

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

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- Presiding:** Cllr Jim Moore– An Cathaoirleach
- Councillors:** Cllr Lisa McDonald - Leas Cathaoirleach  
Cllr Jim Codd  
Cllr Ger Carthy
- Officials:** Nóirín Cummins – District Manager  
Lynda Lacey – District Director  
Michael Brazzill – District Engineer (Roads)  
Caroline Creane – Administrative Officer (Community)  
Ronan Griffin - Assistant Staff Officer (Community)  
Helen Meehan – Senior Staff Officer (Housing)  
Sonia Hunt – Executive Planner  
Gerry Forde – Senior Engineer (Environment)  
Donal Gordon – County Rates Officer  
Johanna Somers – Assistant Staff Officer  
Dean Waters – Staff Officer
- Remote:** Seamus Begley – Management Accountant  
George Colfer – Executive Engineer (Environment)  
Sharon Pettit on behalf of Verona Murphy TD - Oireachtas  
Member  
Liam Mannix - KPMG
- Apologies:** Cllr Frank Staples

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, opened the meeting and suggested a 15-minute recess to accommodate the expected delayed arrival of Members, this was agreed by all present.

The meeting reconvened and Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, confirmed that the requisite quorum was in place, welcomed all those in attendance and continued with the meeting.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, proposed the suspension of standing orders to facilitate the presentation on the *2-year Implementation Plan for the LECP and the approval of the LECP, including the Implementation Plan* by the Liam Mannix KPMG, together with the Community Development Report. The proposal seconded by Cllr Jim Codd and standing orders were duly suspended.

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

**2.1 Presentation on the 2-year Implementation Plan for the LECP and approval of the LECP, including the Implementation Plan, prior to same going to the full Council for adoption – Liam Mannix, KPMG**

Liam Mannix, KPMG commenced and completed the presentation, whilst also responding to certain queries raised by the Members.

A discussion followed.

Liam Mannix confirmed that not all the data from the 2022 census had yet been released by the **Central Statistics Office (CSO)**, confirming that where possible 2022 census figures were used.

It was agreed that Rosslare Municipal District would be included in the **High-Level Goal 4.4, Section 5**

It was agreed that the Rosslare Municipal District twinning arrangement with the Municipal Authority in Dunkerque would be included in **High-Level Goal 6**.

On the Proposal of Cllr Jim Moore, seconded by Cllr Jim Codd, it was agreed that the **2-year Implementation Plan** and the **Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)** could proceed to the plenary session subject to the agreed amendments.

**4.5 Community Development Report**

The Administrative Officer introduced the previously circulated report.

*Local Enhancement Programme*

The Administrative Officer advised the Members that the *2024 Local Enhancement Programme* is live on-line today, with funding being available for qualifying projects following the application process.

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Prior to their departure from the meeting, the Members thanked the representative from KPMG and the Community Department for the detailed presentation and the comprehensive documentation previously circulated.

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An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, requested the reports as required with the order of business to be reflected in the minutes.

**3. District Manager Report**

**3.1 District Managers Report**

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

*Sod turned on 18-unit social housing scheme at Tagoat, Co. Wexford.*

On the 13<sup>th</sup> December, an Cathaoirleach of Rosslare Municipal District, Cllr Jim Moore, officially turned the sod to commence a new development of 18 social houses at Grahormack, Tagoat, in the presence of his fellow elected members of

Rosslare Municipal District, Wexford County Council officials and representatives from the appointed contractors.

The scheme which is funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under 'Housing for All' the national housing plan, will help to address the demand for social housing in the area. It will comprise of modern and energy efficient homes designed to meet the needs of individuals and families.

#### *Ashfield Roundabout - Update*

The Tuskar sculpture is now complete. **Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)** have now agreed to the proposal subject to Stage 1,2 & 3 Roads Safety Audits. A consultant engineer has now been asked to carry out these audits.

#### *Rosslare MD Strategic Plan*

We are working to complete and launch the Rosslare Municipal District Strategic Plan 2024-2030 and are currently preparing a work plan for 2024-2025. We are continuing to maintain our communication with the community groups.

