

# COUNTY WEXFORD

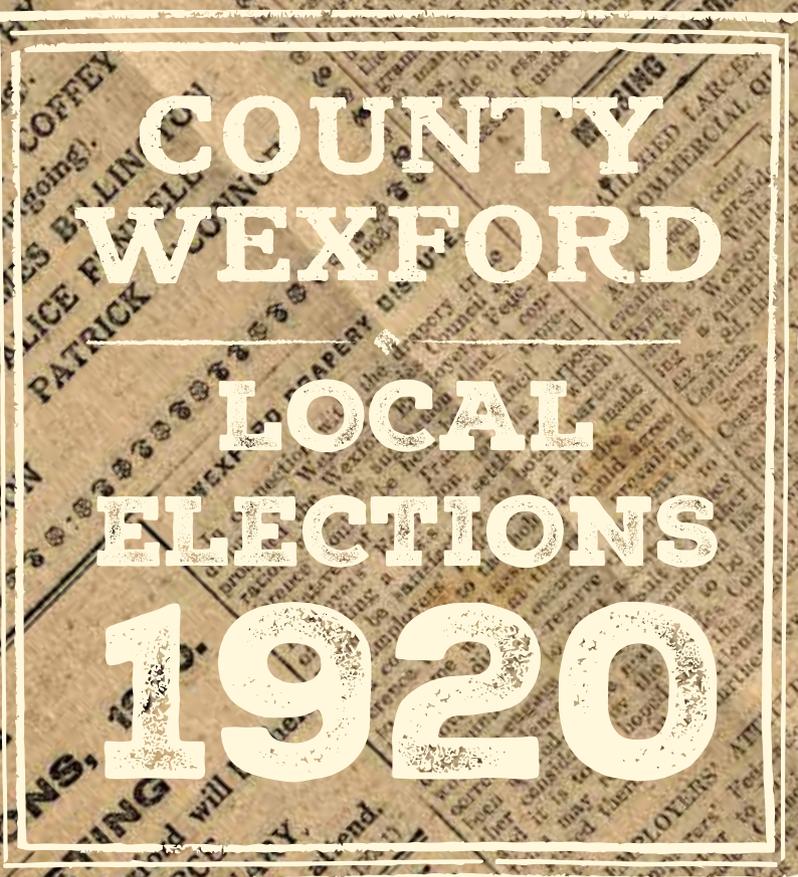
# LOCAL ELECTIONS 1920



our votes. St. Mary's Ward.  
and ECONOMY,  
OF WEXFORD,  
our votes.

WARD.  
ANNOTT  
IP COWMAN  
NICHOLAS BYRNE  
MATTHEW LYMBERY  
JOHN KIRWAN  
WM. H. McGUIRE  
HERBERT THOMPSON

**NOTICE**  
**MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS,**  
**A GENERAL MEETING**  
Ratepayers of the Borough of Wexford will assemble in the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, on WEDNESDAY, 7th JANUARY, 1920, at 7 o'clock, at which all Ratepayers are invited to attend.



**MENTS. LIGHTING UP TIME**  
Thursday, Jan. 6  
Wednesday, Jan. 7  
Tuesday, Jan. 5

**People.**  
JANUARY 7, 1920.

**MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.**  
**WEXFORD RATEPAYERS' MEETING**  
On Thursday, January 1st, 1920, a large and representative meeting of the ratepayers of the Borough of Wexford was held in the Chamber of Commerce with the purpose of selecting interested persons to form a Municipal Election Committee. Mr. H. McGuire was the chair-



# Introduction



As stipulated in the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, local elections were to be held every three years – there were however several postponements. Previous to 1920, the last local elections had taken place in 1914 and were due to be held again in 1917, but were postponed due to the continuance of the First World War. The 1916 Easter Rising and the response by the British military saw an increase of support for national independence. County Wexford had played an integral role in the Rising – Enniscorthy was the last town in Ireland to surrender and the only area outside Dublin to raise the tricolour, and like their counterparts in Dublin, many of its active Volunteers and Cumann na mBan members were subsequently imprisoned, eliciting an outpouring of nationalist sympathy and support.

Following the resounding success for Sinn Féin in the 1918 General Election, MPs refused to take their seats at Westminster and on 21 January 1919, they founded a separate parliament in Dublin called Dáil Éireann. At this first meeting, a declaration of independence was adopted and the Dáil endorsed the Proclamation of the Irish Republic that had been issued in the 1916 Rising. On the same day as this first meeting, the War of Independence commenced with an ambush on the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) in Soloheadbeg, Co. Tipperary. There then followed a prolonged series of attacks and boycotts of the RIC, the Army and the British authorities. Dáil Éireann established a functioning government and courts, replacing the British-run administration in Dublin Castle.

The 1920 local elections in County Wexford took place against a backdrop of employment disputes, raids on residences for arms and ammunition, destruction of RIC barracks and attacks on civilians. A number of election candidates were still actively involved in the republican cause, some of whom were incarcerated in British jails at the time of their election.

# Proportional Representation

The 1920 local elections were to be conducted under the system of Proportional Representation which had been first used in the municipal election in Sligo Corporation in 1919. The form of PR chosen was the single transferable vote in multi-seat constituencies, something that the *Free Press* in its issue of 10 January 1920 observed 'secures that every party in a constituency shall obtain its fair share of representation, and makes the representative body a true reflex of the constituency which elects it'.

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**'The system, which gives minorities a chance of obtaining a just share of administrative power if their numbers entitle them to direct and actual representation on the public boards, is a very involved one, particularly the values attending to transferable votes, and the electors have real cause to complain that adequate steps have not been taken to educate them as to the manner in which they can best exercise the franchise'**

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*Free Press, 10 January 1920*

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Under the new system, County Wexford's previous 124 district electoral divisions which were grouped into 18 county electoral divisions were changed into four county electoral areas returning a total of 19 members to the county council. With the addition of four ex-officio members from the rural district councils and two additional co-opted members the total number was brought to 25. Membership of the rural district councils was substantially reduced.

There was no great effort to instruct the electorate in the principles and procedure of the new system as the government refused to finance a scheme for educating voters on the new system.

Telephone-1797 Dublin

L&S

# The Proportional Representation Society of Ireland.

President: LORD MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON, K.P.

Chairman: PROFESSOR R. DONOVAN.

Chairman of Finance Committee: ALDERMAN MORAN, J.P.

Treasurers: { RT. HON. JONATHAN HOGG, P.C.  
{ SIR JOHN R. O'CONNELL, LL.D.

Secretary: E. A. ASTON.  
Asst. Secretary MISS BARRY.

65 MIDDLE ABBEY STREET  
DUBLIN.

P.R.

7th October, 1919.

The Town Clerk,

New Ross

Sir,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1919.

Your Council will doubtless have observed from the correspondence which has appeared in the Press that the Irish Government have finally decided not to accept responsibility for the instruction of candidates and electors in the operation of the new system of voting and the opportunities which it presents.

The Council of this Society greatly regrets this decision as it holds very strongly the view that the possibilities of the system will only be realised if it is fully understood in its various aspects by candidates and electors. In these circumstances the Council has decided that it is bound as far as possible to supply the necessary instruction.

Having pressed the Local Government Board to arrange for at least one popular lecture in each of the 127 Cities and Urban Districts in which elections will take place in January, my Council now proposes to carry out this campaign as far as possible with its own resources and in co-operation with Local Authorities. The Executive Committee, therefore, earnestly request the co-operation of the Chairmen and members of your Council in this voluntary effort.

Letter from The Proportional Representation Society of Ireland to the town clerk, New Ross advising that following the government's decision not to proceed with providing instruction in the PR system to candidates and electors, the Society intends carrying out the campaign 'as far as possible with its own resources' (7 October 1919)

269  
ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES OF IRELAND.

