Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on the 8th May 2024 at 14:30hrs in the Council Chamber, The Tholsel, Quay Street, New Ross.

Presiding: Cllr Anthony Connick– An Cathaoirleach

Councillors: Cllr Michael Whelan – Leas Cathaoirleach
Cllr Bridin Murphy
Cllr Michael Sheehan
Cllr John Fleming - Cathaoirleach, Wexford County Council

Officials: Alan Fitzhenry – District Manager
Eamonn Hore – District Director
David Murphy – District Engineer (Roads)
Michael O'Brien - Architectural Technician (Housing Capital)
Tom Banville – Senior Executive Officer (Planning)
Michelle Duffin – Assistant Staff Officer
Dean Waters – Staff Officer

Remote: Martina Donohue – Administrative Officer (Housing)
David Wall - Executive Planner
Mark Devereux – Senior Executive Engineer (Housing Capital)
Deputy Verona Murphy

Apologies: Cllr Patrick Barden

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

Due to the attendance and presentation of *Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer (Planning) – item 4.5 Urban Regeneration Development Fund Call 3*, an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, recommended the suspension of standing orders to facilitate a change in the order of business.
Cllr Bridin Murphy proposed the suspension of Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr John Fleming, and Standing Orders were duly suspended.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, requested the order of business to be reflected in the minutes.

4.5 Urban Regeneration Development Fund – Call 3
The Senior Executive Officer introduced the presentation before responding to matters raised by the Members and clarifying certain points regarding the processes involved.

Deputy Verona Murphy joined the meeting remotely.

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1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of April 10th 2024, were proposed by Cllr Michael Sheehan and seconded by Cllr John Fleming.

1.2 Matters Arising

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

Congratulations

Congratulations were afforded to all involved with Lawlor's Shop, following the achievement of operating in business for 60 years, and to the community teams in Rathgarogue (€500,000) and Cushinstown (€250,000) for their successful 2023 Town & Village applications.

Sympathies

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

- *Jack Dunne - Ramsgrange*
- *Eddie Codd - Clearlestown*
- *Jim (Pixie) Dalton – New Ross*
- *Jamie Bolger – Place East*
- *Richard Murphy – Knockroe*
- *Danny Brennan – New Ross*

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

2.1 District Managers Report

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

Local Elections 2024

The Notice of Election was published in the local media on 1st May. It outlines that the nomination period for candidates for the local election is 10am on 11th May until 12 noon on 18th May. Nomination papers must be presented to the County Secretary personally by the candidate or their proposer. If the election is contested, a poll will be taken on the 7th day of June 2024 between the hours of 7am and 10pm. We wish all candidates the very best of luck.

Arts & Amenities and Residents Association Grants 2024

The Arts and Amenity Grants/Residents Association Grants have been decided on by the Members and are attached for final ratification by the Councillors at today's meeting.

This is a €48,000 investment by the Members of NRMD in Community/Arts/Sporting groups within the District and a €15,000 investment in the upkeep of private housing estates and New Ross Tidy Towns.

Civic Awards Evening 2024

Congratulations once again to all who received Civic Awards on the 18th April at the Civic Awards Evening in the Brandon House Hotel. Thank you to the Members for their nominations and their speeches on the night, where we recognised and honoured the outstanding achievement of individuals and groups within the New Ross District. The feedback was excellent from all who attended, with a lot of gratitude expressed.

AIMS

The AIMS Choral Festival will take place in New Ross from Friday 17th May to Sunday 19th May. Now in its 39th year, the festival is firmly established and attracts choirs, musical societies and soloists from all over Ireland. A great weekend is planned, and tickets are available from the St Michaels Theatre website. Supported by the District under the Festivals Budget, we wish the organisers every success with this year's event.

Sensory Garden

Finishing works continue in Pearse Park on this project with painting, pathways and other items being installed ahead of the official opening on 21st May.

Flowers for the Magdalene's

The annual Flowers for the Magdalene's ceremony will take place on Sunday 26th May at the Magdalene grave site in St Stephens Cemetery. The NRMD is proud to support this remembrance commemoration, that will see the Magdalene Laundry Flag raised on the day. All Members are invited to attend, and we wish them the best with this important ceremony.

TVR - Brennan's Lane/Shambles

Tender assessment has taken place and a successful tender chosen. The consultants Avanti have been instructed to proceed with contract award. The plan is for work to begin in the coming weeks.

TVR - Duncannon Fort Works

The Project Team met last week to confirm the schedule of imminent works. The plan is for the works, which include a new bridge deck, electrical wiring, toilet block upgrades and internal building improvements, to commence in late May and be completed by August/September this year. Various contractors are lined up and Stakeholders have been contacted. Meetings will be held in the coming weeks, in advance of works starting.

Pedestrianisation

An application for funding for the pedestrianisation of Quay Street has been sought under the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund Fifth Call. We continue to await the outcome of this application.

CCTV
The Gardai made contact last week with our Consultants regarding our CCTV application. They asked for some small clarifications around locations. As the Wexford Town Pack was approved last month, 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.

Motorhome Park
Work continues at pace to prepare the approved Motorhome Park for Part VIII. A Flood Risk Assessment is required and is being done in-house in order to speed up the application.

New Ross Skate Park
Special Projects have informed us that this project will be lodged for Part 8 on 15th May.