#### *Éire 15 - Coastal Marker Sign*

Work continues on schedule for the community led heritage project in Kilmore Quay to uncover the Coastal Marker constructed in 1943. The viewing area has also progressed over the last few weeks and signage is now being finalised ready for translation.

#### *Safe Routes to School Project, Rosslare National School*

Construction works outside St. Mary's National School Rosslare as part of the Safe Routes to School Project are complete. This project aims to encourage more walking to school by reducing car parking in front of the school, improving the walking infrastructure and providing safe crossings on the public road. The scheme has applied for and granted funding for additional footpaths on the Coast Road in Rosslare to the value of €90,000 which, in addition to agreed works brings the project value to €136k.

#### *Carrig-on-Bannow St. Patrick's Weekend Festival*

Preparations are under way for the St. Patricks Weekend Festival in Carrig on Bannow. This is the flagship festival for the RMD for 2024. The festival kicks off on Friday 15th March, with a very special concert in the church in Carrig on Bannow. *Frankie Gavin and De Dannan* will be supported by local group *TULUA*. On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, the annual parade takes part in the village. This is a great Family and Community Day to have in the locality that has been going strong for 14 years. They have had a great turnout of floats from local businesses and groups over the years but this year they look forward to seeing new entries from across the district.

The Members are invited and welcome to join the committee and community groups for the launch night on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm in *The Red Door Café, Carrig on Bannow*.

#### *Coolhull Castle, Carrig*

Extensive repointing and consolidation of the masonry works were completed at *Coolhull Castle* and were funded by the OPW. *Coolhull Castle* is a fine example of a Norman Castle and one of the last castles to be built in County Wexford. It is

an important site on the *Norman Way* and it is hoped it will be open to the public in the near future.

#### *Dunkirk – Twinning*

The first leg of the school exchange programme for the 2023/24 academic year has been completed with students from Bridgetown visiting Dunkirk between November 3rd to 10<sup>th</sup>. The students from Lycee Jean Bart will complete a return visit in March 2024.

Arrangements are currently being put in place for an Erasmus visit by Kilmore Primary School to Dunkirk.

#### *Housing Capital – Land Acquisition.*

The District Manager read the following update received from Special Projects in relation to the land acquisition in Kilmore Quay –

*“Wexford County Council and its Housing section is pleased to confirm that it has completed the procurement of land for the purpose of housing development in Kilmore Quay. The land has been acquired following a response to expressions of interest being sought in the Municipal District. Wexford County Council intends to develop a master plan of the site for the provision of housing as part of the Housing for All policy in response to the housing needs of the District and County.”*

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

### **1.1 Monthly Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of December 13<sup>th</sup> 2023, were proposed by Cllr Lisa McDonald and seconded by Cllr Jim Codd.

### **1.2 Matters Arising**

The responses and information provided in relation to queries from the previous meeting were noted and it was agreed they would be revisited as necessary under the appropriate agenda items.

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Cllr Ger Carthy arrived at the meeting.

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## **4. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

### **4.1 Roads Report**

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

- *Kilmore Quay Reinstatement Works / WWTP*
- *Killinick Safety Works*
- *Tagoat Road Safety Works / Survey*
- *Solar Farm Reinstatement Works*
- *Line Marking*
- *Safety Improvement Works*
- *Hedgecutting*

- *Riverstown Bridge at Bargy Commons*
- *Cottage / Ballybrittas Bridge, Tagoat*
- *Drainage and Flood Mitigation / Improvement Works*
- *Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works*
- *Mayglass Farmstead*

whilst also agreeing to investigate the following matter/s;

- *Loughnageer Cul-de-Sac – Upgrade Works and Drainage*
- *R733 Traffic Calming Measures – Cohesive Plan for RMD & WBD*
- *Rathaspeck Road Closure – Safety / Lighting Options*
- *Corach Avenue, Wellingtonbridge – Surface Water*

#### *Deerpark Road Surface*

Following a proposal by from Cllr Lisa McDonald, which was seconded by Cllr Ger Carthy, the District Engineer confirmed that he would present an upgrade plan for this road surface at the next meeting.

