

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on the 25th September 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
Cllr Michael Sheehan
- Officials:** Alan Fitzhenry – District Manager
Eamonn Hore – District Director
Padraig Lyng – Senior Executive Engineer (Water Services)
Tom Banville – Senior Executive Officer (Planning)
Mark Devereux – Senior executive Engineer (Housing Capital)
John Daly – Road Safety Engineer
Angela Lawless –Administrative Officer (Economic Development)
Sean Meyler – Senior Engineer (Special Projects)
Michelle Duffin – Assistant Staff Officer
Dean Waters – Staff Officer
- Remote:** Martina Donoghue – Administrative Officer (Housing)
George Colfer – Executive Engineer (Environment)
David Wall - Executive Planner
- 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.

Congratulations

Congratulations were afforded to Sophie Becker following her success representing Ireland at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris and to Linda Kelly, for her medal successes and the entire Paralympic Squad for their personal and team achievements.

Integer were also congratulated on their recent expansion that saw the medical device contract manufacturer enlarge its footprint by 80,000 ft². The expansion will increase the facility's high-volume guidewire and wire-based manufacturing capacity.

Sympathies

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

- *Thomas St Ledger – New Ross*

- *Joan Malone – New Ross*
- *Margaret (Mag) Doyle – New Ross*
- *Ann Mullins – New Ross*
- *Laurence (Lar) Cummins – Ramsgrange*
- *Tom Byrne – Clonroche*
- *Avril Quigley - Rathnure*

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 July 10th 2024, were proposed by Cllr Michael Sheehan and seconded by Cllr John Fleming.

Due to the attendance and scheduled presentation of Tom Banville – Senior Executive Officer (Planning), John Daly – Road Safety Engineer, and Angela Lawless – Administrative Officer (Economic Development) 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 Dwyer. Standing Orders were duly suspended.

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

4.1 Implementation of the new Default 60km/h Rural Local Roads Speed Limit

John Daly – Road Safety Engineer introduced the presentation before responding to matters raised by the Members and clarifying certain points regarding the processes involved.

The Road Safety Engineer then thanked the Members for their time and departed.

3.3 Taking in Charge - Draft Policy

Tom Banville – Senior Executive Officer (Planning) presented the Draft Taking in Charge of Private Residential Estates Policy Document, before clarifying certain matters raised by the Members.

A discussion followed.

The Senior Executive Officer undertook to circulate a current listing of applications currently being processed, advising that each application included a five stage process – 1) *Application* 2) *Technical Assessment* 3) *Report to Uisce Éireann* 4) *Advertising* 5) *Adoption by Members through the Statutory Process*.

Following comment from the Members the Senior Executive Officer confirmed that this new policy document would only apply to applications post adoption date.

Following a proposal by Cllr Michael Sheehan, seconded by an Cathaoirleach Cllr Bridin Murphy, the Senior Executive Officer undertook to examine the issues in relation to Taking in Charge of the Parkfield Estate in New Ross.

An Cathaoirleach Cllr Bridin Murphy, thanked the Senior Executive Officer and his staff for producing the document.

On the proposal of Cllr Michael Sheehan, seconded by an Cathaoirleach Cllr Bridin Murphy, it was agreed that the Draft Policy document as presented, proceed to the plenary session for consideration.

The District Manager confirmed that the Senior Executive Officer would be invited to attend a future meeting to give an update on the dereliction in the Town.

4.2 Advance Factory Update

Administrative Officer, Angela Lawless, confirmed that the provision of an Advance Factory in New Ross is part of the Economic Investment Programme of WCC which aims to work in partnership with the private sector to develop commercial/industrial property solutions to create jobs with high disposable income and impact for the local economy. In 2023, Wexford County Council advertised for expressions of interest to develop an advance factory on council owned lands at IDA Park in Butlersland. A preferred investor who is willing to partner with WCC and has the capacity to deliver this project has now been identified. It is expected that Heads of Agreement will be signed in Q4 2024.

