

**Minutes of the Rosslare Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on the 17th April 2024 at 10:30hrs in
the Council Chamber, County Hall, Carricklawn**

Presiding: Cllr. Jim Moore– An Cathaoirleach

Councillors: Cllr. Lisa McDonald - Leas Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Jim Codd
Cllr. Ger Carthy
Cllr. Frank Staples

Officials: Nóirín Cummins – District Manager
Lynda Lacey – District Director
Michael Brazzill – District Engineer (Roads)
Sandra Martin – Staff Officer
Johanna Somers – Assistant Staff Officer
Sharon Ryan – Senior Staff Officer (Housing)
Caroline Creane - Administrative Officer (Community)
Sonia Hunt – Executive Planner
Gerry Forde – Senior Engineer (Environment)
Eimear Kennedy – Volunteer Coordinator, Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann
Jane Duignan – I.S. Project Leader
Aaron Parker – Assistant GIS Technician
Anthony Kiely – I.S. Technical Support Officer

Guests:

Remote: George Colfer – Senior Engineer (Environment)
Sharon Pettitt – Office of Verona Murphy TD

Apologies:

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, confirmed that the requisite quorum was in place, welcomed all those in attendance.

Standing Orders were suspended and the order of business altered to facilitate the Fleadh Cheoil presentation by Eimear Kennedy.

8. Special Business (*Internal Presentation*).

8.1 Presentation by Eimear Kennedy - Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2024

Volunteer Coordinator, Eimear Kennedy, gave a presentation on volunteering at the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. In response to a query from an Cathaoirleach Cllr Jim Moore on engaging with members of the public, Eimear confirmed the Fleadh Committee has met with Local Community Groups, the Chamber of Commerce, Schools and Businesses and have engaged the services of a PR company for online and social media promotion. Any specific queries regarding volunteering can be directed to the committee using the contact details on Wexford County Council's website.

In response to Cllr Frank Staples' query regarding the number of volunteers needed and if there were enough parking spaces, Eimear confirmed 1,500 volunteers were needed and that a park and ride service will operate for the duration of the festival. A car park on the Carcur side of town has been secured and an additional carpark was required for the opposite end of the town. A separate carpark for volunteers is also being planned.

Cllr Jim Codd suggested the Fleadh link in with the rural communities and suggested the committee look at the carpark at The Farm Shop on the Newline Road for a park & ride.

In response to Cllr Lisa McDonald's question regarding how people working in the town and people with disabilities would be facilitated, Eimear confirmed the carpark at the Chamber of Commerce on Hill Street would be utilised for this purpose and access volunteers were being sought. She also confirmed a shuttle bus throughout the town would operate every half hour until 2am and later over the weekend.

Cllr Ger Carthy encouraged all community groups in the district to engage and support the committee.

Eimear committed to sending on a copy of the presentation to the Elected Members. An Cathaoirleach Cllr Jim Moore thanked her for the presentation and wished the committee every success with the event.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 22nd March 2024, were proposed by Cllr Frank Staples and seconded by Cllr Ger Carthy.

1.2 Matters Arising

The responses and information provided in relation to queries from the previous meeting were noted.

Rosslare Strand – Planning Applications

In response to Cllr Ger Carthy's request of a special meeting with the executive, the Director of Services was advised by the DOS of Planning that any such meeting would be premature in advance of the combined assessment and until that is complete the position remains the same, they agreed to putting the question to the Senior Engineer of Environment upon his arrival.

Cllr Carthy put forward a motion for an urgent meeting over the next few weeks to be held between Uisce Eireann, the Water Services Department, Director of Services of Environment, Planning and the Interim Chief Executive. The motion was seconded by Cllr McDonald and supported by Cllr Codd.

Cllr McDonald stated that while there is an understanding that the outcome of the combined assessment must be awaited, there needs to be a plan in place as to what happens after that assessment. The DOS stated that the priority is the combined assessment as it was instructed by An Bord Pleanála. Cllr McDonald acknowledged that while it is valid that any development requires sewer & wastewater, clarity is required in the interim. An Cathaoirleach Cllr Jim Moore committed to asking the Interim Chief Executive.

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

Nothing to report.

3. District Manager Report

3.1 District Managers Report

The District Manager delivered her monthly report and highlighted the following information.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

It has been agreed to lease the recently acquired building to the Rosslare Harbour / Kilrane Development Team, in accordance with adopted Section 183 Notice of Autumn 2022. The planned refurbished works are currently out to tender.

Amendments to the initial Taghmon project were submitted by the community group and subsequently granted by the DRCD. Project should now proceed at pace.

Communities Recognition Fund.

The Community Recognition Fund for 2024 has been announced. The Fund aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community. €50 million is available under the Fund, and Wexford County Council allocation for 2024 is €1,703,377.

RMD Strategic Plan.