OFFICE—35, DAWSON STREET,  
DUBLIN,

September, 1919.

Re **PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.**

DEAR SIR,

At the recent Annual Conference a resolution was adopted requesting the Local Government Board to take early steps to explain the meaning of the single transferable vote to Municipal Electors, and its technical operation to the officers of Borough and Urban Councils.

This Association is now informed that the Local Government Board is prepared to send an expert to explain the system to Returning Officers and their staffs, if so requested, and we take the liberty of suggesting that each Town Clerk should send immediately an application to the Local Government Board calling for such assistance.

We understand that the expert assistance available is very limited, and, as 127 elections have to be held on the 15th of next January, it may be very difficult to obtain unless applied for at once.

We further suggest that each Council should arrange without delay for the conduct of an experimental election for the instruction of voters and officials.

Application should be made to the Local Government Board for the necessary forms.

Yours faithfully,

T. F. McGAHON,  
W. M. CRONIN,

*Hon. Secs.*

Letter from the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland to the town clerk, New Ross regarding instruction in PR to the electors and officers in the forthcoming borough and urban council elections (September 1919)

17th November 1919.

P. J. Shaw Esq  
Enniscorthy

Dear Mr Shaw,

It is probable you have had a letter from the L. G. Board, that they have arranged with Mr J. M. Flood B. L., to attend at the Town Hall, Wexford, on Thursday next at 1.30 p.m., to afford instruction to Returning and other Election Officers on the practical working of the Proportional Representation System of election

You may see your way to attend above.

Yours faithfully

*N. J. Frizelle*  
Secretary

Letter from returning officer, N. J. Frizelle to P.J. Shaw, town clerk, Enniscorthy regarding instruction to returning and other election officers on the PR system of election (17 November 1919)

# January 1920 elections

## Borough and urban councils

The municipal and urban elections were held on 15 January 1920. Candidates represented five main groups – Labour; Sinn Féin; Independents; Ratepayers and Independent Labour.

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**'It behoves every elector to record his votes in favour of those he considers best competent and most likely to carry on the public services efficiently and economically'**

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*Free Press, 10 January 1920*

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Exception was taken to certain candidates in the municipal elections. The *Free Press* of 10 January 1920 reported on a meeting of the Wexford Trades and Labour Council that was held in light of Nicholas Connolly going forward in the Selskar ward on the Labour ticket as a nominee of the Wexford branch of the National Union of Railwaymen in opposition to the candidates selected by the council. The council called on every organised worker to oppose the nominee, as they

did in the case of Patrick Morris, printer who was seeking election on the Sinn Féin ticket. A meeting of the Wexford branch of the Typographical Association was held calling on branch members to disassociate themselves from Morris as he was allowing himself to be nominated 'in opposition to the candidates selected by the organised workers of the town'.

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**Those seeking election represented a variety of occupations including coachbuilder, engineer, draper, hardware merchant, foundry worker, printer, linotype operator, carpenter, whitesmith, commission agent, grocer, cattle dealer, pawnbroker, superintendent, building contractor, butcher, timber merchant, composer, fitter, shoemaker, moulder, trade union official, mill owner, stevedore, shopkeeper, farmer, boot manufacturer, baker, hairdresser, plumber, teacher, poulterer**

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## The 1920 Local Elections in County Wexford

Map showing the share of seats won by parties in County Wexford in the January elections, 1920

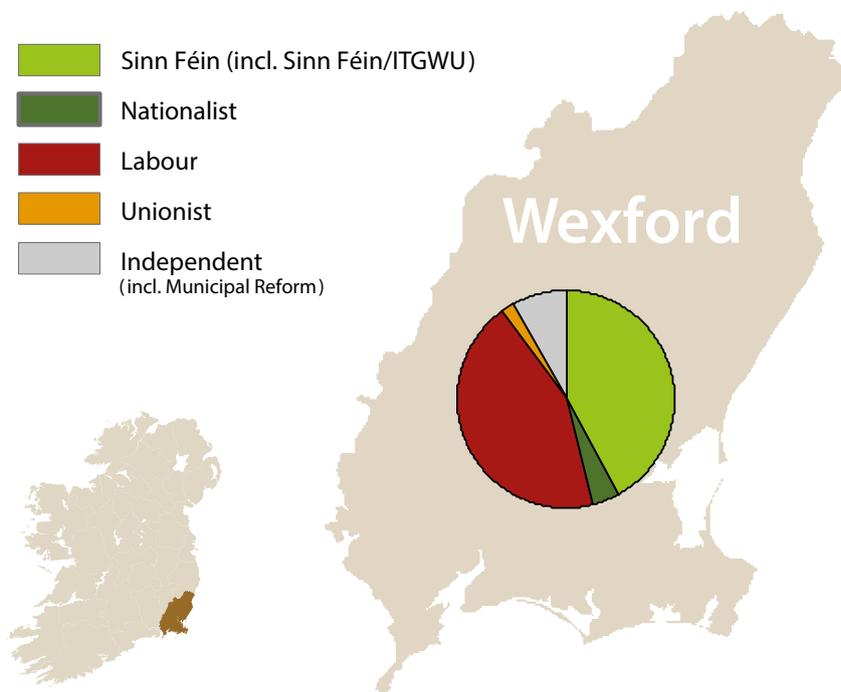


Image courtesy of Atlas of the Irish Revolution (UCC)

**JANUARY**  
**LOCAL**  
**ELECTIONS**  
**1920**

**Municipal Elections, 1920.**

**RATEPAYERS' SELECTION.**

Your Vote is solicited in favour of the Candidates whose Names appear in heavy type. These Candidates have been unanimously selected to represent the Ratepayers of the Borough of Wexford. Votes for them are Votes for Efficiency and Economy.

St. Mary's Ward. Form of Ballot Paper		St. Iberius Ward. Form of Ballot Paper.		St. Selskar Ward. Form of Ballot Paper.	
Mark order of preference in Space.	Names of Candidates.	Mark Order of preference in Space.	Names of Candidates.	Mark Order of preference in Space.	Names of Candidates.
	<b>BILLINGTON, JAMES</b>		BYRNE, NICHOLAS (Outgoing)		DOTSE, JOSEPH
	CLANCY, PATRICK		<b>COWMAN, PHILIP</b> (Outgoing)		<b>BROWNE, JAMES</b> (Outgoing)
	<b>COFFEY, ROBERT A.</b> (Outgoing)		HAYES, THOMAS		BROWNE, MICHAEL
	CORISH, RICHARD		KERRICK, JOHN		GARTY, FRANCIS
	CROSBIE, JAMES		<b>KIRWAN, JOHN</b> (Outgoing)		CONNOLLY, NICHOLAS
	CUMMINS, LAURENCE		LARKIN, JAMES		<b>DEMPSEY, HENRY</b>
	<b>FENNELL, ALICE MARY</b>		<b>LYMBERY, MATTHEW</b> (Outgoing)		<b>DOYLE, JOSEPH</b> (Outgoing)
	MACTIN, MICHAEL		<b>McGUIRE, WM. H.</b> (Outgoing)		<b>GIBSON, RICHARD</b> (Outgoing)
	MORRIS, PATRICK		O'CONNOR, MATTHEW		<b>HADDEN, GEORGE</b> (Outgoing)
	<b>MURPHY, JAMES</b> (Outgoing)		ROBERTS, THOMAS		McMAHON, JAMES
	O'BRIEN, THOMAS		<b>SINNOTT, JAMES</b> (Outgoing)		<b>O'CONNOR, MARY ANNE</b>
	<b>O'CONNOR, PATRICK</b>		<b>THOMPSON, HERBERT</b>		O'CONNOR, MARTIN
	O'NEILL, DAVID		WALSH, THOMAS		SINNOTT, JOHN
	RADFORD, LAURENCE		WHITE, PATRICK		
	<b>ROWE, CHARLES J.</b>				
	SINNOTT, JAMES				
	WALSH, JOHN				

The method of Voting is very simple. Put **1** in square in front of Candidate you like best; **2** before your second choice; **3** before your third choice, and so on until you have Voted for the **5** Ratepayers' Candidates, after which vote for the other Candidates of your choice.

