

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF
THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE
PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON TUESDAY,
18th FEBRUARY at 9.30 a.m.**

Attendance:

Councillors: Cllr. Aidan Browne (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Pat Kehoe
Cllr. Barbara-Anne Murphy
Cllr. John O'Rourke
Cllr. Jackser Owens (Leas-Cathaoirleach)

Officials: Ms Carolyne Godkin, Director of Service
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Manager
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Ms. Edel Nolan, Senior Staff Officer
Mr Marcus Linehan, Executive Planner
Mr Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer.
Ms Siobhan Murphy, Executive Scientist.
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer
Mr Liam O Donovan, Community Safety Co Ordinator

Via Teams: Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer
Ms. Angela Finn, Senior Staff Officer

Congratulations:

The Members expressed congratulations to the following:-

- Barry Sinnott and Robert Brady on winning the European 8 ball Pool Championships.
- Minister James Browne on his appointment as Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Senator Cathal Byrne on his appointment to the Seanad.

Director of Services Carolyne Godkin extended congratulations to both Senator Byrne and Minister Browne on behalf of the Executive.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the January Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 21st January 2025

On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke, the Minutes of the January Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 21st January 2025 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Matters Arising

Cathaoirleach Cllr Browne welcomed the decision by Wexford County Council on the proposed IPAS Centre planning exemption. Councillor Murphy reminded the meeting that as it is a live planning application it could not be discussed further.

Councillor Murphy thanked the staff of Enniscorthy Municipal District for moving to cardboard based bottles for the water provided at meetings.

Councillor O'Rourke enquired as to if correspondence had issued following his request in the January meeting re Recycling units being emptied more often during busy periods? And the status of a disabled parking space requested at Templeshannon.

Councillor Kehoe requested an update on Murphy Floods site.

Executive Engineer Neil Dempsey updated Councillor O'Rourke that the Disabled Bay is on the line marking list.

Executive Scientist Siobhan Murphy updated Councillor O'Rourke that the issue of recycling units emptying had been referred to the Holmestown Section.

2. Consideration of Reports & Recommendations:

2.1 Planning

The Planning reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted. The members had no queries.

2.2 Community, Environment, Libraries & Fire Service

The Community, Environment, Libraries and Fire Service reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted. Cathaoirleach Councillor Browne informed the members that the scheduled presentation from Creative Places would now take place at the March Meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

The members raised the following queries in relation to Environment:

- An update on the roll out of the Brown Bin scheme.
- The removal of domestic bins left on the side of street.
- Contact made with Waste companies to request early morning collections in town centre.

Executive Scientist, Ms Siobhan Murphy informed the members that the National Plan is being rolled out with regards to domestic waste and provision of Brown Bins and committed to contacting the waste companies.

The District Manager informed the members that the pedestrianisation of Rafter Street by laws will be strictly enforced from next week and that new bollards have been ordered for both ends of the street. This news was welcomed by all the members.

Councillor Murphy asked if an update could be given to the Members on the Heritage Project for Bunclody, the District Manager informed the members that a presentation on Creative Places Project and the Heritage Project would be requested for the March meeting.

2.3 Housing

The reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted. The Members put forward several queries and concerns, in particular:

- A breakdown of house types required on the housing list for Bunclody and Enniscorthy.
- Procedure in place for Air to Water houses in the event of prolonged electricity outages due to storms.
- Update on the Lyre development.
- Uptake on call for land for development for housing.

Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer and Ms. Angela Finn, Senior Staff Officer answered the members queries and committed to replying with the list of house types required in Bunclody and Enniscorthy.

2.4 Municipal District Report

The Municipal District report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Murphy Floods Site

Before significant investment in this site, consideration is underway regarding testing the market interest, now that the site has been cleared and is now a greenfield site.

In the meantime, a tender was issued, on the 7th of February, for the Design & Build of a new Car Park Facility with public realm elements and associated site works at Murphy Floods Site with a closing date of 14th March 2025.

Countywide Review of Sandwich Boards and Bollard Sleeves

The presentation of the town is of utmost importance to Wexford County Council. The issue of sandwich boards and bollard sleeves is becoming more prevalent across the County.

A walkability audit was carried out in recent years and captured the existing conditions on set walking routes in Enniscorthy. The audit was carried out by a wide range of people of various ages and abilities including disability and older people's organisations, those caring for people living with dementia, members of the public and Wexford County Council staff. The audit process highlighted this issue.

Wexford County Council are undertaking a countywide review on this, and letters will be issued to offenders in late February and March.

All-Weather Astro Pitch, Ross Road, Enniscorthy

Booking slots for clubs are being finalised and individual clubs will be notified shortly. A manual booking system will remain in place until the online booking system has been installed. We are waiting on an ESB connection to progress the online booking system. The official opening will take place on Monday 24rd February at 10.00am.

ORIS Grants

Three projects in the Enniscorthy Municipal District have been shortlisted for ORIS Funding. Details of the three projects are as follow:-

Ringwood Lane resurface – To improve access to the trail €44,000

Vinegar Hill Links- To erect signpost to Vinegar Hill and to improve lane surface and signage to all trial links. €44,000

Blackstairs Recreation Trail – To Prepare a feasibility study of the potential for a walking and cycling trail connecting Bunclody, Kiltealy, Killanne, Templeudigan and Ballywilliam. €55,000

Amenity & Arts Grants and Residents Associations Grant Scheme 2025

The Amenity & Arts Grants and Residents Associations Grant Scheme 2025 is now closed. Enniscorthy MD received the following approx. number of applications:-

2025 Amenity & Arts Grant Scheme	80
2025 Residents Association Grant Scheme	20

The overall allocation for 2025 for the Amenity and Arts Grant is €60,000 and €15,000 for the Residents Association Grants.