#### *Traffic Management Plans – Rosslare Strand / Kilmore Quay / Ballycogley*

The District Engineer confirmed the following;

- *Rosslare Strand*  
*Topographical survey of main route roads carried out. Survey issued to active travel and urban planner for draft proposals.*
- *Kilmore Quay*  
*Topographical survey of main route roads completed.*
- *Ballycogley*  
*Topographical survey of the regional road passing through the village to be carried out in January.*

#### *Roads Programme 2024*

The District Engineer confirmed that works to be completed under the 2024 Roads Programme were currently being assessed.

#### **4.1.1 Bus Shelter Progress Report**

The District Engineer gave a progress report / update on the following outstanding works;

- *Progressing – Bridgetown (#2)*
- *Progressing - Killinick*
- *Active Travel - Wellingtonbridge x2*
- *Active Travel – Kilrane x2*
- *NTA Application – Tagoat x2 (North & South)*
- *NTA Application – Drinagh x2 (North & South)*

#### *Land Banks & the Rosslare Municipal District Strategic Plan*

Following comment from Cllr Lisa McDonald regarding Bus Stops and Land Banks for Drinagh and each settlement village, the District Director confirmed that her

comments would be taken on board in the consideration of the RMD/SP Work Plan for 2024-2025.

#### *Road Opening Licenses and Subsequent Re-Instatement Works*

Following comment from the Members the District Engineer confirmed the processes currently in place surrounding Road Opening Licenses.

A discussion followed.

Cllr Ger Carthy requested information on the works at the bottom of Broadway Hill. The District Engineer confirmed that he would collate the necessary information in advance of the next meeting.

### **4.2 Housing Report**

The Senior Staff Officer, Helen Meehan, delivered the housing report and responded to queries from the Members.

#### **4.2.1 Rosslare MD Specific**

The Senior Staff Officer presented the Rosslare MD specific report to the Members before responding to their queries.

#### *House Purchases*

Following comment from the Members regarding the lack of House Purchases in the District, the Senior Staff Officer confirmed that houses had been bought under the *Tenant in Situ* Programme.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, requested that detail of all forms of house purchases in the District be provided for the Members information.

#### *Tenant Purchase Scheme*

The Senior Staff Officer advised the Meeting that changes to the qualifying criteria of the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme were being made as of the 29<sup>th</sup> January, these included a reduction in annual income limits, a widening of allowable social welfare incomes, and an easing of restrictions of joint applications.

Under this scheme, tenants in a local authority home, can apply to purchase the home from the local authority at a discounted rate based on their income, with an incremental charge placed on the property which diminishes over time.

The Members requested that information on the changes to the scheme be circulated. The Senior Staff Officer agreed to action this request.

#### *Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme – RMD Specific Report*

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, noted that the figures detailed in the Retrofit Programme were shown in collective form and a replica of the data in the main CE Housing Report, before requesting the RMD specific figures be made available.

The Senior Staff Officer agreed to request this information.

#### **4.2.2 Housing Capital Project Report**

The Members noted the Housing Capital Project Report and the data contained therein.

The Members voiced their frustration at the continued provision of county wide data to the District Meetings.

A discussion followed.

The District Director clarified that the data and information contained in the report covered the entirety of the *Housing for All 2021 – 2030* plan in the County, whilst also agreeing to relay their concerns at the appropriate level and request RMD specific data only to be included in all future reports.

#### **4.3 Planning Report**

The Executive Planner introduced the previously circulated report before clarifying some matters for the Members.

The Executive Planner advised the Members that going forward she would be solely responsible for pre-planning and the assessment of planning applications in the District.

Following comment from the Members the Executive Planner advised that a new Heritage Officer is to be appointed in due course following completion of the recruitment process.

##### **4.3.1 Planning Decisions – Grants**

Noted.

##### **4.3.2 Planning Decisions – Refusals**

Noted.

#### **4.4 Libraries Archives & Arts Report**

The content of the previously circulated report was noted.

#### **4.6 Environment Report**

The S.E. Environment delivered the previously circulated report before responding to the queries raised by the Members, whilst also confirming and/or giving updates on the following items:

##### *Ballygrangan's – Coastal Erosion*

The S.E. Environment confirmed that his Department and the District Engineer continue to work closely together to progress the needed road protection works at the site.