Do **not** put a **X**. It will spoil your paper.

NOTE—Should you by mistake Spoil your paper the Returning Officer will give you another one.

(1182013)

Mock-up of the ballot paper for candidates representing the Ratepayers in the municipal elections in Wexford, with the slogan that voting for the names marked in bold print would be 'votes for efficiency and economy' (*The People*, 14 January 1920)

**WEXFORD TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL.**  
**THE VOICE OF LABOUR.**

In support of the Labour Candidates at the forthcoming Municipal Elections

**A GREAT LABOUR Demonstration**

WILL BE HELD

**On Sunday Next, January 11th**  
**AT ONE O'CLOCK.**

Trades Unions, with their Banners, will assemble on The Quay, between Common Quay Street and Anne Street.

All Workers, Women and Men, should take part and show that they are determined that Government by the People in the interests of the People must prevail in Wexford.

Mr. E. McAlpine, New York, and other well-known Speakers will deliver Addresses.  
**Several Bands will Attend.**

**SHALL THE PEOPLE RULE?**

Printed notice of a demonstration organised by Wexford Trades and Labour Council in support of the Labour candidates in the municipal election in Wexford, 1920  
*(The People newspaper, 10 January 1920)*

**MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, 1920.**

**NOTICE TO ELECTORS.**

We, the undermentioned, having been unanimously selected by a **LARGE AND REPRESENTATIVE MEETING OF THE RATEPAYERS OF WEXFORD**, have allowed our names to go forward as Candidates at the forthcoming **MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**.

If elected **WE PLEDGE OURSELVES** to transact the business of the Corporation in a **THOROUGHLY EFFICIENT** and **CAPABLE** manner, using our best endeavours to **SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF THE RATEPAYERS** in every way.

In the interests of **EFFICIENCY** and **ECONOMY**, and the **WELFARE** of the **BOROUGH OF WEXFORD**, we therefore respectfully solicit your votes.

St. Selskar Ward.	St. Iberius Ward.	St. Mary's Ward.
GEORGE HADDEN (Outgoing).	JAMES SINNOTT (Outgoing).	CHARLES ROWE
JAMES BROWNE (Outgoing).	PHILIP COWMAR (Outgoing).	JAMES MURPHY (Outgoing).
JOSEPH DOYLE (Outgoing).	NICHOLAS BYRNE (Outgoing).	ROBERT COFFEY (Outgoing).
RICHARD GIBSON (Outgoing).	MATTHEW LYMBERY (Outgoing).	JAMES BILLINGTON (Outgoing).
MINNIE O'CONNOR	JOHN KIRWAN (Outgoing).	ALICE FENNELL
HENRY DEMPSEY	WM. H. MCGUIRE (Outgoing).	PATRICK O'CONNOR
	HERBERT THOMPSON	

Printed notice of candidates for the Ratepayers in the 1920 municipal election in Wexford.  
*(The People newspaper, 10 January 1920)*

## Wexford Corporation

24 seats 44 nominations

The main feature noticeable in the municipal election for Wexford borough was the successful effort by Labour to secure stronger representation on the corporation. The Ratepayers put forward 19 candidates while all the retiring members, with the exception of Messrs Joseph Kelly (late Alderman), James French and Michael Doyle sought re-election.

Two ladies – Mary Anne O'Connor, North Main Street (shopkeeper) and Alice Fennell, High Street – put themselves forward for election as Ratepayers.

### St Iberius Ward: 7 seats 14 candidates

Candidates comprised 4 Labour, 7 Ratepayers' Association and 3 Sinn Féin

**Elected:** *Aldermen* James Sinnott (R), James Larkin (L) *new*

*Councillors* Nicholas Byrne (R), Thomas Rossiter (L), Thomas Hayes (SF) *new*, Philip Cowman (R), Herbert Thompson (R) *new*

### St Selskar Ward: 6 seats 13 candidates

Candidates comprised 3 Labour, 6 Ratepayers, 2 Independent Labour, and 2 others

**Elected:** *Aldermen* George H. Hadden (R), Nicholas Connolly (IL) *new*,

Francis Carty (Ind.), Joseph Boyse (L), Richard Gibson (R), Miss Mary Anne O'Connor (R) *new*

### St Mary's Ward: 11 seats 17 candidates

8 Labour, 3 Sinn Féin, 6 Ratepayers Association

**Elected:** *Aldermen* Richard Corish (L), Patrick Clancy (SF) *new*

*Councillors* James Crosbie (L) *new*, John Walsh (L), Michael Martin (L), Laurence Cummins (SF) *new*, Thomas O'Brien (L), James Billington (R) *new*, David O'Neill (L) *new*, James Sinnott (L) *new*, Miss Alice Mary Fennell (R) *new*

Labour returned 10 representatives, while Sinn Féin and Independents returned three and two candidates respectively and according to *The People* (24 January 1920) would 'control the board and may always be relied upon to vote Nationalist whenever a political question arises.... something the paper also attributed to 'four of those elected for the Ratepayers' Association'.



Photograph of Alice Fennell, elected to Wexford Corporation, January 1920

*Image courtesy of Ray Flynn*



Photograph of T.D. Sinnott who was elected as a Sinn Féin candidate to Enniscorthy UDC in January 1920 and served as chairman of Enniscorthy board of guardians in June that year. He played an active role in the 1916 Easter Rising in Enniscorthy and spent periods of detention in Stafford jail and Frongoch internment camp until his release in December 1916

*Courtesy of the Sinnott family*

## **Enniscorthy Urban District Council**

**15 seats 24 candidates**

A total of 10 outgoing members sought re-election including Patrick O'Neill who had been unanimously appointed chairman 'year after year'. Those nominated in opposition to the outgoing members were nominees of Sinn Féin and the several Labour bodies in the town. Surprisingly, one of the unsuccessful candidates for the south-west ward, Richard F. King had been one of the six Enniscorthy leaders in the town during the 1916 Rising. Enniscorthy town was divided by the Local Government Board into three wards – East, North West and South West wards.

### **East Ward: 4 seats 6 candidates**

Templeshannon, The Shannon, Shannon Hill and the Quay

**Elected: William Murphy (SF) new, Patrick Murphy (SF) new, Richard Doyle (L) new, John Bennett, JP (N)**

### **South-West Ward: 5 seats 8 candidates**

South of town from the bridge through the centre of Slaney Street, Market Square, New Street and Ross Road

**Elected: Thomas D. Sinnott (SF) new, John Bolger, JP (N), Thomas McCarthy (L), Michael Maher (L) new, Timothy O'Connor (N)**

### **North-West Ward: 6 seats 10 candidates**

North of town from centre of the bridge and through Slaney Street, Market Square, New Street and the Cathedral side of town

**Elected: Patrick Brennan (L) new, John Murphy (SF) new, James O'Brien (L), new Patrick Tobin (L) new, Patrick O'Neill, MCC (N), and Matthew Sheridan (SF) new**



## **New Ross Urban District Council**

**15 seats 20 candidates**

Of the 15 outgoing councillors on New Ross Urban District Council, only three sought re-election – George Dooley, John Fanning and John Hand. The town was divided into two electoral areas – north-east ward and south-west ward. There was no contest in the former ward as the number of candidates put forward equalled the number of seats. Of the 13 candidates for the south-west ward, five withdrawals took place subsequent to the nominations having been accepted, Daniel Hanley, Joseph McCarthy, Francis O’Kennedy, James J. Walsh and P. Shannon, and the eight remaining candidates were returned unopposed.

