

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 9th June 2021 in the Tholsel, New Ross/MS Teams**

Presiding: Councillor Michael Whelan

In Attendance: Councillor John Fleming (Via Teams)
Councillor Anthony Connick (Via Teams)
Councillor Michael Sheehan (Via Teams)
Councillor Pat Barden (Via Teams)
Cllr Bridin Murphy (Via Teams)

Officials Present: Mick McCormack – District Manager
Eamonn Hore - District Director (Via Teams)
David Murphy – A/Executive Engineer (Via Teams)
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing (Via Teams)
Liam Bowe – Executive Planner (Via Teams)
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer
Sharon Ryan – Asst Staff Officer
Siobhan O Neill – Special Projects (Via Teams)
Brian Galvin – Senior Engineer Special Projects (Via Teams)
Alan Fitzhenry – Business Development Officer (Via Teams)
Amanda Byrne – A/Director of Services (Via Teams)

Others Present: Deputy Verona Murphy (Via Teams)
David Looby New Ross Standard
Frank Corcoran Slaney News (Via Teams)
Michael Sinnott South East Radio (Via Teams)
Dr Ronan O Flaherty Mirador Media (Via Teams)
Marc Roosli Mirador Media (Via Teams)

Apologies Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer
Brendan Cooney – Senior Executive Scientist

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and the District Manager listed those who were attending the meeting from outside Wexford County Council.

Sympathies

Cllr Fleming and Cllr Murphy offered sympathies to the family of James Doyle, Courtnacuddy

Cllr Whelan extended sympathies to the family of Paddy Molloy, Boley, Ballycullane

Sympathies were offered by Cllr Connick and Cllr Sheehan to the Doyle family New Ross on the death of Nicholas, to the Maddock family on the death of Martin, to the Dooley family on the death of Teresa and to the Conway family on the death of JJ. Cllr Sheehan also sympathised with the families of Aine O Mahoney and Josephine Byrne.

Congratulations

Cllr Sheehan complimented the Fire Service, Ambulance Service, Gardai and Wexford County Council Officials who recently dealt with two incidences of fires in apartment complexes in New Ross. He also wished luck to all businesses reopening after the lock down.

Cllr Fleming congratulated Aidan O Brien on his recent success at the French Derby

Standing orders were suspended to allow a presentation by Special Projects/Mirador Media, on the New Ross Norman Experience and also to introduce the new Business Development Officer for the Greenway.

This was proposed by Cllr Connick and seconded by Cllr Fleming.

Presentation on the New Ross Norman Experience

A presentation was introduced by Siobhan O Neill from Special Projects and given by Dr Ronan O Flaherty and Marc Roosli from Mirador Media and they responded to questions from the Members.

The Chairman welcomed the project and was delighted that it would encourage visitors to go on to other sites such as Tintern and the Hook.

The Members also welcomed the project and thanked all involved and their queries were responded to by the Presenters. On querying the timeframe for the opening of the project, they were informed that the expected date for opening was mid 2023.

The Chairman thanked the Special Projects team and the team from Mirador Media for their attendance and presentation.

The Chairman introduced Alan Fitzhenry, the new Greenway Business Development Officer, to the Members.

Alan outlined his role and gave his contact details and the Members welcomed him and looked forward to working with him.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting –

The May 2021 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Fleming and seconded by Cllr Barden

Matters Arising

N/A

2.0 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

2.1 District Managers Report

The District Manager delivered his report and responded to queries raised by the Members.

AGM

It was agreed that Friday 25th June is the date set for the AGM at 2.30 pm in St Michaels Theatre, in person. It was proposed by Cllr Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Barden

Playground at Pearse Park

He informed that Members that the contracts are now signed with Kompan and they are expected to be on site in Qtr 3 2021 with completion expected by November 2021. He confirmed that a Communications Board would be part of the equipment.

Pedestrianisation

The Members were advised that work is progressing on designing a brief for Consultants to do Traffic studies on the Pedestrianisation proposal and that Consultants will be appointed over the next few weeks.

Summer Festival

The District Manager informed the Members that the Summer Sessions '21 will go ahead, with an ambitious programme of outdoor entertainment for all the family and

that €28,000 had been allocated under the Local Live performance programming scheme to have top quality acts performing throughout the Summer.

Town and Village Renewal 2021

The Members were informed that the Town and Village renewal application this year is for development of Brennan's lane and joining the Shambles with this application which is permissible under the terms of the scheme and that the District Manager is exploring the possibility of other eligible projects in the District.

Public Toilets in New Ross Town

St Michaels Theatre and Dunbrody famine ship have kindly agreed to allow their Toilets to be made available to the public. The Theatre is allowing members of the public use their facilities from 9am to 5pm 6 days a week and the Dunbrody whose toilets are public toilets are open 7 days a week. The Toilets in the Town Park will also be open 7 day a week. There is very positive feedback in relation to these facilities and it is working very well.

Outdoor Dining Areas

€105,000 was recently secured through the Roads Section and Roads Engineer, under the additional outdoor infrastructure fund to accommodate outdoor Dining in areas around New Ross Town and also one area in Fethard. Some Parklets are being installed in order to accommodate as many businesses as possible.

CCTV

Public consultation on a new CCTV scheme for New Ross town is expected to begin in the next few weeks

Casual Trading

The District Manager agreed to circulate the schedule of charges which includes the cost of Casual Trading licences in other areas, to the Members

2.2. Roads Report

The Roads Engineer delivered his report and responded to queries from the Members.

It was suggested that further funding be requested from the Department as the amount of funding for the LIS is not in proportion to the amount of applications, some of which are outstanding for a very long time

It was proposed at that point in the meeting by Cllr Fleming and seconded by Cllr Barden, to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue until 17.00 hours

2.3. Water Services Report

The Senior Executive Engineer sent his apologies as he was called away on an emergency and his report was made available to the Members.

The Chairman complimented the Water Services Team on dealing with a number of water bursts which had happened recently in the area of the New Line.

2.4. Housing Report.

The Housing report was delivered by the Administrative Officer, Housing who responded to queries from the Members in relation to the regulations relating to the new housing application form, and to leasing and house purchases and tenant purchase.

The Chairman requested that rural areas be included with the urban areas when considering house purchases.

In response to a query on the rates for house leases, the AO advised the members that she would revert with the list of rates

It was proposed at that point in the meeting by Cllr Connick and seconded by Cllr Fleming, to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue until 17.30 hours

2.5 Planning Report

The Executive Planner delivered his report and answered questions from the Members.

2.6 Planning Grants

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.7 Planning Refusals

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.8 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.9 Community Development Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.10 Environment Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.11 Fire Services Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.12 Members Query System

No report was available

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

4.0 Other Business

4.1 Presentation by Dr Ronan O Flaherty and Marc Roosli from Mirador Media on the New Ross Norman Experience. (Presented earlier in the meeting)

4.2 Introduction of Alan Fitzhenry, the new Greenway Business Development Officer, to the Members (Earlier in the meeting)

5.0 Notice of Motion/s –

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

N/A

7.0 AOB

N/A

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathairleach

Date _____