

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on the 10th July 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 (Remote)
Cllr John Fleming
Cllr Marty Murphy
Cllr Michael Sheehan

Officials: Alan Fitzhenry – District Manager
Eamonn Hore – District Director
Padraig Lyng – Senior Executive Engineer (Water Services)
David Codd – Chief Technician / Road Safety Officer
Michelle Duffin – Assistant Staff Officer
Dean Waters – Staff Officer

Remote: Martina Donoghue – Administrative Officer (Housing)
Hugh Maguire - Administrative Officer (Environment)
David Wall - Executive Planner
Deputy Verona Murphy

Apologies: David Murphy – Executive Engineer (Roads)

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Bridin Murphy, confirmed that the requisite quorum was in place, welcomed all those in attendance and commenced the meeting.

Due to the attendance and scheduled presentation of *David Codd, Chief Technician / Road Safety Officer – item 3.1 Special Speed Limits – 60km/h Rural Local Roads Bye-Laws*, an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Bridin Murphy, recommended the suspension of standing orders to facilitate a change in the order of business.

Cllr Michael Sheehan proposed the suspension of Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr John Fleming, and Standing Orders were duly suspended.

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

3.1 Special Speed Limits – 60km/h Rural Local Roads Draft Bye-Laws

David Codd, Chief Technician / Road Safety Officer introduced the presentation before responding to matters raised by the Members and clarifying certain points regarding the processes involved.

The Chief Technician / Road Safety Officer confirmed that Regional / National Roads were not part of the process and therefore would not be changing. He

further confirmed that all needed signage would be funded by the Department of Transport.

Cllr John Fleming sought clarification on the number of fatalities on rural 80km/h local roads.

The Chief Technician / Road Safety Officer undertook to circulate this information directly following the meeting, he then thanked the Members for their time and departed.

Congratulations

Congratulations were afforded to Sophie Becker following her selection to represent Ireland at the 2024 Olympic Games being held in Paris.

Sympathies

The Members offered sympathies to the families and friends of the following;

- *John Duggan – Wexford Town*
- *Emy (Margaret) Rawson - Bosheen*
- *Nicholas (Nick) Cooney – New Ross*
- *Mike Whitty - Glynn*

The Members also expressed sympathies to the families and friends of all those recently deceased.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of May 8th 2024, were proposed by Cllr Michael Sheehan and seconded by Cllr John Fleming.

1.2 Annual Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of June 26th 2024, were proposed by Cllr John Dwyer and seconded by Cllr Michael Sheehan.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Bridin Murphy, requested that any matters arising should be dealt with under the corresponding agenda item.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

2.1 District Managers Report

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

September Meeting

Due to the timing of the US part of the Eugene O'Neill Festival of International Theatre, the second Wednesday in September is not feasible. Proposal to move the meeting to the fourth Wednesday, being the 25th September instead.

The recommendation was proposed by Cllr John Dwyer, seconded by an Cathaoirleach Cllr Bridin Murphy, and agreed by all present

Fleadh Fringe 2024

As part of the build up to the Fleadh coming to Wexford Town this coming August, Wexford County Council supported a “Fleadh Fringe” events series in the Districts. The NRMD organised a series of pop up performances in six major tourist locations in the District, which were filmed for publication on Social Media in advance of the main event. These included Uileann Piper Mark Redmond at Tintern Abbey, Green Road at Hook Lighthouse & Celtic Tenor Anthony Kearns at Rackard’s of Killanne, among others. We look forward to seeing the videos in the coming weeks. In addition, “Fleadh Fest ’24”, a free weekend of performances, was held on the last weekend in June in Library Park, New Ross, with performances from Zoe Conway, Phelim Drew and Magic Feet Irish Dance Troupe. We would like to sincerely thank all performers for sharing their talent and Tomas Kavanagh and his team at St Michael’s Theatre for their help with the Library Park events.

Summer Sessions

The New Ross Summer Sessions takes place again this year in the Library Park, with 7 Saturday evening concerts. Beginning this Saturday 13th July and running until 24th August, all of the events will be free to attend, having been significantly funded and supported by the Elected Members & Wexford County Council. The concerts will feature a variety of artists with something for everyone and the full list of performers is below. All Members are invited to attend. Tomas Kavanagh and his Team at St Michaels Theatre wish to thank the Members for their continued support of this festival.