##### *Beach Signage – Ballyteigue Bay*

Following observations from An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, regarding safety concerns at Ballyteigue Bay, the S.E. Environment confirmed that he would discuss the matter of signage with the Executive Engineer.

#### *Coastguard Access - Ballytrent*

Following further queries from Cllr Ger Carthy regarding the possibility of providing Coastguard access at Ballytrent, the S.E. Environment agreed to seek a definitive answer in advance of the next meeting.

#### *Summer Ready – Programme of Works*

The Executive Engineer confirmed that a Summer Ready works plan would be presented to the March monthly meeting.

#### **4.6.1 Seaview / Coastal Erosion - Update**

The Executive Engineer updated the Members on the coastal erosion schemes and responded to questions from the Members.

In relation to Seaview the S.E. Environment confirmed that a pre-planning meeting was held with Planning Department on 29th August and that a Part XI application would be submitted in due course. The S.E. Engineer also confirmed that further correspondence has been issued to OPW to progress the funding of the scheme.

The S.E Engineer advised the Members that a full report on *Coastal Winter Damage* would be presented at the next meeting.

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Cllr Ger Carthy left the meeting.

Following acknowledgment from the Chair of the current time being 12:30, Cllr Lisa McDonald proposed the suspension of Standing Orders. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Jim Codd and the meeting continued.

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#### **4.7 Fire Services Report**

Noted.

#### **4.8 Special Projects – Greenway Update**

The District Manager read the following update received from Seán Meyler, Senior Engineer Special Projects / Rory Curtis, Executive Engineer Special Projects –

*‘As presented to the Rosslare Municipal District monthly meeting in November 2023, the Rosslare Strand to Rosslare Harbour Greenway is currently progressing through Phase 2 (Route Options) of TII’s Project Management Guidelines. Preliminary Route Options for this section of Greenway are being finalised in accordance with the Code of Practice for National and Regional Greenways and TII Project Managers Manual for Greenway Projects. It is intended that a Public Consultation process (Route Options) will take place in February ‘24. Prior to the commencement of this Public Consultation process, it is intended to make a presentation to the members of the Rosslare Municipal District outlining the proposed route options for the project. This may require a special meeting with the members of the RMD if public consultation timelines do not align with the February RMD monthly meeting. We will update Members on the timeline and format of the above over the coming weeks.*

*The Wexford to Rosslare Greenway project is also currently proceeding through Phase 2 (Route Options). A new Public Consultation (Route Options) will take place as a joint Public*



*Consultation with the Rosslare Strand to Harbour Greenway, as outlined above. This Public Consultation is being carried out as further route options have been suggested, and to take account of recent development that has been undertaken within the Study Area. Completion of the above will enable both projects to progress through Phase 2, with a final Option Appraisal Report due to be completed at the end of Phase 2 in late May/early June '24.'*

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, agreed that the Members would be happy to facilitate a Special Meeting if required. This was agreed by all present.

**5. Correspondence**

None

**6. Notice of Motion/s –**

None

**7. Any Other Business**

*International Protection Applicants & Refugees from the war in Ukraine*

Cllr Jim Codd complimented the community of Duncormick for organising English lessons for those in need, however, expressed his disappointment at the continued nationwide on-line commentary which was de-humanising those seeking asylum or assistance leaving war torn regions.

Cllr Lisa McDonald commended Cllr Jim Codd for his courage, leadership, and for continuing to be vocal on the subject. Cllr Lisa McDonald also called for a cohesive strategic plan to be formulated by Government to include full engagement with local communities.

A discussion followed.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, commended the communities of the District for being to the fore in the response to the International Protection and Refugee crisis and for dealing with all aspects of the unfolding situation with compassion and sympathy. This was supported by all present.

**8. Special Business (*Internal / External Presentations etc*).**

*8.1 Rates Legislation Update - Presented by Donal Gordon, County Rates Officer*

The County Rates Officer delivered his presentation before responding to queries from the Members.

**THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

Signed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

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**Cllr Jim Moore**  
**An Cathaoirleach**  
**Rosslare Municipal District**