The Members welcomed the news and update, whilst also expressing concerns on the shortage of houses available for future employees.

3.2 Vote to change date of October monthly meeting in line with statutory period of Draft Budgetary Plan (GMA) to 16th October, 2024 at 2.30pm

The District Manager requested that the change in date be approved to adhere to the statutory processes of the Draft Budgetary Plan (GMA).

On the proposal of Cllr Michael Sheehan, seconded by an Cathaoirleach Cllr Bridin Murphy, the proposed change was agreed and unanimously supported by all those present.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

2.1 District Managers Report

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

Fleadh Fringe 2024

As part of the build up to the Fleadh, 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 Fleadh. The statistics received from the Communications Section, showing the reach and engagement of the promotional videos were also circulated and the District Manager confirmed that the figures are much higher than most video posts on the Council Social channels:

Autumn Festival Series: Kennedy Summer School, Eugene O'Neill & New Ross Piano Festival.

It was great to see the Kennedy Summer School back again this year and I'd like to thank the directors and organisers for another fantastic event which gives New Ross national prominence and airtime. It's superb to see prominent academics, diplomats, political analysts, journalists, politicians, including the current Taoiseach, travel to New Ross to partake in what is becoming the leading summer school in the country.

The 18th New Ross Piano Festival will begin this evening in St Mary's Church and a diverse programme of international and local artists is offered again this year. We wish them good luck and full houses this week.

To complete the autumn series, we will have the Eugene O'Neill Festival which will run from the 10th to the 13th October in St Michael's Theatre, commencing with the world premier of Teddy by Sheila Forsey. As always, a full and varied programme is promised, and we look forward to welcoming our friends from Danville, California to New Ross.

All of these Festivals are supported by Wexford County Council and the New Ross Municipal District and the organisers are grateful to the Elected Members of New Ross Municipal District for their continued support.

Summer Festival Series: Summer Sessions, New Ross Guitar Festival, Baginbun Norman Festival & Tri the Hook

Since our last meeting, the Summer Festival Series has taken place with great enjoyment for all. A varied list of events that offered music, culture, history and sport, throughout the district. Many of the events were free to attend and saw large crowds, with initial reports from organisers showing growth in attendees from previous years.

I'd like to congratulate and thank all the organisers for their efforts, and all have in turn, expressed their sincere gratitude to the Elected Members of NRMD & Wexford County Council for their continued support of each event.

Culture Night 2024

Working with the Wexford County Council Arts Section, we had the largest programme of events to date, for New Ross Culture Night 2024, which took place on Friday last. Locations included Pearse Park, High Hill Norman Gardens, St Michaels Theatre and even two pubs in town, with everything from singing and theatre, to art and film making all on display. Well done and thank you to all who took part.

Brennan's Lane/Shambles

Works commenced at the beginning of June on this important renewal project, with MJS Civil Engineering as contractors. Works are expected to last until the end of 2024. The District Project Team are working closely with our consultants Avanti Architects on this Town & Village Renewal Scheme & WCC co-funded project. The

members will have seen the excellent progress to date, particularly in Brennans Lane.

For information, an issue with 23 South Street which adjoins the lane has arisen. The building had a dangerous chimney top which was taken down and on further inspection by a structural engineer, a recommendation was received to demolish to first floor level. WCC engaged with the owners and notices were issued, resulting ultimately in a demolition contractor being appointed to carry out this work. The demolition is scheduled to start this week and will take c.3 weeks to complete.

CCTV

The New Ross Town CCTV Pack is still awaiting approval from the Garda Commissioners Office. Please note correspondence between the NRMD and the Justice Ministers office, as requested by the Members at the previous meeting.

Motorhome Park

The preplanning reference number for the New Ross Motorhome Park is P20240278. Work continues to prepare the approved Motorhome Park for Part VIII.