New Ross Guitar Festival

The New Ross Guitar Festival takes place over the weekend of the 18th-21st July. Supported by the Elected Members and Wexford County Council, the Guitar Festival brings Irish and International guitarists of the highest calibre to New Ross. The Festival will include live performance, workshops and the commencement of the New Ross Guitar Orchestra which is open to all ages, styles and levels of ability. The Cathaoirleach will open the Festival on Thursday 18th and full details of performers and events can be found at newrossguitarfestival.ie.

Tri the Hook

The annual Tri the Hook Sprint Triathlon takes place on Saturday 24th August, starting with a 750m swim in Baginbun Bay. This is followed by a 20km cycle and a 5km run along the Baginbun Road to St Mogue’s GAA in Fethard on Sea. It’s the 13th year of this major event on the Hook peninsula, with up to 400 entrants expected and a large number of spectators. We wish the organisers and participants the very best of luck on the day.

Kennedy Summer School

The annual Festival of Irish & American History, Culture and Politics will take place from 29th to 31st August. The programme was launched last week, and the organisers are promising another fantastic line up of speakers this year. We welcome Eileen Dunne as the new Chair of the Board and sincerely thank outgoing Chair Willie Keilthy for his more than a decade of service to the Summer School. Supported by the Members and WCC, all details are at kennedysummerschool.ie. We wish them every success with this important international event.

Advance Factory

The Economic Development Section continue to work on this project. The Director responsible has given an undertaking to report when an outcome is secured.

Brennan's Lane/Shambles

Works commenced at the beginning of June on this important renewal project, with MJS Civil Engineering as the successful contractors, following tender. Works are expected to last until the end of 2024 and a sod turning event will be confirmed shortly. The District Project Team are working closely with our consultants Avanti Architects on this Town & Village Renewal Scheme funded project.

CCTV

The New Ross Town CCTV Pack is still awaiting approval from the Garda Commissioners Office. As the Wexford Town Pack was approved recently, we are hopeful that our approval is imminent from the Gardai. Wexford County Council is ready to move on a tender for the Phase 1 Scheme immediately, once this approval is received from the Gardai.

Duncannon Fort Works

Works are due to commence this month at Duncannon Fort. The plan is for the works, which include a new bridge deck, electrical wiring, toilet block upgrades and internal building improvements, to be completed by September/October this year. Various contractors are lined up, starting with civils, and stakeholders have been updated. This project is funded under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme with additional funding from Wexford County Council.

Motorhome Park

Work continues to prepare the approved Motorhome Park for Part VIII. A pre-planning meeting has been arranged for two weeks time.

Monument Cleaning & Repairs

I am pleased to advise that €2,500 has been approved for 'Essential cleaning, maintenance, or restoration of memorials and monuments relating to the War of Independence and the Civil War' in the New Ross District. This grant is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Following a report prepared by Colm Moriarty and De Faoite Archaeology for WCC in January 2022, there are three monuments in the New Ross District which fall under this remit:

- *Adamstown memorial, Adamstown*
- *St. Kearns Memorial, Saltmills*
- *St. Stephen's Cemetery Memorial, New Ross*

Minor repairs and cleaning works on the above will begin in the coming weeks.

Pedestrianisation

Since our last meeting, we received confirmation that our application for funding for the pedestrianisation of Quay Street has been successful under the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund Fifth Call. €864,884.72 has been secured with

additional funding to be provided by WCC. This project will transform the strategically located and historic Quay Street into a vibrant pedestrianised centre connecting the urban quarter to the South East Greenway. The District Project Team has held an initial meeting and plans/timelines for this important development will follow in the coming months.

Sensory Garden

The Sensory Garden in Pearse Park was completed and officially opened since our last meeting. A fantastic addition to the Park, the Sensory Garden has seen lots of visitors and received many plaudits since opening. I would again like to thank all who worked on this special project, including our own District Team.

- a) Cllr John Dwyer requested that the District Manager look favourably on a request for an event that was being organised by Karen Murphy as a fundraiser for a young girl with impaired vision.
The District Manager agreed to give his approval to the event once it satisfied the normal health and safety processes through the Event Management system.