The first of the Rosslare MD Community Networking Events was held on Tuesday the 9th of April in Murrintown Community Centre and attended by over 50 people from various community groups, organisations, and residents in the area. The next Networking event will be held in Taghmon with the date to be confirmed.

Projects in the District

The District Manager provided updates on various projects underway throughout the District including:

- Killinick Bus Shelter & Public Realm Works
- Ashfield Roundabout
- Murrintown to Piercestown Community Trail
- B2K (Bridgetown to Kilmore) Walkway/Greenway
- Éire 15 - Coastal Marker Sign
- Killinick Approach Works – CRF

Roadshow to Promote Vacant Homes Supports

The Rosslare MD Vacant Homes Roadshow held by Wexford Co. Co. Regeneration Unit on 9th April was well attended. Further information is available from the County Council Offices or through the website.

Community Monuments Fund 2024

Co. Wexford will receive a total of €286,081.25 in Community Monument Funding for 2024 with the Rosslare District availing of €166,081.25 across the following structures:

- Ballycogley Castle
- Killag Church
- Our Lady's Island Castle
- Ballingly Church

Dunkirk - Twinning

A delegation representing the elected members and officials of Rosslare Municipal District will travel to Dunkirk in May following an invitation received from The Urban Community of Dunkerque.

Cllr Ger Carthy congratulated the District Manager on the securing of recent grants for the district and expressed his disappointment that an Cathaoirleach was not invited to the unveiling of the stained-glass window in Johnstown Castle. The Elected Members echoed the councillor's disappointment.

4. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

4.1 Roads Report

Prior to delivering the roads report, the District Engineer welcomed members of the IT Team who demonstrated the recently implemented Road Fault Requests Reporting System. Following questions from the Elected Members, the District Engineer and I.S. Project Leader clarified to the members that the system is an internal administration tool that allows for a more efficient and effective method of logging reports received from members of the public.

The District Engineer delivered the previously circulated report before responding to questions raised by the Members, agreeing to log the general maintenance issues raised whilst also confirming or updating on the following items:

- *Roads Restoration Improvement (Strengthening)*
- *Roads Restoration Maintenance - Surface Dressing Schemes*
- *Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) Roads*
- *Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) Roads*
- *Bridge Rehabilitation Grant*
- *Bus Shelters*
- *Safety Improvement Works*
- *Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works*
- *Line Marking*
- *Low-Cost Safety*
- *Bridgetown Flood Scheme Review*

Drainage Works & Hedge Cutting

In response to a query from Cllr. Codd relating to drainage funding, the District Engineer confirmed that €134,000 was allocated for drainage works across the district for 2024 and that it has been exhausted, while additional funding from Central Government would be welcomed, there are drainage elements to the remaining roads funding which will be used throughout the year.

Project Surface Reinstatement

Cllr Carthy requested representatives from Uisce Eireann, the previous District Engineer and the Senior Executive Engineer of Water Services attend the next Rosslare MD monthly meeting to discuss the damage done to Grange Rd, Kilmore, and the subsequent reinstatement, due to unofficial diversions during the installation of the new Wastewater Treatment Plant on Grange Road. This was seconded by Cllr. Codd who also requested comment regarding the roads that will service the planned solar farms in the district. The DE confirmed works on the solar farms are due to commence in January 2025, are likely to begin in Murrintown and could take a year.

St. Brendan's Estate

The District Engineer confirmed to Cllr. Carthy that signage would be erected at St. Brendan's estate to deter the overnight parking of motor homes and drainage

works in Woodtown Rosslare will be completed as part of this year's works programme.

Traffic Management Plans

The District Engineer confirmed to Cllr. Codd that the Roads Plan for Kilmore Quay is currently at draft stage and requires a few amendments before being made available for public viewing.

Bus Stops

The District Engineer advised that the pub at Waddingtown restricted access for school buses pulling in and he will need to liaise with the NTA and Safety Officer for a solution, as due to being on a regional road, it was not an ideal location.

Redmore – Killag

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Jim Moore highlighted the poor condition of the Redmore to Killag Road in Duncormick, the District Engineer committed to reviewing the road.

Ballygragan Road

In response to an Cathaoirleach's request for an update, the District Engineer confirmed the Tender for the pipework has been submitted and the EIS report has been completed, works will be completed before the Winter.

4.2 Housing Report

The Members noted the content of the report.

Taghmon

In response to Cllr. Codd, the Senior Staff Officer committed to obtaining an update on the field in Taghmon.

Bridgetown

Cllr. Codd expressed his disappointment in lack of interest in acquiring the three green areas recently put on the market in Hazelwood. This was supported by Cllr. Codd & an Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. McDonald. An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Moore stated it needed urgent attention and asked the Director of Services to speak with the relevant section and revert with a response.

