Free kids face painting and glitter tattoos were popular on the day.

South East Radio broadcasted live from the Market Square from 3pm with local businesses including M&M Meats, Evolv Health, Smyths Homevalue and Glamour Boutique all going live on air to promote Enniscorthy and encouraging all to shop local this Christmas.

Many thanks to the following local businesses who kindly sponsored prizes for the event:-

Glamour Boutique €100 voucher

Campion Insurance €100 voucher

Rathnure Pantomime Society Tickets

2 Family passes to Santa's Enchanted Christmas

Free hot chocolate and coffee was offered to the first 50 customers who called into Warren Gillens Café and The Heavenly Café who mentioned the 'Enniscorthy Christmas Light Switch on'.

Santas Enchanted Christmas Experience

A total of 1762 tickets for The Santa's Enchanted Christmas Experience has been sold to date. A Marketing Campaign is ongoing. More dates have just been released.

Vinegar Hill Remembrance Event

On Saturday November 30th a remembrance event was held at Vinegar Hill to honour those who lost their lives during the 1798 Rebellion. The event was organised by 98' le Cheile with the support of Enniscorthy Municipal District.

Best Christmas Window Display Competition.

The judging of the best Christmas Window Display Competition will commence on the 18th November.

The most festive winning entry will be announced on Friday 20th December and will receive €500 worth of Wexford County Chamber Vouchers sponsored by Enniscorthy Municipal District.

Please register your interest in entering the competition by emailing emdreception@wexfordcoco.ie

Out of Hours Emergency Council Phone Number for Christmas period

The out of hours Emergency Contact number of 053 919 6000 will continue to operate throughout the Christmas period including weekends and evenings.

The members raised the following queries: -

- Continue the refurbishment of Big Belly Bins to include Bunclody.
- Clarification on the amendment proposed for Bunclody CCTV Scheme.
- Free parking hours and days in Enniscorthy over the Christmas period.
- The provision of free WIFI to be included in the newly installed Phone booth.
- Update on information signs for Vinegar Hill and at the Brooklyn Bench?
- Christmas music in the town.

Senior Staff Officer for Enniscorthy Municipal District Ms Edel Nolan answered the Members queries and committed to reverting with details of the proposed amendment in the Bunclody CCTV Scheme.

3.5 Roads Report.

The Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. The members raised the following issues:

- Works to be carried out on various footpaths in Bunclody in 2025.
- Update on Programme of Works for 2025.
- Speed sign at Rectory Heights.

Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer for roads replied to the members queries and informed the Members that the Programme of Works for 2025 date will depend on formation of Government and issuing of Budgets.

3.6 Flood Defence Report.

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Cllr Owens requested clarification on as to how the previous Flood Defence Scheme application was refused.

Mr Larry McHale clarified for the Members that Wexford County Council submitted all documents and further information requested by the department. There was no objection to the Scheme however the Department rejected the Scheme.

Cathaoirleach Browne at this juncture called for a break in the meeting to allow for tea 10.47am. Meeting resumed at 11.04am.

3.7 Special Projects.

The Special Projects report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne requested an update on the proposed new development at the Enniscorthy Sports Hub. Executive Engineer David Whitty informed the Members that once funding approval has been finalised the project will move to the next stage.

3.7.1 Presentation on the concept design for the Enniscorthy Castle Quarter.

Executive Engineer David Whitty presented a concept design of the proposed Castle Quarter for Enniscorthy Castle and surrounds to the Members.

A discussion ensued on the proposed works among officials and the elected Members. The Members gave their views and suggested amendments which Mr Whitty committed to investigating and returning with a more detailed plan prior to any funding application being sought. The Members welcomed the plan and emphasised the need to connect the Castle Quarter to the other areas in the town and the need for robust Public Consultation prior to any planning application.

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

4.1 “Declaring a Public Road” (Taking in Charge) of Pairc na gCón, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne called for a proposer for the formal Declaring a Public Road (Taking in Charge) of Pairc na gCón, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. Cllr O’Rourke proposed and Cllr Kehoe seconded same.

5. Correspondence.

None.

6. Any Other Business.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Adian Browne informed the meeting that neither himself or the Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Owens were able to attend the trip to Savannah in March next year and as there was no one from the Enniscorthy Municipal District in Savannah in the previous year he proposed that Cllr Murphy would go to represent the District. Cllr Owens seconded the motion.

Cllr Kehoe requested an update on the works at the Murphy Floods site. Mr Whitty confirmed that the site will be handed over to the district team on Wednesday 18th December with works to begin in the New Year.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Adian Browne concluded the meeting by wishing Cllr Byrne the very best in his bid for the Seanad Election and wishing the Members, officials and members of the Press a very happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year. Director of Service Carolyne Godkin on behalf of the officials also wished everyone a very Happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the Meeting at 11.47am.

Cllr Aidan Browne
CATHAOIRLEACH

21st January 2025
DATE