- b) The Members requested that the Town Centre First team, attend the next monthly meeting.
The District Manager agreed to forward this request to Mick McCormack, Town Regeneration Officer.

Following a request made by an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Bridin Murphy, it was also agreed that SEO Tom Banville be invited to the next NRMD meeting to give an overview on Dereliction in New Ross.

The District Manager also agreed to forward this request.

The Members also requested the Director of Economic Development be invited to attend the meeting to give an update / progress report on the delivery of the Advance Factory.

The District Manager agreed to forward this request to Elizabeth Hore, Director of Services.

- c) Cllr Michael Sheehan stated that whilst the Sensory Garden in Pearse Park was a great success, many children without sensory issues were using it as a normal play area, which in turn was creating an unusable area for those it was intended for.
The District Manager agreed with Cllr Sheehan, confirming that it had been designed for children with neuro-diverse needs and he was actively monitoring the situation with regard to usage.
- d) The Members expressed their collective disappointment with the continued delays of the CCTV approval process.

A discussion followed.

On the proposal of Cllr John Dwyer, seconded by an Cathaoirleach Cllr Bridin Murphy, it was agreed that NRMD should correspond with the Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee TD, in an effort to expedite the matter. The District Manager undertook to complete this task on behalf of the Members.

2.1.1 Special Projects Report

The District Manager delivered the Special Projects Report which had been circulated previously.

2.2 Roads Report

In the absence of the District Engineer the Roads Report was noted by the Members.

2.3 Housing Report

The Members noted the content of the report.

2.3.1 New Ross MD Specific

The Administrative Officer presented the New Ross MD specific report to the Members, and gave apologies from the Housing Capital team, before responding to their queries and clarifying the following matters:

Social Housing Supports Assessment

The Administrative Officer advised the Members that assessment forms were now being circulated and requested their assistance in advising people on the Social Housing Supports list of the importance in returning their forms in a timely manner.

New Ross Housing Officer

The Administrative Officer advised the Members that Ms. Mary Byrne, Housing Officer for the New Ross District, was being replaced by Ms. Laura Gargan. The Members wished Mary good luck with her new role.

Families with Special Needs (Autism / ADHD)

Cllr Pat Barden raised the issue of families with special needs & the perceived lack of assistance available to such families.

The Administrative Officer requested that Cllr Pat Barden e-mail her directly on specific cases.

Following a lengthy discussion on the matter, on the proposal of Cllr John Dwyer, seconded by Cllr. Bridin Murphy, it was agreed that this matter be referred to the Housing SPC (Strategic Policy Committee) for their consideration.

2.3.2 Housing Capital Project Report

The Members noted the Housing Capital Project report.

2.4 Planning Report

The Members noted the content of the report.

Following a request from Cllr Michael Sheehan, the Executive Planner gave an outline of the process to convert a disused retail outlet into a habitable residence and agreed to circulate a more comprehensive document to all the Members directly following the meeting.

2.4.1 Planning Decisions – Grants

Noted.

2.4.2 Planning Decisions – Refusals

Noted.

2.5 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

The content of the previously circulated report was noted.

2.6 Community Development Report

The content of the previously circulated report was noted.

The Members afforded congratulations to all those involved with the Family Fun Day which was recently held in Pearse Park.

2.7 Environment Report

Administrative Officer, Hugh Maguire, introduced the previously circulated report and responded to the question of the Members.

Access to Grange Beach

The Administrative Officer gave an update on the dangerous situation at Grange Beach regarding the unstable cliff, advising that a contractor would be appointed shortly.

2.8 Fire Services Report

Noted.

2.9 Members Portal

Noted.

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

3.2 Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 - 2029

The Members unanimously agreed that the *Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029* proceed to the plenary session as presented.

3.3 Consideration of Section 183 Notice

a) Property at “Gladneys”, 5 John Street, New Ross

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

4. Other Business

None

5. Notice of Motion/s

None

6. Correspondence

None

7. AOB

None

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed on the 25th September 2024

**Cllr Bridin Murphy
An Cathaoirleach
New Ross Municipal District**