Foulksmills

Cllr. Carthy highlighted that there was land available in Foulksmills and it would be a missed opportunity if Wexford County Council did not look at it and requested a report on it for the next meeting. Cllr. Moore agreed not to miss an opportunity.

4.2.1 Rosslare MD Specific

The Members welcomed and noted the content of the Rosslare MD Specific report.

4.2.2 Housing Capital Project Report

An Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. McDonald raised issue with the Capital Report citing Rosetown should be removed, and it could be reduced to one page.

At this point of the meeting Cllr. McDonald referenced back to the combined assessment report of Rosslare Strand and suggested that it would be prudent to move forward and look to increase the capacity by way of a new WWTP. A discussion followed which resulted in confirmation from Environment that the results of the combined assessment report would be circa August – September this year.

An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Moore then referred to the Matters Arising and informed the Senior Engineer of Environment of Cllr. McDonald's proposal of a Plan B and Cllr. Carthy's request for an urgent meeting. The SE advised that it would be premature to meet with Uisce Eireann in advance of the combined assessment report and if a new WWTP would be sought, it would be a lengthy process in which case, the combined assessment would be very important.

4.3 Planning Report

The Members noted the content of the report.

Derelict Sites

At an Cathaoirleach's request, the Executive Planner committed to requesting the district's derelict sites figures and to ask the Senior Executive Officer if the derelict sites account for derelictions.

4.4 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

The content of the previously circulated report was noted.

4.5 Community Development Report

The content of the previously circulated report was noted.

4.6 Environment Report

The Senior Engineer of Environment delivered the previously circulated report.

St. Margarets Car Park

The Senior Engineer advised the Elected Members that the landowner is not interested in a deal at the moment, he confirmed that a valuation had been completed, but a price was never agreed. Cllr. Carthy requested a copy of the valuation, the S.E agreed to provide it if not subject to GDPR. A heated discussion

ensued during which the S.E requested for the sarcastic comments from Cllr. Carthy to stop and allow him the respect and due curtesy to deliver his report.

Cllr. Carthy put the question to the Director of Services on how to fix the situation of a without a car park. Cllr. McDonald supported Cllr. Carthy in doubling efforts regarding St. Margaret's Car Park and requested a report for the next meeting on how we see our beaches, the DOS agreed to look into the request. The DOS stated her support for the SE's work over the years and confirmed a review of the carparks was underway as part of the Annual Plan.

Beach Access

In response to Cllr. McDonald's concerns regarding overall beach access, the SE confirmed he was meeting with Sports Active in the coming days and committed to preparing a report on erosion on the beaches.

Cllr. Carthy requested an independent report be completed on access to all beaches and carparks with costings.

Cullenstown

Cllr. Codd requested the SE look at the lane behind the carpark in Cullenstown, concerned it was starting to collapse putting the handball alley at risk of flooding from the river. The SE confirmed he had inspected previously but will do another site visit.

An Cathaoirleach noted the time, and the suspension of the Standing Orders were proposed by Cllr. Staples, seconded by Cllr. McDonald and the meeting continued.

Beach Access

A discussion ensued regarding a previous report compiled by the Staff Officer on access to the district's beaches and work required on same. An Cathaoirleach requested an up-to-date assessment on beaches and course of action for next month's meeting.

4.7 Fire Services Report

The contents of the report were noted.

4.8 Special Projects – Greenway Update

The contents of the report were noted. In response to a question from an Cathaoirleach regarding indicative dates for the public consultation which was put to Special Projects prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Staff Officer read aloud an update provided by way of email by the Executive Engineer. An Cathaoirleach stated he would write to Special Projects requesting the public consultation be prioritised. Cllr. McDonald proposed writing to the minister.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Notice of Motion/s

None

7. Any Other Business

Cllr. Codd raised the issue of lack of bus drivers and the risk of Wexford being left without a service after Kilmore losing its bus into town last year. 57 students will be without a bus next year.

Cllr. Codd stated that the current scheme paying €100/ha was not sufficient and proposed writing to the Minister to suggest widening the scheme to include Maize and hoe crops. An Cathaoirleach suggested contacting the IFA, this was supported by Cllr. Staples and Cllr. Carthy.

Amenity Grant Allocation

Cllr. McDonald proposed the adoption of the Amenity Grant Allocation, this was seconded by Cllr. Carthy.

Congratulations

Cllr. Moore extended congratulations to Rory Cassidy from Bridgetown on his recent appointment as editor of Irish Runner magazine.

Cllr. Codd congratulated Michael Bush from Bridgetown Handball club for competing in the All-Ireland final at weekend.

Cllr. McDonald wished to congratulate the Ballycogley Players in reaching the All-Irelands with “*Out of Order*”.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed on the 15th May 2024

Cllr Jim Moore
An Cathaoirleach
Rosslare Municipal District