Chamber Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2024

I am delighted to confirm that the Emigrant Park project has been short listed for an award under the Municipal District Initiative category. The Excellence in Local Government Awards, sponsored by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage are held to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work being carried out by Local Authorities all over Ireland. The awards night will take place on Thursday 21st November and our fingers are crossed that the Emigrant Park can be successful again, having already picked up a LAMA award earlier this year.

Invitation from Normandy Region, France

The Deputy Chief Executive and I have been invited by Herve Morin, President of the Normandy Region, to attend a European Summit on the forthcoming 2027 thousandth anniversary of the birth of William The Conqueror, Duke of Normandy. The summit takes place on the 30th & 31st October and will see delegates attend from the Norman regions of the UK, Italy, Scandinavia, France and Ireland, to discuss how best to commemorate this important Norman anniversary.

As the Norman history of the New Ross District is a cornerstone of our Tourism strategy and a huge amount of work between New Ross and Normandy has been undertaken in recent years to build and strengthen our links, WCC has asked NRMD to take the lead on this event.

It is a matter for the members now to decide if they wish to send an Elected Member from the district, in addition to the District Manager and Deputy Chief Executive.

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- a) In relation to the invitation to a European forum at the Abbaye aux Dames in Caen 30th & 31st October, and considering her unavailability and the unavailability of Leas-Cathaoirleach, Cllr John Dwyer, an Cathaoirleach Cllr Bridin Murphy suggested that both Cllr John Fleming and Cllr Michael Sheehan attend the European Summit on the forthcoming 2027 thousandth anniversary of the birth of William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, accompanying the District Manager and the Deputy Chief Executive to France.

On the proposal of Cllr John Dwyer, seconded by Cllr Michael Sheehan, attendance was agreed as outlined.

- b) The acknowledgment received from the office of Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee TD, regarding the District Manager's CCTV correspondence was noted.

Following observations from the Members, the District Manager agreed to continue to prioritise the project in an effort to progress the matter.

2.1.1 Special Projects Report

Sean Meyler – Senior Engineer (Special Projects) delivered the report which had been circulated previously, before clarifying certain matters and responding to questions from the Members.

2.2 Roads Report

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

The following items were raised by the Members and updates were requested on the following matters;

- *Pedestrian Crossings - Schools*
- *Bus Shelters - Palace*

Whilst the following item/s were raised for further investigation;

- *Sightlines Obstruction / Signage at Junction – Courthoille / Newbawn*

The District Manager agreed to refer these requests to the District Engineer for his consideration and comment.

Following acknowledgement from the Chair of the current time being 16:30hrs, Cllr Michael Sheehan proposed the suspension of Standing Orders for 30 minutes. The proposal was seconded by Cllr John Fleming. Standing Orders were duly suspended, and the meeting continued.

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 before responding to their queries and clarifying the following matters:

Choice Based Lettings

Following a request from Cllr John Dwyer, the Administrative Officer agreed to request and circulate further details of units allocated through the Choice Based Lettings process, specifically the number of bedrooms of the properties allocated.

Families with Special Needs (Autism / ADHD)

Cllr Pat Barden revisited the issue of families with special needs, and following the Administrative Officer's previous request to be e-mailed directly on specific cases at the previous meeting, Cllr Pat Barden agreed to provide the necessary detail.

The Administrative Officer confirmed that all supporting documentation such as medical reports would be considered during the housing needs assessment process.

A discussion followed.

The District Manager reminded all present, that as per resolution at the previous meeting, matters on housing strategy be referred to the Housing SPC (Strategic Policy Committee) for their consideration.

2.3.2 Housing Capital Project Report

Mark Devereux, Senior Executive Engineer (Housing Capital), delivered the district specific Housing Capital Project report, before clarifying certain matters on the developments in the Bullawn and Rosbercon as raised by the Members.

The Members requested that they be notified of all information and movement on plans prior to any contact by the Special Projects team with the Public.