EU MARGISTAR - Group Visit
Congratulations to the TRO Mick McCormack, on a great event hosting an EU delegation of 37 from the MARGISTAR Cost Action Group on 18th April. The theme of the visit was Rural Regeneration, and we were selected as a Town Centre First Town. The delegation arrived in town at 2.30pm and was split into groups to tour the town centre and hear speakers in the Tholsel, followed by a visit to the Dunbrody. It was an excellent opportunity to promote the town at EU level and highlight the important regeneration work done to date.

Town & Village Success
Massive congratulations to both Cushinstown & Rathgarogue Development Groups and their Committees for successfully securing large scale funding for their projects under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. Cushinstown were awarded €250,000 and Rathgarogue have been awarded €500,000 for their projects. Well done to all involved!

a) In relation to Duncannon Fort works, Cllr Michael Whelan reaffirmed the impact they will have during the tourist season, the District Manager gave an update on stakeholder engagement to date, confirming that further discussions regarding the proposed schedule for works would follow.

b) All the Members welcomed the progress on the CCTV permissions process.

2.1.1 Special Projects
The Members noted the content of the previously circulated report.

2.2 Roads Report
The District Engineer the delivered the previously circulated report before responding to the Members queries before clarifying details of the following matters:

- *Road Programme Works*
- *Greenlink Interconnector Project*
- *Bridge Rehabilitation Works*
- *Road Safety Works*

- *Drainage Works*
- *Safe Route to Schools*

whilst also agreeing to investigate the following items as requested by the Members:

- *Clonroche – Feasibility of Traffic Island Installation*

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, bringing their attention to the requested details on numbers currently availing of and participating in the *Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme* and the *Window and Doors Replacement Scheme,* before responding to their queries and clarifying the following matters:

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme
Following discussion, the Administrative Officer confirmed that 21 NR tenants had declined the offer of works under the *Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme.*

2.3.2 Housing Capital Project Report
The Members noted the Housing Capital Project report.

Lands at Haughton Place
Following observations from an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, regarding placing social housing units on the site, the Housing Capital team agreed to survey the site and investigate the possibility through dialogue with the owner as necessary.

Social Housing Delivery & Supply - Rosbercon
Following observations by an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, the Senior Executive Engineer (Housing Capital), Mark Devereux, agreed to attend the next meeting and provide greater detail on the proposed development.

On the proposal of Cllr Michael Sheehan, seconded by an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, it was agreed that the NRMD Members and Executive would be notified of all information and movement in advance of the public being informed or contacted.
The Housing Capital team agreed to action this request.

Social Housing Delivery & Supply - Castlemoyle
Following comment from the Members, the Housing Capital team agreed to present the plans / drawings to the District Members before proceeding to Part XI.

4.3 New Social Housing Units at Cluain Fada, Morriseysland (x22)
The Senior Executive Engineer and the Architectural Technician (Housing Capital) introduced the drawings / plans before responding to matters raised by the Members and clarifying certain points regarding the processes involved.

A discussion followed.

The presented plans were approved following the proposal of Cllr Michael Sheehan, seconded by an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, with the caveat that the following two conditions were adhered to;

1. *Road Safety Audit to be completed.*
2. *Duplex units would not be included in the final design.*

The Senior Executive Engineer undertook to action this request, agreeing to initiate a Road Safety Audit on the proposed design, confirming that the presented plans were open to review, and that future drawings / plans would reflect the inclusion of the requested stipulations.

4.4 Draft Estate Naming Policy
The wording for the Draft Estate Naming Policy was proposed by Cllr Michael Whelan, seconded by Cllr John Fleming, and approved by all present.

2.4 Planning Report
The Members noted the content of the report.
The Executive Planner confirmed that all pre-planning requests were up to date.

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.

2.7 Environment Report
The content of the previously circulated report was noted.
The apologies of the Senior Staff Officer were noted by the Chair.

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
a) Lands at Ballywilliam

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

3.2 Schedule of Municipal District Works - New Ross Municipal District 2024
The Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works was proposed by Cllr Michael Sheehan, seconded by an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, agreed by all present, and adopted as presented.

4. Other Business

4.1 Arts & Amenities Grant Allocations 2024
4.2 Residents Association Grant Allocations 2024
The Arts & Amenities Grant Allocations 2024 and Residents Association Grants Allocations 2024 were proposed by an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, seconded by Cllr Michael Sheehan, and agreed by all present.

5. Notice of Motion/s

None

6. Correspondence

6.1 Comite des Jumelagesde Moncoutant
On the proposal of Cllr Michael Sheehan, seconded by an Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, it was agreed to send a delegation to the twinning celebrations.

7. AOB

Primary Healthcare Centre Need – New Ross
On the proposal of Cllr Michael Sheehan, seconded by Cllr Anthony Connick, it was agreed that NRMD formally correspond with the regional office of the HSE regarding the need for a Primary Healthcare Centre in New Ross. The District Manager agreed to complete this task.

Local Elections 2024
An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anthony Connick, congratulated the Members and Executive on the work completed during their term in office, noting the many notable projects which have been commenced or completed during that time, and welcoming the investment that has been targeted at the District over many years, before wishing everyone well in the forthcoming local elections on June 7th.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed on the 10th July 2024

Cllr Bridin Murphy
An Cathaoirleach
New Ross Municipal District