### **North-East Ward: 7 seats 7 candidates**

**Elected: Edward Cahill (SF Lab), Patrick Hayden (SF Lab), William Murphy (SF Lab), Jeremiah Corbett (SF Lab), Laurence Harney (SF Lab), John Bennett (SF Lab) and James Murphy (SF Lab)**

### **South-West Ward: 8 seats 13 candidates**

**Elected: George Dooley (SF Lab), Andrew Ronan (SF Lab), John Hand (Nat.), Thomas Redmond (SF Lab), John Fanning (Ind.), John Murphy (SF Lab), James Rossiter (SF Lab) and Daniel Murphy (SF Lab)**

## **Gorey Town Commissioners**

**9 seats 14 candidates**

There were three outgoing candidates – James Cooke, Henry Wall and W. J. Brennan-Whitmore. Cooke, a chemist in the town, declared that he wasn’t going forward in the interest of any one particular party ‘but as an independent candidate with no politics, but solely in the interests of the town’.

**Elected: James E. Cooke (Ind.), John O’Byrne (SF), William P. Keegan (SF), Myles Webb (Nat.), Henry Wall (Nat.), Laurence Walsh (Ind. Lab), Thomas Doyle (SF), John Gannon (SF), and Thomas Bolger (SF)**

## First meeting of the newly-elected borough and urban councils



Photograph of Richard (Dick) Corish, elected Mayor of Wexford in 1920, an office he held for the following 25 years until his death in 1945

Image courtesy of Helen Corish Wylde

In its edition of 24 January 1920 *The People* newspaper observed that the local election results were ‘not altogether what was expected .... some have been returned whom it was scarcely believed would have been returned, while others have been defeated whom it was confidently believed would have been elected’.

There were a number of jubilant celebrations after the elections. The *Free Press* reported on a procession through the main street of Wexford town headed by Aldermen Richard Corish and James Larkin and the St Brigid’s Fife and Drum Band. Enniscorthy celebrated the victory of Sinn Féin and Labour wins with bonfires on Vinegar Hill followed by a torchlight procession through the town.

The first step for all the newly-elected bodies was the election of a chair and vice-chair. In Wexford Corporation’s case, two candidates were proposed for the office of mayor at the first meeting of the new council on 30 January 1920. Alderman Richard Corish’s name was put forward by Labour and Sinn Féin as a testament to ‘his indefatigable exertions in promoting the interests of the working man for many years past’.

The Ratepayers proposed Alderman George Hadden in recognition of his commitment as a member of the municipal council for the past 30 years. By a vote of 14 to eight, Richard Corish was declared elected and became the first Labour member to sit in the mayoral chair. The Labour Party now held a majority on the corporation for the first time, and Corish vowed that from that day forward, ‘the working classes in Wexford were going to command the respect they deserved’. He identified two main priorities for the municipal body – the provision of houses and the appointment of an exclusive sanitary committee to address the ‘damnable state’ of sanitation in the town.



The outgoing chairman William Hugh McGuire said that this was the first occasion upon which a Mayor had the pleasure of addressing lady councillors on Wexford Corporation, and he extended to Alice Fennell and Mary Anne O'Connor 'a hearty welcome on behalf of the male members of the council'.

In Enniscorthy Urban District Council, Thomas McCarthy (Labour), a seasoned member of the council, was elected as chairman. In his speech, he made reference to some of the challenges ahead for the council including the provision of large housing schemes, electric lighting and an increase in rates. He also referred to the 'big amount of expense' incurred in the recent elections – 'at least three or four times greater than what the elections used to cost under the old system'. John Murphy was elected as vice-chair.

T.D. Sinnott gave notice of his intention to move at the next meeting that the UDC's resolution of 13 May 1916 condemning the 1916 Rising 'be cut from the minute book of the council in the presence of the council'. This received extensive coverage in the local newspapers with a vivid portrayal of the incident captured in *The People* headline of 7 February 1920 'Battle for minute book – a resolution cut from minutes – town clerk attempts to prevent mutilation of books'. Sinnott argued that the resolution 'condemned and described as robbers and blackguards a number of the present members of the council', and that by cutting it from the minutes 'was the best tribute they could pay to the memory of the men, who had gone forth to make their protest against such resolutions and beliefs it enunciated'. The chairman suggested rescinding the former motion rather than mutilating a public record but the resolution was ultimately cut from the volume.

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**'The members of our public boards should always remember that they are Irishmen and that we are seeking the liberty of our country. We live in exceptional time and though the trend appears to be to contest public positions on the employers and unemployed ticket, it should always be remembered that our country in present peculiar circumstances claims our thoughts and our help to secure her freedom'**

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*The People*, 4 February 1920

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30th January, 1920.

A Statutable Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Hall at noon.

This was the first meeting held under the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1919, an Enactment which prescribed for the first time for Municipal Elections to be held under the Proportional Representation system of election.

The Elections for the new Council took place on the 15th Instant, when the following 24 persons were elected, namely.

As Aldermen:- James Sinnott, James Larkin, Richard Corish,  
Patriok Clancy, George Hadden, Nicholas O'nnelly.

As Councillors:- Nicholas Byrne, Thomas Rossiter, Thomas Hayes,  
Philip Cowman, Herbert Thompson, James Crosbie,  
John Walsh, Michael Martin, Laurence Cummins,  
Thomas O'Brien, James Billington, David O'Neill,  
James Sinnott, Alice Mary Kennell, Francis Carty,  
Joseph Boyse, Richard Gibson, Mary Anne O'Connor.

It so happened that all the above Members were in attendance.

The Chair was taken by the outgoing Mayor, William H. McGuire, Esq., in pursuance of a Sealed Order made by the Local Government Board under date of 19th December 1919, entitled The Adaptation (Day of Annual and Quarterly Meeting) Order 1919.

It having been seen to that all the Members of the newly-elected Council had taken their Declarations of Acceptance of Office, the business of electing a Mayor was proceeded with.

Extract from the minutes of the first meeting of Wexford Corporation held on 30 January 1920, listing the newly elected council

JANUARY  
LOCAL  
ELECTIONS  
1920

Notice of Motion. re. Resolution  
In accordance with notes given at last meeting. It was  
Proposed by Mr Thomas D Sinnott sec by Mr John Murphy & passed Unanimous  
"That the resolution of the 10th May 1916, be cut  
from the minute book of the Council, in the presence of the Council"

Motion carried by members of Enniscorthy Urban District Council to cut the resolution of 13 May 1916 (condemning the 1916 Rising) from the minute book' in the presence of the Council' (4 February 1920)

Image from the page in the minutes of Enniscorthy Urban District Council after the resolution was cut out

Peace Delegates  
Proposed by Mr James Byrne J.P. sec by Mr James Forman  
and passed unanimously  
"That we, the Urban District Council of Enniscorthy, as  
representatives of the people of the district, wish  
to record our appreciation of the invaluable  
service rendered by the Rev<sup>d</sup> Robert Fitzgibbon A.M.,  
Mr Henry J Buttle, and Mr James O'Leary J.P. Chairman  
of the Council, as delegates from the Peace Committee  
of Enniscorthy, to the Commandant of the Military  
Forces at Wexford, whereby serious disaster  
to our town was averted"

The following resolution in reference to the recent outbreak was -  
Proposed by Mr Hand and  
Seconded by Mr Dunne Resolved

That we the New Ross Urban Council hereby in the strongest possible manner condemn the action of the Sinn Féin organization and Citizen Army in their outrageous, disgraceful and blackguardly conduct at present carried on both in the rioting and looting in Dublin and elsewhere, and we as a National Board entirely disassociate ourselves from such disgraceful and unworthy scenes even more so at a time when our Empire and our Allies are involved in one of the greatest struggles for freedom the world has ever known, and we regard the present conduct as an insult to our brave and gallant Irishmen who have sealed the common bond between England and Ireland by shedding their blood on the battlefields of Flanders and other scenes of action.