2.4 Planning Report

The Members noted the content of the report.

Haughton Place

Following a query from the Members the Executive Planner confirmed that both permissions at the old post office site in Haughton Place had expired.

An Bord Pleanala (ABP)

Following comment from Cllr Michael Sheehan in relation to the Social Housing Development in Rosbercon, the Executive Planner gave an outline to the process involved when planning permissions are submitted directly to *An Bord Pleanala (ABP)* by *Wexford County Council (WCC)*.

2.4.1 Planning Decisions – Grants

Noted.

2.4.2 Planning Decisions – Refusals

Noted.

Following acknowledgement from the Chair of the current time being 17:00hrs, Cllr John Fleming proposed the suspension of Standing Orders for 30 minutes. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Michael Sheehan. Standing Orders were duly suspended, and the meeting continued.

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.

2.7 Environment Report

The Coastal Engineer, George Colfer, introduced the previously circulated report and responded to the question of the Members.

Access to Grange Beach

The Coastal Engineer gave an update and timelines for the necessary works at Grange Beach regarding the unstable cliff, further confirming he expected completion by end of year.

Duncannon Pier

The Coastal Engineer confirmed that consultants had been appointed to produce a design solution for the necessary remedial works and the situation would continue to be monitored closely.

CCTV – Illegal Dumping

Following comment from Members on the process involved with mobile CCTV units following recent legislation, the Coastal Engineer agreed to clarify the status on its implementation and to circulate an update following the meeting.

Waste Presentation Bye-Laws Enforcement

Following observations from Cllr John Dwyer surrounding the procedures and processes involved with prosecutions under the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws, the Coastal Engineer undertook to request further information on the matter and to circulate following the meeting.

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

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

- a. Marshmeadows, New Ross**
- b Rear of 23 Ashgrove, Fethard-on-Sea**
- c Beechview Estate, Newbawn**
- d 20 John Street**

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

3.2 Vote to change date of October monthly meeting in line with statutory period of Draft Budgetary Plan (GMA) to 16th October

3.3 Taking in Charge - Draft Policy

Items 3.2 & 3.3 were dealt with earlier in the meeting.

4. Other Business

4.1 Implementation of the new Default 60km/h Rural Local Roads Speed Limit

4.2 Advance Factory Update

Items 4.1 & 4.2 were dealt with earlier in the meeting.

5. Notice of Motion/s

None

6. Correspondence

6.1 Minister Helen McEntee CCTV Letter & Acknowledgement

6.2 Invitation to a European forum at the Abbaye aux Dames in Caen.

Items 6.1 & 6.2 were dealt with earlier in the meeting during the report of the District Manager.

7. AOB

New Ross Search and Rescue

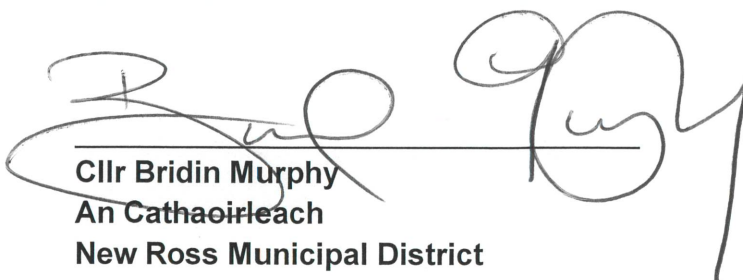
Following observations from Cllr John Dwyer regarding the need for certainty surrounding the facilities for New Ross Search & Rescue, the District Manager agreed that NRMD would assist where possible and appropriate.

CBS – 175th Anniversary

Following a request from Cllr Michael Sheehan that NRMD recognise the forthcoming celebrations for the 175th anniversary of the CBS in new Ross, the District Manager undertook to send correspondence on behalf of the Members noting the occasion.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed on the 16th September 2024


Cllr Bridin Murphy
An Cathaoirleach
New Ross Municipal District

