

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on the 13th November 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

Officials: Alan Fitzhenry – District Manager
Eamonn Hore – District Director
Tom Banville – Senior Executive Officer Planning
David Murphy – Executive Engineer (Roads)
Michelle Duffin – Assistant Staff Officer
Áine Waters – Staff Officer

Remote: Cllr Michael Sheehan
Martina Donoghue – Administrative Officer (Housing)
David Wall - Executive Planner

Apologies: Hugh Maguire - Administrative Officer (Environment)
Melissa Goff – Senior Staff Officer (Environment)

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 October 16th 2024, were proposed by Cllr John Dwyer and seconded by Cllr Pat Barden.

Congratulations

Congratulations were afforded to the Celtic Dragon Kickboxing Club for their success at the World Championships in Vienna, bringing home 1 gold and 3 bronze medals.

The Fethard Intermediate Football team were also congratulated on winning the Amber Springs and Ashdown Park Hotels Intermediate Football Championship Crown, and the first round of the Leinster Championship.

Congratulations were also afforded to the five local handballers on their recent success at the 2024 World Championships.

Sympathies

The members offered sympathies to the families and friends of the following:

- Mick Banville - Ramsgrange
- Chris Sheehan – Wexford Street, New Ross

Due to the attendance and scheduled presentation of Tom Banville – Senior Executive Officer (Planning), an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Bridin Murphy, recommended the suspension of standing orders to facilitate a change in the order of business.

Cllr John Fleming proposed the suspension of Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr Pat Barden. Standing Orders were duly suspended.

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

4.1 Update on derelict sites in the New Ross District

Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer – Planning, introduced the presentation before responding to matters raised by the Members and clarifying certain points regarding the processes involved.

Mr Banville then thanked the Members for their time and departed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

2.1 District Managers Report

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

Small Things Like These

New Ross Municipal District is delighted to announce a number of key projects that will both mark and highlight the making of the 'Small Things Like These' film in New Ross. As is common in the film industry, there was an embargo on doing anything around the film until after its official release in Cinemas. However, after months of work behind the scenes, we are now in a position to celebrate the making of the film here.

Firstly, we have commissioned 'The Walls Project' to produce a striking mural on the Quays in New Ross. Working with two very talented female artists Zabou & Zippy, a design has been agreed that celebrates both the film and importantly, the book. Zabou will complete portraits of Cillian Murphy and the book's author Claire Keegan, while Zippy will produce the detailed typography sections, taking inspiration from the book cover and O'Hanrahan Bridge. The striking image of Cillian Murphy being used for the mural, has been graciously supplied by local Photographer Shane O'Connor, who took the picture while he worked on the film set and comes with full production approval. I want to thank the Board of Cumas and the owners of the Town & Country building for permitting the use of their walls. I would also like to sincerely thank Claire Keegan for allowing us to use her image, as without her wonderful writing, there would be no film.

Secondly, we have secured permission from the film distribution company Lionsgate, and the production company, to host screenings of Small Things Like These in St Michaels Theatre this coming Saturday. These invitation-only screenings are for the people who worked on the film or took part in the making of the film in the town in some way, including

extras, cast, crew, production team and some local businesses. The idea is to celebrate the making of the film in the town, with everyone who was directly involved. The invitations have gone out and excitement is building. I'd like to thank Tomas and his team in the Theatre for their help with this event, along with Ger Walsh and my own team here in the Tholsel.

In addition to this event, we are working closely with Myles Courtney of New Ross Street Focus, to develop a Small Things Like These themed walking tour. The tour will take in key sites and locations from the film, while also adding historical context to the important subject matter of the film.

We are also thrilled to be working closely with local artist Shane O'Connor, who worked as a Stills Photographer on the film, on the development of an exhibition of unit stills and behind the scenes images. The plan is to display these in a unique outdoor setting for all to enjoy, early in the New Year.

Overall, we are keen to celebrate the making of this excellent film in New Ross. It is yet another example of the attractiveness of our town and district as a location and we look forward to welcoming visitors to New Ross who have read the book or seen the film. Our thanks as always to the Councillors of New Ross Municipal District for their support on these projects.

Nollaig New Ross 2024

We are all looking forward to launching Christmas 2024 with our lights "Switch On" event, which takes place on Saturday 23rd November. 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.

The NRMD Sensory Santa will be earlier in the day, for children living with neurodiverse conditions. This year, we are working with a number of organisations locally who have advertised the WCC booking system. Appointments must be booked in advance and are limited.