10 That we pass this resolution to show that the responsible parties for the present crisis in Ireland are of the "Irresponsible class" and so that the action of the loyal subjects cannot be misinterpreted by our Allies or our Empire.

Extract from the minutes of New Ross Urban District Council of 9 May 1916 in which the resolution condemning the 1916 insurgents was subsequently rescinded by resolution of the newly-elected council on 10 February 1920

JANUARY  
LOCAL  
ELECTIONS  
1920

✓ 97  
BOARD ROOM,

NEW ROSS, UNION,

Feb. 19th 1919.

Dear Sir,

At a Meeting of the Board of Guardians held on Saturday the 15th inst., the following resolution was proposed by Mr. M. Byrretz, Chairman, and seconded by Mr. B. O'Neill:-

"That Mr. Max S. Green, Chairman of the Irish Prison Board, be requested to permit an independent Medical man to visit the interned Political Prisoners in Cork Gaol with a view to reporting on the state of their health and general condition."

They also directed me to forward a copy of the above resolution to each public body in the County with a request that they adopt a similar one and forward same to the Chairman of the Prison Board.

Yours truly,

*John J. Rockford*  
Clerk of the Union.

M. J. Finn, Esq.,

Clerk of the Urban District Council,

*P. J. H.*  
New Ross.

Resolution adopted  
by New Ross Board of  
Guardians requesting  
that the chairman of the  
Irish Prison Board permit  
an independent medical  
examination of interned  
prisoners in Cork Gaol, 19  
February 1919

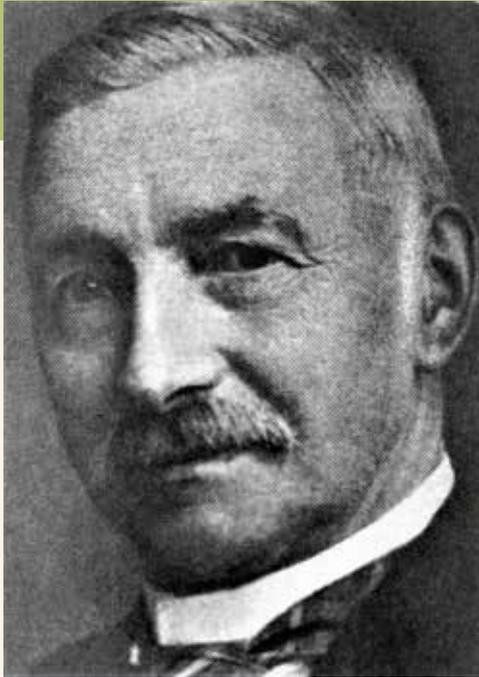


Image of Sean O'Byrne who was elected as chairman at the first meeting of the newly-elected Gorey Town Commissioners on 30 January 1920. He had been an active member of the Gorey Company of the Irish Volunteers since 1913. He was arrested in October 1920 and imprisoned in Cork until December 1921, forcing him to resign his seat on the council in January 1921

The first meeting of the newly-elected Gorey Town Commissioners took place on 30 January 1920 but was adjourned until that evening to allow for time for John Gannon, who had recently been released from Mountjoy prison to attend. At the evening meeting, one of the newly-elected town commissioners, William P. Keegan proposed Gannon as their new chairman. However, no one present seconded the motion and John O'Byrne was subsequently elected to the chair. O'Byrne stated that he stood 'for liberty' and in the interests of Labour and Sinn Féin' and was particularly interested in 'the welfare of the labourers of the town'.

In New Ross Urban District Council, James Murphy was proposed as chair – however, he in turn proposed George Dooley (SF), whom he described as 'a good Irishman, a lover of the old language and a man that wished to see the old land back again to its place amongst the nations of the earth'. Dooley was duly elected chair with John Fanning elected as vice-chair.

Fanning then passed a motion expunging the resolution of May 1916 from the council's minutes. He stated that if left unchanged, 'they would be condemning Father Murphy and condemning the monument outside the Tholsel erected by the Ross people and the monuments in Gorey, Enniscorthy and other places for the very same thing'.

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**While Sinn Féin and Labour have done much to educate the electorate on the new system of voting, it is feared that in the rural districts the number of spoiled papers will be considerable**

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*Free Press, 29 May 1920*

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# June 1920 elections



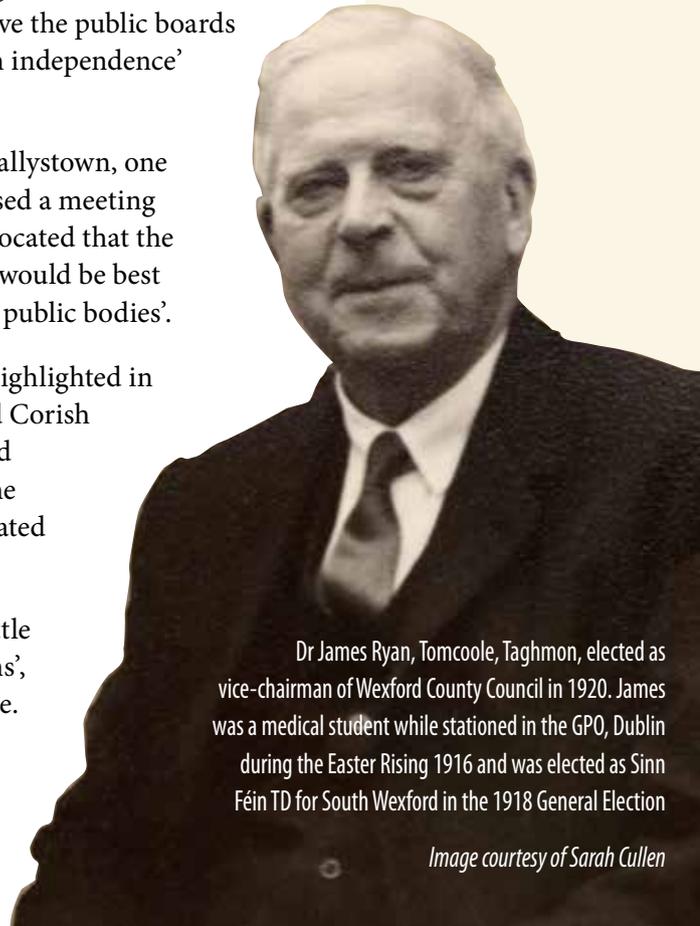
## County council, rural district councils and boards of guardians

A number of public meetings were held in the run up to the county and rural district council elections including one held at Camross in support of the Sinn Féin candidates. Dr James Ryan MP presided at the meeting and urged the electorate to ensure that ‘none of those who were out for something less than a free and independent Ireland were elected’, the object being to have the public boards ‘if possible composed entirely of men who stood for Irish independence’ (*The People*, 29 May 1920).

In an anti-Sinn Féin/Labour appeal, John Larkin from Sallystown, one of the candidates in the district council elections addressed a meeting of Ratepayer electors in Piercestown in late May and advocated that the common interests of farmers and agricultural labourers would be best safeguarded ‘by returning men of moderate views to the public bodies’.

Efforts to educate the electorate on the PR system were highlighted in *The People* of 5 June 1920. Alderman and Mayor Richard Corish and Messrs Culleton, Boggan, Larkin and Rossiter toured the south-eastern part of the county in the interests of the Labour candidates. At each place, Corish ‘gave an illustrated explanation’ of the PR system of voting.