CCTV Scheme Enniscorthy

The tender closing date for the civil works was on the 18/01/25. The tenders have been evaluated, and the Contractor will be commencing works in Enniscorthy and New Ross in four weeks' time. All works to be complete at both locations in under eight weeks. The camera install will be complete in both the locations in five weeks' time.

CCTV Scheme Bunclody

The proposed amendment to the Bunclody CCTV Scheme is still under the consideration of the Garda Commissioner. No further update.

Pedestrianisation of Rafter Street

From the 10th of March 2025 Pedestrianisation of Enniscorthy's Rafter Street will be enforced between 10.00am and 4.30pm as per Bye-Laws. Notification will be issued to business owners in the coming days.

Depot for the Town Crew

Work has commenced on the refurbishment of part of building at the back of the library to form a permanent welfare facility for our town crew and CE Scheme participants.

This work commenced last Wednesday and should be complete in two weeks.

Bin Upgrade

The big belly bin upgrade and refurbishment has commenced. A collection of graphics of local monuments, buildings and amenity areas will be placed on the bins.

A dedicated pizza box bin has been installed outside Mizzonis Pizza.

Storm damaged trees, Orchard Peace Park.

A Contractor has cut and removed the tree that fell between the security fence and the school wall at the Orchard Peace Park on Saturday the 8th of February following strong winds during Storm Eoywn.

1798 Centre Storm Eoywn.

Some damage had occurred to the roof of the 1798 centre. This has raised an issue with the existing external laminated roof truss.

Structural engineers have been engaged to assess the current situation and consider replacing the rotten beam whilst preserving the integrity of the roof.

River walk

The falling tree that was blocking the river walk from Ned Kavanaghs garage to St Mary's cemetery has now been removed and walkway back open.

Planters were also placed on both sides of the entrance to the walkway in preparation for summer planting.

I wish to extend my thanks to the outdoor crew for the clean up after the storm.

Festivals and Events

St. Patricks Day Parade 2025

The St. Patricks Day Committee are busy behind the scenes ensuring that this years Enniscorthy parade is both all-embracing and all-inclusive and most of all fun.

The theme for this year is Love your Tribe. This all-encompassing, all embracing, across the board concept can include your nationality, your passion your culture, your hobby, your music, your art, your kind of people, the scope is limitless.

Entry forms will be posted to groups and organisation over the coming days. Forms are also available on social media platforms.

The members raised the following queries:

- Update on running costs and procedures for the New All-weather Astro Pitch.
- Request to amend Bye Laws to include Saturday and Sunday into the Pedestrianisation of Rafter Street.
- Request for CE Scheme participants to be allocated to Bunclody and Ferns for one day a week to assist with cleaning up.
- Request for place names of various roads to be amended.

The District Manager gave the members an update on the Astro pitch, a discussion took place on how well the project has turned out and what a great facility it is for all of the district sporting communities. She also committed to speaking with the CE Scheme supervisor and liaising with Roads with regards to road names.

2.5 Roads Report.

The Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Mr Dempsey, Executive Engineer informed the members that allocations of funding have been received and he will draft a programme of works for the District in 2025.

It was noted how disappointing it was that funding had not increased to reflect the current state of Wexford Roads. Councillor Murphy proposed that as a district correspondence should be sent to Minister O 'Brien to request further funding for the district. Councillor Kehoe seconded this proposal.

The Members raised several queries to which Mr. Dempsey, Executive Engineer responded:

- Speeding on numerous roads throughout the District, request for signage.
- Repair works to be carried out on various rural roads.
- Update on Safety upgrade at Weafer Street Junction.
- Line marking in Enniscorthy and Bunclody.
- Update on commencement dates of the Safe Routes to School scheme.

Cathaoirleach Browne at this juncture called for a break in the meeting to allow for tea 10.31am. Meeting resumed at 10.50am.

2.6 Flood Defence Scheme Report.

The Flood Defence Scheme Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Councillor Owens enquired if correspondence had issued to the newly appointed Minister, Boxer Moran with regards to a meeting with the Members to discuss the progression of the Scheme. The District Manager committed to writing to the Minister that afternoon.

2.7 Special Projects.

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

The members raised queries in relation to the Castle Quarter proposed project and also requested that a representative from both Special Projects and Housing Capital attend the March Meeting.

2.8 Enniscorthy Municipal District Festival Funding.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. Owens it was agreed to proceed to 'In Committee' at this juncture of the meeting to discuss this matter.

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

3.1 S183 Notice to District, Nolan's Lawn, Bellefield, Enniscorthy.

The Section 183 notice was recommended by all members.

3.2 European year of the Normans 2027 – County Wexford Norman Forum.

Councilor O'Rourke proposed that the sitting Cathaoirleach of the time would represent the Members on the Forum. This was seconded by Councilor Owens.

Director of Services Ms Godkin commented how important this forum will be for Enniscorthy with regards to Tourism.

4. Correspondence.

None

5. Any Other Business.

Councillor O'Rourke queried as to when the amenity grant allocations will be sent to the Members. The District Manager said it was hoped to bring the allocations to the April meeting providing the replacement for Councillor Byrne was in place.

At this juncture the members of the press present were asked to leave the chamber.

This concluded the business of the Meeting at 11.02pm.

Aidan Browne

CATHAOIRLEACH

25th March 2025

DATE