As always and with the support of the Elected Members and some local businesses, we will invest heavily in the Christmas campaign with our upgraded lighting, "Switch On" ceremony, and we will provide 10 Christmas trees around the town, including our newest one at the bridge. As an extra touch this year, we will replicate the coloured lighting from the Small Things Like These film on Quay Street.

Our Remembrance Tree in Pearse Park returns and this year our chosen charity is the Irish Kidney Association. The switch on for this tree is Monday 2nd December at 5pm and blank baubles are available from the Tholsel, Tirlan, Dermot Kehoe's and the Dunbrody for a small donation to the charity. People are asked to write a remembrance message to a loved one and all are welcome to attend the switch on.

We ask everyone to support Nollaig New Ross again this year, to come and enjoy the festive season and to shop local throughout the New Ross District!

Celebrations for Paralympian Linda Kelly

I would like to add a brief note of sincere thanks to everyone who helped us celebrate with local Paralympian and World Champion Linda Kelly. Our thanks to the communities in Ballyanne & Cushinstown for working with us in particular. Thank you to Ger Kielthy and to the hardworking team here in the District. Linda and her family were delighted with the various events, including the reception here in the Tholsel.

Projects:

Brennan's Lane/Shambles

Works at Brennan's Lane are nearing completion and expected to last until mid-December, with The Shambles completing early in 2025. The District Project Team are working closely with our consultant & contractor on this Town & Village Renewal Scheme & WCC co-funded project. We look forward to seeing the finished results.

CCTV

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

Duncannon Fort Works

Works at Duncannon Fort continue at speed. The plan is for the works, which are varied and include a new bridge deck, electrical wiring, toilet block upgrades and some internal building improvements (3 buildings only), to be completed by Q1 2025. Various contractors are engaged. This project is funded under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme with additional funding from Wexford County Council.

Motorhome Park

The Flood Risk Assessment has now been completed since the last meeting. Work continues to prepare the approved Motorhome Park for Part VIII.

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 brief is being prepared for initial tender.

Sports Capital Appeal Successful

We were recently disappointed to receive notification that our District Sports Capital application for improvements at Pearce Park was unsuccessful. However, we have subsequently appealed, and our understanding is the full €140,000 in funding will now be approved. Once official confirmation is received from the Dept., I will bring the full details to the December meeting. Our thanks to Minister James Browne for his help on this.

New Ross Skate Park

I am delighted to acknowledge the planning vote from Monday's Council meeting for the New Ross Skate Park. My sincere thanks to Special Projects for their work on this to date. This was the final step in getting the project "shovel ready" and we can now seek funding when available.

Memo Regarding New Ross Library Capital Project

Memo circulated to the Members to provide an update on the project.

2.1a Special Projects Report

Noted.

2.2 Roads Report

The District Engineer referred to the previously circulated report before responding to queries raised by the Members.

The District Manager commended the Roads crew on completing 15km of resurfacing works on the Greenlink Interconnector Route.

2.3 Housing Report

The Administrative Officer referred to the previously circulated report before responding to queries raised by the Members.

2.3a Housing Report – New Ross Only

Noted.

2.3b Housing Capital

Noted.

2.4 Planning Report

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

2.5 Planning Decisions – Grants

Noted.

2.6 Planning Decisions – Refusals

Noted.

2.7 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

Noted.

2.8 Community Development Report

Noted.

2.9 Environment Report

Noted.

Cllr John Dwyer raised a query regarding a specific case of alleged illegal dumping in the town and requested clarity on the matter before the next meeting. District Manager agreed to request this update from Environment for the next Members meeting.

2.10 Fire Services Report

Noted.

2.11 Members Portal

Noted.

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

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

a. Main Street, Fethard on Sea, Co. Wexford

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

4. Other Business

4.1 Update on derelict sites in the New Ross District

5. Notice of Motion/s

None

6. Correspondence

6.1 Letter of thanks from New Ross Boat Club

6.2 Letter to CBS School

7. AOB

The Members requested clarity on the reporting of water issues as Uisce Eireann now have responsibility for same. Eamonn Hore offered clarification on the matter.

Cllr Pat Barden offered his thanks to the Water Crew for their quick response to the leak at Carrickbyrne cross.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed on the 11th December 2024

Cllr Bridin Murphy
An Cathaoirleach
New Ross Municipal District