The *Free Press* in its editorial on 5 June 1920 reported ‘little activity at the booth which characterised former elections’, with less than one-third of voters exercising the franchise. It attributed this public apathy to the majority of the candidates standing as republicans either on the Sinn



Dr James Ryan, Tomcoole, Taghmon, elected as vice-chairman of Wexford County Council in 1920. James was a medical student while stationed in the GPO, Dublin during the Easter Rising 1916 and was elected as Sinn Féin TD for South Wexford in the 1918 General Election

*Image courtesy of Sarah Cullen*

**Republican candidates  
have secured an  
overwhelming majority  
on the new councils  
in the county**

**Free Press, 5 June 1920**

Féin or Labour tickets. It was noted that a marked feature of the elections ‘was the absence of police, who usually maintained order at the booths and escorted the presiding officers with the ballot boxes to the returning officers’. Despite their absence however, the polling was said to have been carried out ‘in a perfectly orderly manner’.

Few candidates sought re-election and those who did went forward mainly as Independent candidates. Sinn Féin and Labour acted jointly in Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross in comparison to Wexford where they acted independently ‘and solicited the suffrage in the interests of their respective nominees’.

### **The 1920 Local Elections in County Wexford**

Map showing the share of seats won by parties in County Wexford in the **May/June elections, 1920**.

 Sinn Féin (incl. Sinn Féin/ITGWU)

 Nationalist

 Labour

 Unionist

 Independent  
(incl. Municipal Reform)

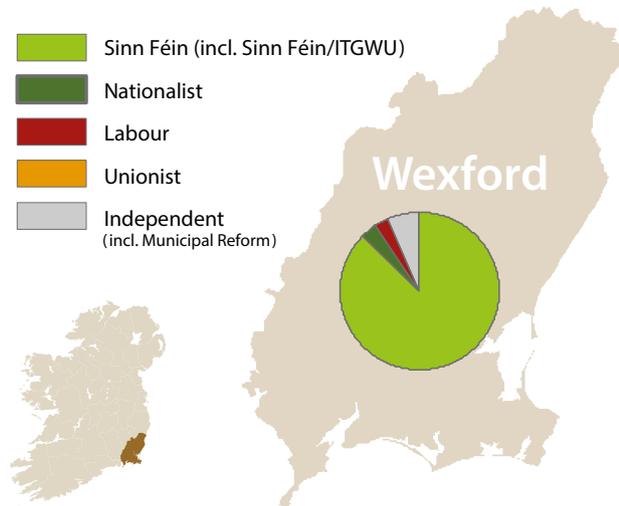


Image courtesy of Atlas of the Irish Revolution (UCC)



## **Wexford County Council election**

**19 seats 34 candidates**

The number that exercised the franchise was less than expected though there was 'keen interest' in the contests. In the Wexford area, it was reported that only a little more than one-third of the total number of voters came to the polls while Enniscorthy fared better with nearly half turning out.

Ballot boxes were conveyed to the council chamber in Wexford courthouse on Tuesday night and N. J. Frizelle, returning officer and his staff began the counting of the votes the following morning 'which continued late into the night and was resumed on Thursday morning'.

### **Wexford area**

**10 candidates 5 seats Quota: 746**

Elected: **Richard Corish (Lab)** topped the poll with 1,351 votes, followed by **James Ryan (SF)** on 1,145 votes; **Christopher Culleton (Lab)**, **Michael Doyle (SF)**, **John Sinnott (Lab)**

### **Enniscorthy area**

**7 candidates 4 seats Quota: 917**

Elected: **Albert Smith**, **David Kavanagh**, **John Murphy**, **James Shannon**

### **Gorey area**

**8 candidates 5 seats Quota: 833**

Elected: **John R. Etchingham (SF)** – topped the poll with 2,069 votes, **James Hall (SF)**, **Matthew Hughes (Lab)**, **Simon Kehoe (SF)**, **John O'Byrne (Lab)**

### **New Ross area**

**9 candidates 5 seats Quota: 653**

Elected: **James Byrne (SF)**, **John J. O'Byrne (SF)**, **Michael Redmond (SF)**, **John Cummins (SF)**, **Michael Cloney (SF)**

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**Returning officers, N.J. Frizelle for Wexford County Council and D. O Sullivan for Wexford District Council were said to have discharged their heavy and intricate duties in a most expeditious and at the same time courteous manner to all concerned.**

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## **Wexford Rural District Council and Board of Guardians**

There were contests in five of the six areas within Wexford district. Approximately one-third of the electorate voted. The majority of candidates were Sinn Féin and Labour. On termination of the polling, the ballot boxes were lodged in the boardroom of Wexford workhouse and on the following morning, Mr D. O'Sullivan, union clerk and his staff began counting the votes.

### **Rosslare electoral area**

**Quota: 154**

Elected: Christopher Culleton (Lab), Philip Joseph Furlong (SF), Peter Doyle (Lab), Michael Doyle (SF), Laurence Mahon (Lab)

### **Bridgetown electoral area**

**Quota: 151**

Elected: John Roche (Farmer), James Cullen (Lab), James Codd (Farmer), William White (Farmer), William Doyle (SF)

### **Ardcavan electoral area**

**Quota: 128**

Elected: James Hagan (Lab), Denis Whelan (Lab), James Shortle (SF)

### **Taghmon electoral area**

**Quota: 128**

Elected: Patrick Roche (SF), John O'Ryan junior (SF), John Kennedy (Lab)

### **Wexford urban area**

#### **Poor law electoral area No. 1 (St Iberius Ward)**

Candidates here returned unopposed

Elected: Patrick Clancy (SF), M. Martin (Lab), Thomas Rossiter (Lab), Thomas Walsh (Lab)

#### **No. 2 electoral area (St Mary's Ward)**

Elected: Myles Bergin (Nat), Richard. Corish (Lab), Mary Kate McTaminey (SF), Patrick Morris (SF), Thomas O'Brien (Lab), Laurence Radford (Lab)

#### **No. 3 electoral area (St Selskar Ward)**

Elected: Nicholas Connolly (Ind), Mary Anne O'Connor (Nat), Nellie Ryan (SF)

### **Wexford Rural area**

Elected: William Boggan, Gregory Devereux, Thomas Cousins, John Larkin

## Enniscorthy Rural District Council and Board of Guardians

Out of a total electorate of 6,153, only slightly over half exercised the franchise. It was reported in *The People* newspaper that 'Labour and Sinn Féin polled to the last man, and both organisations left nothing to chance for the return of their respective candidates'. In the four areas, only one outgoing candidate – John Cooney, Oulart (Ind.) – succeeded in getting elected.

### **Ballyhuskard area**      **6 vacancies**   **8 candidates**   **Quota: 150**

Elected: Moses O'Brien (SF), Martin Cummins (SF), William Kelly (SF),  
Nicholas Whitty (SF), John Cooney (Ind.), Michael Nolan (SF)

### **Clonroche area**      **5 vacancies**   **6 candidates**   **Quota: 162**

Elected: James Byrne (Lab), Thomas Foley (Lab), Thomas Furlong (Lab),  
Walter Furlong (SF), John Sinnott (SF)

### **Enniscorthy rural area**   **5 vacancies**   **6 candidates**   **Quota: 121**

Elected: Patrick Kelly (SF), Myles Byrne (Lab), Martin Doyle (Lab),  
Denis Doran (Lab), Seamus Doyle (SF)

### **Killanne area**      **4 vacancies**   **5 candidates**   **Quota: 197**

Elected: James O'Leary (SF), James Clinice (Lab), E. O'Connor (SF),  
Thomas Doyle (SF)

### **Uncontested areas**

There were no contests in the Newtownbarry and Ferns areas:

### **Newtownbarry area**      **5 vacancies**

Elected: Martin Kelly (SF), James Molloy (SF), Edward Murphy (SF),  
John Nolan (Lab), Patrick Ronan Junior (Lab)

### **Ferns area**      **3 vacancies**

Elected: James Hall (SF), John Kavanagh (Lab), Aidan Breen

### **Enniscorthy urban area**

There was no contest for the election of poor law guardians – of the six vacancies, six candidates were returned unopposed

Elected: Thomas McCarthy (SF), John Murphy (SF), Thomas D. Sinnott (SF),  
John P. Kelly (Lab), James O'Brien (Lab), Michael Maher (Lab)



## **Gorey Rural District Council and Board of Guardians**

The polling for Gorey Rural District Council was reported to have 'passed off quietly' with only half of the electors having exercised the franchise. After polling, the ballot boxes were removed to the boardroom of Gorey workhouse, escorted by Volunteers 'some of whom wore uniform and carried batons'. The counting of votes was undertaken by returning officer J. J. Fanning and his staff on Wednesday and continued on into the following day.

Sinn Féin and Labour worked jointly and were opposed by some of the outgoing candidates who went forward on the Independent ticket.

### **Coolgreany area** **5 seats Quota: 103**

Elected: **Patrick Purcell (SF), Owen Kehoe (SF), Michael Byrne (SF),  
Patrick McCarthy (SF) *new*, John Darcy (Ind.)**

### **Gorey urban area** **4 seats Quota: 89**

Elected: **Peter Connolly (SF) *new*, W.P. Keegan (Ind.),  
John O'Byrne (SF) *new*, Patrick Fitzpatrick (SF) *new***

### **Gorey rural area** **6 seats Quota: 67**

Elected: **John R. Etchingham (SF), John Sheehan Senior (SF) *new*,  
John Gannon (SF) *new*, Patrick Kavanagh (Lab) *new*,  
Thomas Stokes (SF) *new*, Daniel McDonald (SF) *new***

### **Kilcomb electoral area** **6 seats Quota: 100**

Elected: **Moses Bolger (SF), Patrick Byrne (Lab-SF) *new*,  
William Butler (Lab-SF) *new*, Laurence Kinsella (SF),  
John Sheridan (SF), Michael Stedmond (Lab-SF)**

### **Monamolin** **6 seats Quota: 92**

Elected: **Laurence Redmond (Lab-SF) *new*, Michael Mordaunt (Lab-SF) *new*,  
James Reilly (Lab-SF) *new*, Philip Murphy (Lab-SF) *new*,  
John Redmond (Lab-SF) *new*, Thomas Middleton (Ind.)**



## **New Ross Rural District Council and Board of Guardians**

It was reported by the local newspapers that the police throughout the district were 'conspicuous by their absence and Volunteers turned up in large numbers at the different centres'. The republican seal was attached to the ballot boxes in addition to the official seal at the close of the poll and Volunteers escorted them to the workhouse in New Ross and mounted guard during the night. Mr J. J. Rochford, union clerk counted the votes the next day.

### **Ross Rural electoral area** (Templeudigan, Ballywilliam, Rathgarogue &c.)

There was no contest for the district council against Mr Byrne, Mr Furlong, Mr Condon (new), Mr Cleary Junior (new)

Nearly all candidates were nominees of Sinn Féin and Labour.

### **New Ross Town Guardians 8 vacancies 9 candidates Quota: 78**

**Elected: John Hand (Ind.), William Murphy (SF), John Bennett (Lab) new,  
Patrick Lynch (SF), Mrs Kathleen Redmond (SF) new,  
Andrew Ronan (SF), Miss Ellen Cleary (SF) new,  
L. Harney (Lab) new**

## **Ross District Council**

### **Carrigbyrne electoral area 6 vacancies 9 candidates**

**Elected: Nicholas Kavanagh (Farmer) new, John Carty (Farmer) new,  
James Doyle (Farmer), John McLoughlin (Farmer) new,  
Henry Donovan, John Aspel (Farmer)**

### **Fethard electoral area**

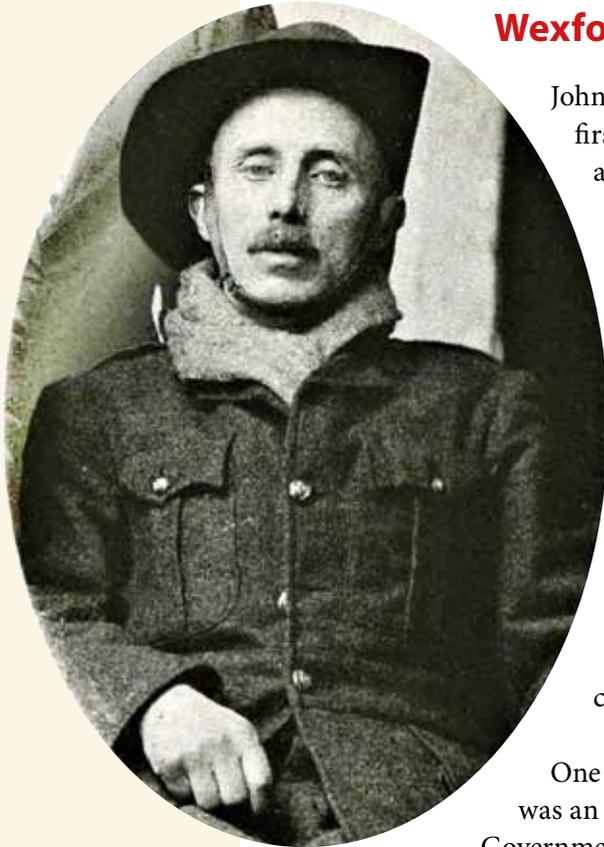
**Elected: Patrick Brien new, John Cummins, John Timmins new,  
Thomas O'Hanlon new, Maurice Breen, Joseph Chapman new,  
Michael Murphy new, Paul Forrestal new, Henry P. Gahan new**

### **Old Ross electoral area**

**Elected: John Cosgrave (Lab), Michael Donovan (Lab), William Power,  
Michael Doyle, Matthew Power, Laurence O'Neill**

# First meeting of the county council and some of the newly-elected rural district councils and boards of guardians

## Wexford County Council



John R. Etchingam, TD was elected in absentia as the first Sinn Féin chairman of Wexford County Council at its inaugural meeting on 18 June 1920. He did not take up his position as chair until 30 August 1921. Dr James Ryan was elected as vice-chair, and a deputy vice-chair, Albert F. Smith was also elected. In Etchingam's absence, Ryan presided over most of the council meetings up to 7 December 1920.

A further two county councillors were elected – Philip Lennon from New Ross and John Pender from Ferns. Four ex-officio members from the rural district councils were also elected at the meeting – Michael Byrne, Ballywilliam; James Doyle, Enniscorthy; Owen Kehoe, Coolgreany and Gregory Devereux, Killinick bringing the total strength of the county council to 25 members.

One of the first resolutions adopted by the county council was an acknowledgement of Dáil Éireann as the duly elected Government of the Irish Republic. The members then voted in favour of rescinding four resolutions from the minutes in 1916 in which the Rising and its leaders had been condemned. Other items under discussion at the first meeting included the issue of a war bonus payment to certain road contractors, applications for the award of the university scholarship scheme, a proposal to take back St Brigid's Inebriate Home with a view to using it as county council offices, and a proposal put forward that all positions in the county council be given to candidates who possessed a knowledge of Irish.

Photograph of John R. Etchingam, one of the Enniscorthy leaders in the 1916 Rising, who was elected as chairman (in absentia) of Wexford County Council in June 1920



## Wexford Board of Guardians

At the first meeting of the newly-elected Wexford Board of Guardians held on 11 June 1920, Ellen (Nelly) O’Ryan was unanimously elected chairperson with Michael Martin as vice-chair. Acknowledging her election, Miss O’Ryan said that ‘it was an honour which she did not expect, especially at the present time, when they came as a board for the first time as representatives of a free and independent Ireland’. One of the first improvements she proposed was the abolition of the workhouse system. ‘There is no reason why descendants of the people driven out by the planters should be in here and called paupers....they have as good blood in their veins as we have, and it is for us to see whether we cannot make these old men and women free, and give them a right to live outside’.

Ellen (Nell) Ryan from Tomcoole, Taghmon who was elected as chair of Wexford Board of Guardians in June 1920. Nell was an active member of Cumann na mBan and was one of the longest serving female prisoners of the 1916 period

*Image courtesy of The Martin Ryan (Taghmon) collection at Wexford County Archive*

## Gorey Rural District Council

Patrick Fitzpatrick was elected as chairman of Gorey RDC on 12 June 1920 and one of his first proposals, which was passed unanimously, was an acknowledgment by the council of the authority of Dáil Éireann.

Other items discussed included the sanctioning by the Local Government Board of the resignation by Mr R. Creighton of the office of clerk of Gorey RDC, and claims lodged for malicious injury in respect of the burning of RIC barracks at Camolin, Courtown Harbour, Clonevin and Ballycanew.

## New Ross Rural District Council

At the first meeting of newly-elected members on 11 June 1920, Michael Byrne was elected chairman and the position of vice-chair given to Thomas O'Hanlon.

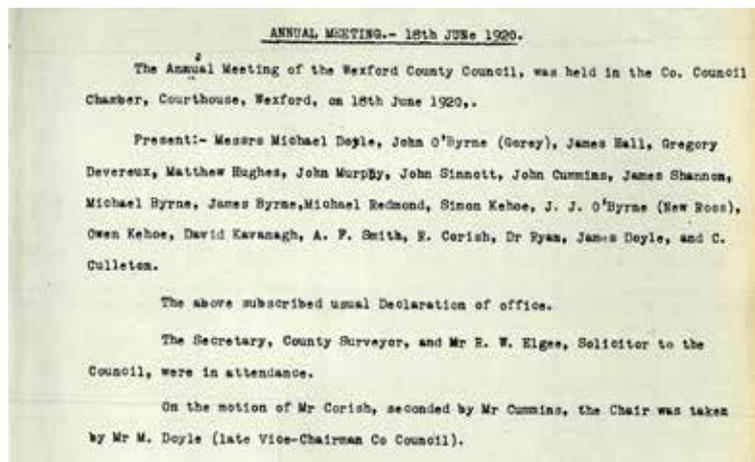
The ordinary meeting followed after the elections and included the consideration of malicious injury claims for destruction of various infrastructure, including house furniture, RIC barracks at Ballinaboola, Ballybrazil and Tintern, and telegraph wires at Ballyanne.

## Enniscorthy Board of Guardians

In the minutes of the first meeting held on 11 June 1920, T.D. Sinnott was elected as chairman with Walter Furlong elected vice-chair.

A proposal by Sinnott 'that the resolution of the Board of Guardians disapproving of the Easter Rising 1916 be excised from the Records of the Board of Guardians' was passed unanimously. Also discussed was a proposal to change two street names in the town from George's Street and New Street to Rafter Street and Wafer Street respectively.

Extract from the minutes  
of the first meeting of  
Wexford County Council  
held on 18 June 1920



# Comment

Proportional representation was introduced for the 1920 local elections, with the expectation that it would dilute Sinn Féin support. However, achieving widespread electoral success nationally, the party took control of 25 of the 33 county councils including in County Wexford.

Once the local elections were over, a rapid transformation took place. All Sinn Féin candidates had been required, as a condition of their nomination, to pledge allegiance to the Republic and to recognise the Dáil as the source of governmental authority rather than the Local Government Board. Consequently, this was one of the early items addressed on the agenda of the first meetings of the county, urban and rural bodies. This recognition of the Dáil resulted in the loss of grant assistance to the county councils with raids carried out in an attempt to forcibly access the records.

A report by the county secretary was read at the council meeting held on 7 December 1920 detailing that a number of police had visited the county council offices the previous week and had taken away two minute books, three letter books, a bank pass book and rate collectors' receipts and forms. That same afternoon, a number of civilians visited the council offices and 'having held up staff', seized a number of lodgement records, rate ledgers, abstracts of accounts and financial and expenditure volumes. Similar occurrences took place in local government offices across the county.

105

"That no further resolutions, correspondence, or minutes be furnished to the Local Government Board, Custom House, Dublin, but that Minutes be furnished Department of Local Government, Dail Eireann."

Resolution adopted by Wexford County Council on 2 September 1920 recognising Dáil Éireann, thereby rejecting the British Local Government Board

A number of resignations by elected members from Wexford County Council took place towards the last quarter of 1920. A letter from John Sinnott was read at the county council meeting of 7 December that year in which he conveyed his desire to resign his seat for the six months of his imprisonment in Cork. A resolution was taken at the county council meeting of 22 December 1920 to protest against the arrest and detention of Dr James Ryan (vice-chair), and of John O'Byrne, A.F. Smith, John Sinnott and James Doyle 'who have been deprived of their liberty in order to hamper and impede the administration of the Council'. A number of replacements were subsequently co-opted in these cases.

Women featured more prominently at local government level in the 1920 elections in County Wexford. Since 1896, women with certain property qualifications had been eligible for election as poor law guardians, and under the 1898 Local Government Act, could stand for all the new councils with the exception of borough and county councils. The Representation of the People Act, 1918 gave many more people the opportunity to vote for the first time including women over 30 years of age, and this may have assisted in the election of a greater number of female candidates. Two women – Mary Anne O'Connor and Alice Fennell were elected to Wexford Corporation – a first for the municipal body. Three female candidates – Mary Kate McTaminey, Mary Anne O'Connor and Ellen Ryan – were elected as poor law guardians in St Mary's and St Selskar's wards in Wexford urban area while Kathleen Redmond and Ellen Cleary were successful Sinn Féin candidates on New Ross board of guardians.

The term of the new council was for five years – by the time the next local elections were held in 1925, the rural district councils and the boards of guardians had been both abolished under the Local Government Act, 1925 passing their responsibilities to county councils, effectively helping to streamline functions and services at local government level.

Financial position of Council.

The meeting was called by directions of the Chairman of the Council, (Mr J. R. Etchingham) "to consider the present and future financial position of the Council and to make any order or provision necessary thereto."

In connection with this matter Circular letter under date 29th July 1920, No. 122M. 1920, Miscellaneous, from the Local Government Board was read. The Local Government Board pointed out that no loans or grants would be made to any local authority without a definite assurance that the accounts would be submitted to audit and the local authority be prepared to conform to the rules and orders of the Local Government Board.

Under date 4th August 1920, the Under Secretary, Dublin Castle, (letter 19394-1920) wrote that the Lord Lieutenant was withholding further payments from the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account until a definite assurance is received from the Authorities concerned that they will distribute the money to the services for which it was assigned by Statute, that the Accounts would be submitted to the Local Government Board for Audit, and that the local bodies would conform to the rules and orders of the Local Government Board.

The minutes of the various local government bodies in County Wexford are worthy of detailed research into this period. They are available to consult in **Wexford County Archive's reading room** by advance appointment. Some of the collections have already been digitised and are available on the Archive's website [www.wexfordcountyarchive.com](http://www.wexfordcountyarchive.com)

Further information can be obtained from [archivist@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:archivist@wexfordcoco.ie) and on **053 919 6572**

**Wexford County Archive gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in providing funding under its Decade of Centenaries programme 2020 for the online publication of this exhibition**



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
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